



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

14 JULY 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Jason Mack (Mayor), Leigh Geddes, Steve Stubbings, Stewart Blackmore, Ken Knapman, Ed Gouge, Brian Lucas, Tony Marvin, Terry Gibbs, Jim Toogood, Harry Rees.

No. SUBJECT

PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present.
- b) There were no questions or comments at this time.

94/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

95/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Stubbings declared an interest as a County Councillor.

Councillors Stewart Blackmore, Ed Gouge and Tony Marvin declared an interest in respect of Agenda item 10.

Councillor Brian Lucas declared an interest in respect of Agenda item 7.

96/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 June 2014, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
- b) The Minutes of the Town Council's Planning Committee meetings of 10 June 2014 and 1 July 2014 were received.

97/14 FINANCE REPORT

- a) The Finance report for this meeting (50/14) had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 30 June 2014 and a list of payments made during June 2014.
- b) An accompanying paper set out expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the 2014/15 financial year to date with variances from year-to-date budget provision showing an underspend over the first quarter of 2014/15 of £3,525 against Budget.
- c) It was noted that the increased level of spend in June reflected the payment of the first invoice from D N Associates Ltd for their work on Salisbury Gardens in a total of 31,066 including £5,178 reclaimable VAT.
- d) It was also noted that the Town Council was holding a total of £78,050 on behalf of the group working to retain the Methodist Church as a venue for the Boxing Club that is not included in the bank account totals above.

It was unanimously resolved that:
the Finance Report be accepted.

98/14 SALISBURY GARDENS

- a) Report 51/14 summarised developments since the last meeting.
- b) Councillor Steve Stubbings asked if any steps could be taken to prevent future guttering blockages. Councillor Jim Toogood responded that the current issues were the result of

years of neglect and once the gutters were restored to free running water the problem was much less likely to recur.

- c) In response to the recommendation in the Report that the Borrowing Approval be implemented at this time it was proposed by Councillor Steve Stubbings and seconded by Councillor Jim Toogood and

unanimously resolved that:

the Borrowing Approval dated 1 October 2013 be implemented by completing an application to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £150,000 repayable over a 25-year term.

99/14 OUR PLACE! PROGRAMME

- a) The developments with the Our Place! programme since the April Town Council meeting were summarised in Report 52/14 for this meeting.
- b) The event organised for 31 July to begin the effective engagement between Agencies and Vision Group members was welcomed and appreciation expressed for the commitment to the programme of the six Agencies contributing to it.
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100/14 YOUTH SERVICE CLOSURE

- a) The consequences of the Isle of Wight Council's closure of its Youth Service and the responses of both councils to it were identified in Report 53/14.
- b) A copy of the Town Council's application in response to the Youth Offer Prospectus was attached to the Report for information.
- c) The Mayor outlined the Youth Offer made available through Community Action IW of Isle of Wight Council funding totalling £200k in this financial year and £400k in each of the two following years and the application to it that Ventnor Town Council had now entered.
- d) He said that he was appearing before the Panel responsible for allocating the funding tomorrow, accompanied by a young person.
- e) He went on to explain the background to the proposal for the Town Council to take on the management of the Youth Centre under a Tenancy at Will from 1 October 2014.
- f) Councillor Brian Lucas asked what running costs the Town Council would be expected to bear within a Tenancy at Will and the Clerk responded that he hoped to be able to bring a draft with that information included to the August Town Council meeting.
- g) Councillor Stewart Blackmore congratulated the Members and staff involved in presenting an attractive bid within the limited timescale.
- h) Councillor Brian Lucas asked about the potential future engagement of the Scouts and Guides within the proposed programme and the Mayor said that they and other organisations working with or providing opportunities for young people would be a priority.

It was unanimously resolved that:

the Town Council authorises its Clerk to continue discussions about the future of the Youth Centre with the Isle of Wight Council with the purpose of agreeing a Tenancy at Will arrangement for the use of the building that is acceptable to both parties by 30 September 2014.

101/14 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- a) Report 54/15 summarised the discussions to date in the context of the Isle of Wight Council's need to end their current Ground Maintenance services on 31 March next year.
- b) Councillor Harry Rees asked about the future funding of the Principal Parks and Councillor Steve Stubbings said that his understanding was that the Isle of Wight Council would continue servicing these Island wide, including Ventnor Park and the Cascades locally.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- i) inform the Isle of Wight Council that the Town Council is committed to maintaining arrangements for Grounds Maintenance subject to agreement on a list of areas that exclude those identified in red on the attached list and the removal or re-arrangement for
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- others to be identified by 30 September 2015;
 - ii) ask the Public Buildings Working Group and the Clerks to make all necessary arrangements to assess the situation and needs of the remaining sites and report back to the Town Council meeting of 8 September 2015; and
 - iii) authorise expenditure up to £250 for any related expenditure, including publicity, from the Green Ventnor budget line.
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102/14 BEACH CLEANING SERVICES

- a) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said he objected strongly to the Isle of Wight Council's decision in respect of the Island's beaches given their crucial contribution to tourism.
- a) Councillor Jim Toogood highlighted the costs of disposal of the collected waste and the high cost of a Licence to tip.

