



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

ST MARGARET'S HALL

7PM

14 NOVEMBER 2011

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Steve Stubbings (Mayor), Debby Robinson, Carol Jones, Jim Morgan, Jim Toogood, Mark Robertson-Walker, Simon Haytack

## NO. SUBJECT

### PUBLIC FORUM

- a) The Mayor opened the Public Forum with 8 members of the public present. County Councillors Susan Scoccia and Chris Welsford were also present.
- b) Councillor Susan Scoccia asked what the Town Council was planning for celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. The Mayor responded that this would be considered during the second of the two planning meetings.
- c) Her second question concerned why the Mayor had worn the Mayoral Chain at a recent 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party but not at the Remembrance service. The Mayor replied accordingly.

The meeting commenced at 7.05 pm

### AGE CONCERN

- a) The Mayor introduced Development Officer Mark O'Sullivan from Age Concern Isle of Wight who had requested this opportunity to introduce the organisation's new Good Neighbour scheme to the Town.
- b) Mark outlined the organisation's services to people on the Island over the age of 50 and went on to describe the re-assessment of those services in the context of changes in funding resulting from budget cuts.
- c) He said that the new project was now being rolled out following three pilot schemes in Brading, Lake and Sandown and expressed the hope that it could now be extended to Ventnor.
- d) Experience had shown a minimum of 15 volunteers was required and he was pleased to be able to report that 11 had already been identified in the town. Leaflets were available with a registration form, although phone calls were also acceptable as registration.
- e) Volunteers are required to have a CRB check and provide two referees. Once responses are in place, a training session is provided equipping volunteers to provide comfort care including shopping, prescription collection, light gardening and companionship.
- f) Mark made it clear that the scheme does not provide either social care or emergency services.
- g) He emphasised that registration within the scheme provided full insurance cover and substitute arrangements to cover illness or absence.
- h) He told the meeting that there were already 14 schemes in place across the Island with 260 volunteers assisting over 300 clients with client numbers increasing at a rate of 30 a month. In October the schemes had provided over 500 comfort care tasks.
- i) The Mayor thanked Mark on behalf of the meeting and expressed the Town Council's support for its development in Ventnor.

## 178/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David George and Harry Rees.

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#### 180/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

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#### 181/11 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) The minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10 October 2011, having been previously circulated to Members, were taken as read.
  - b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 20 October and 9 November 2011 were received.
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#### 182/11 FINANCE

- a) The Finance report for this meeting had been previously circulated to Members and included information on Bank Balances at 31 October 2011 and a list of payments made during October 2011.
  - b) An accompanying paper set out the related expenditure in relation to the Budget lines for the year to 31 October 2011 with variances from year-to-date budget provision.
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#### 183/11 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

- a) The report from the Town Clerks was received, providing updates on the investigation of the War Memorial, the repair of the Cascade Fountain, the implementation of the Outdoor Fitness Area now branded as Outfit, Memorial Benches and the Tesco building in the High Street.
  - b) Councillor Debby Robinson expressed her concern that Tesco had failed to provide any information on their plans for the premises to the Town Council directly and the Town Clerk was asked to contact the company to request a Schedule of Works and direct communication in respect of safety and traffic issues
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#### 184/11 WINTER PREPARATIONS

A report for this meeting provided information on costs and considerations of providing some local access to de-icing salt, erecting a Christmas Tree in Spring Gardens and turning on the motif lighting.

**It was unanimously resolved that:**

- i) six bins be purchased from Heyn Waste Solutions to be placed on the basis of one each in Bonchurch, Lowtherville and St Lawrence and three in the Central area; and
  - ii) provision of a green alternative to the traditional Christmas Tree be agreed for 2012;
  - iii) the lighting motifs be switched back on from 1 December 2011 to 6 January 2012.
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#### 185/11 DOGS

- a) The Mayor introduced this item, referring to his circulated draft text.
  - b) It was agreed that after further discussion with Councillor Debby Robinson a second draft would be circulated to Members for comment.
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#### 186/11 ESPLANADE TAXI RANK

- a) Councillor Mark Robertson-Walker declared a personal interest at this point.
  - b) Councillor Jim Morgan said that he had been asked to bring this matter to the Town Council for discussion of an approach to the Isle of Wight Council to discuss either the provision of a single taxi rank space or other ways of improving access to taxis from the Esplanade including a contact point.
  - c) The Town Clerk was asked to contact the Isle of Wight Council about policy and practice relevant to this matter and, meanwhile, to arrange for the display of contact details from the First Aid Hut.
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**187/11 THE HAVEN**

- a) The Town Clerk's report for this meeting identified potential safety issues resulting from the emission of hydrogen sulphide from the rotting seaweed in the Haven, including research references to the potential risks from even low levels of the gas over extended exposure periods.
- b) Councillor Jim Morgan drew attention to recent research on the effects of long term exposure to even relatively low levels and thanked County Councillor Chris Welsford for the papers he had made available.

**It was unanimously resolved:**

that the Town Clerk be asked to request an update from the Isle of Wight Council on progress with implementing the pumping solution.

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**188/11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- a) The Mayor introduced the paper for this meeting from the Town Clerk on the latest deprivation data set out in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 and read out the rankings for the Central and Lowtherville areas within the Island's 89 Lower Super Output Areas.
  - b) He pointed out that an effective response is only possible through fully fledged community engagement and said that the Town Council is considering its response more fully at its next informal planning meeting on 28 November.
  - c) Councillor Jim Morgan pointed out that the various factors were interlinked including the quality of housing stock.
  - d) Both County Councillors expressed their equivalent concerns and their willingness to work with the Town Council in addressing the issues.
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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor re-opened the Public Forum

- a) A member of the public asked about the proximity of the Toddlers Pool to the Haven in respect of the risks to health from the toxicity in the Haven.
  - b) The importance of encouraging planning that will create jobs was highlighted by another member of the public.
  - c) Concern was expressed about the barriers and signing of the footpath outside the Tesco site.
  - d) The need to publicise collection points for the recently opened Food Bank was stressed.
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The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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SIGNED BY THE MAYOR	DATE

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