It was unanimously resolved:

to ask the Public Buildings Working Group and the Clerks to make all necessary arrangements to assess the situation and report back to the Town Council meeting of 8 September 2015;

103/14 WAR MEMORIAL

- b) Report 56/14 set out the background to the work carried out in recent weeks on the War Memorial in preparation for its re-commemoration ceremony organised by the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion for 3 August 2014.
- c) Councillor Jim Toogood described the work that had been done both to achieve greater evenness in the base of the Memorial and tidy up the top of it.
- d) He said that the levelling and repointing will prevent future water penetration and the end result is excellent.
- e) The Mayor outlined a request for a financial contribution from the WW1 2014-18 Commemoration Committee to the major event they were organising for the re-commemoration of the War Memorial on 3 August.

It was unanimously resolved to:

offer a contribution of £375 towards the £750 now being requested as a contribution to the costs of the 3 August event subject to that being matched by the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion.

104/14 UNDERCLIFF

- a) Councillor Terry Gibbs introduced this item and the document referring to it that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.
 - b) He acknowledged the presence of Mr and Mrs Wright at the meeting as residents of one of the affected homes going on the say the he felt such a major incident affecting both homes and businesses in the area merited a proper independent enquiry to establish accountability.
 - c) Councillor Harry Rees said that this matter had been raised at Scrutiny Committee where it had been made clear that land movement was still ongoing and nothing could be done until the monitoring showed it had ceased.
 - d) Councillor Stewart Blackmore said he endorsed everything that Councillor Terry Gibbs had said and the priority was to address the needs of the affected residents. He added that all of his emails and phone calls to Island Roads had failed to gain a response from them.
 - e) Councillor Leigh Geddes expressed her sympathy with Mr and Mrs Wright and their neighbours.
 - f) Councillor Terry Gibbs said the immediate priority was to address the needs of local residents and businesses.
 - g) Councillor Steve Stubbings said that the Executive had discussed the issue in detail last Monday and assured the meeting that the Isle of Wight Council was doing everything it
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possibly could for the residents and others.

- h) Councillor Terry Gibbs proposed and Councillor Stewart Blackmore seconded a resolution that: this Council requests the Isle of Wight Council to commission an independent enquiry into the events leading up to the collapse of Undercliff Drive.
 - i) The resolution was put to the vote and was lost by five votes for and six against.
 - j) Councillor Terry Gibbs then addressed the issue of what he believed to be seriously inadequate signage about the closure of Undercliff Drive which was affecting both residents and businesses and suggested that a leaflet with simple map and explanatory text be printed for distribution to tourists to Ventnor and Niton areas.
 - k) It was proposed by Councillor Terry Gibbs and seconded by Councillor Steve Stubbings and **unanimously resolved that:** this Council works directly with Island Roads to improve directional signs that affect the local economy of St Lawrence.
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105/14 EMERGENCY PLANNING

- a) Councillor Tony Marvin reported on his recent attendance at a meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee pointing out that Town and Parish Councils have no statutory responsibility for Emergency Planning but the Isle of Wight Council would welcome Community Emergency Plans from Town and parish Councils
 - b) He said that he was willing to produce a briefing document for a future Town Council meeting and that was welcomed.
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106/14 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

- a) Councillor Ken Knapman reported that IWALC had written to the Local Enterprise Partnership about the unsatisfactory conclusion to the Assisted Area Status.
 - b) He further reported that both Newport and Totland had resigned from IWALC and that Councillor Harry Rees has been re-elected as IWALC's representative on the Isle of Wight Council's Scrutiny Committee.
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106/14 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The report from the Town Clerks – 57/14 – provided information about the latest meetings with Ventnor Business Association, the site of a new memorial bench, progress on a bid to the Reaching Communities strand of the Big Lottery, the repair of the concrete seat near the Paddling Pool and the month's most popular tweet from @ventnorclerk.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments or questions from the public at this time,

107/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

it was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act: to exclude the Public and Press whilst the next item is under discussion as it is of a confidential nature.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE

