

**Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at the Winter Gardens, Ventnor, Isle of Wight on Monday 12th February 2007**

Present: Councillor B.M. Lucas Town Mayor  
 Councillor Mrs. M.Cawley Deputy Town Mayor  
 Councillors J.S.Fitzgerald-Bond, Mrs. B Lawson, R.J.Mew, S.B. Milford and Mrs S.Scoccia

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors C.D.Mortimer, C.J.Eivers and A.C.Bartlett

2 PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by Rev. B. Downer.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2007

It was pointed out that Minute 4 of that meeting, which refers to the police objective to provide a police officer for each electoral ward, should read a PCSO for each electoral ward. Subject to that change, the minutes were approved and signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2007

4. Councillors were advised that a meeting has been arranged with Superintendent Dean Jones of the Isle of Wight Police, at the Winter Gardens, at 7pm on Tuesday, 6th March 2007. 7 Councillor Mrs. Cawley spoke of grant opportunities to local groups, in connection with the Million Blooms project.

11. Councillor Fitzgerald-Bond confirmed that the parking issues referred to in minute 11 had been successfully addressed. Road markings in the High Street will be restored before Southern Gas vacate the site.

12. Councillor Mrs. Scoccia advised that leasing costs for CCTV equipment were estimated at £10339 per annum, excluding monitoring costs. It was agreed that the subject should be re-addressed at the next monthly meeting.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs. Lawson confirmed an interest in item 8 - Model Code of Conduct for local authority members.

6 CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

It was requested that Stuart George be thanked for his work in reviewing this subject. It was agreed that we should follow his comments in responding to the Isle of Wight Council.

7 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH - PILOT SCHEME

Four roads were suggested as possible for the pilot scheme - Whitwell Road, Undercliff Drive, Grove Road and Albert street. It was not felt appropriate to name people to operate the equipment.

8 CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Although there was a slight concern over item 6 of the proposed code, there were no comments to minute.

9 IW ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

a/ Councillor Mrs Lawson gave a full update on matters, a written copy of which is filed with the main minutes. This included proposed amendments to the constitution and also funding changes,

b/ The AGM is to be held at Sandown on 15th June. It is hoped that a united response can be given to the issue of the proposed reduction in the number of Community Police on the IOW.

10 AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007

The accounts have been approved by the Audit Commission and the Annual Return signed and returned. It has been posted on the notice board as required. A comment was made by the Commission - this is Risk Assessment and will be considered at a future time.

#### 11 PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1ST APRIL 2007

Although the pedestrianisation survey now looks likely to go ahead, with a possible cost to the council of £2K, it was decided not to alter the budget from that agreed at the informal meeting on 22nd January. With the CCTV scheme not likely to be operational for many months at least, there are likely to be adequate funds available from that heading if required. As such, it was unanimously agreed that a precept of £90K should be levied for the 2007/2008 year-this is £9K lower than for 2006/2007, representing a reduction of 9,1%.

The Risk Assessment notes were also reviewed and agreed without change. Concerning comments about the structural state of the Winter Gardens, the Town Clerk was requested to pressurise the IOW Council as appropriate with regard to maintenance and repair.

#### 12 REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The written report of the Financial Officer was handed to members.

#### 13 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE DATED 22ND JANUARY 2007

The report of the meeting held on 22nd January was approved. Councillor Mrs Cawley requested that members remain after this meeting to discuss a couple of items requiring clarification. These will be minuted separately as a Winter Gardens Committee meeting. It was confirmed that the new concessionaire is working towards his objectives, although he is not open at present.

#### 14 ISLE OF WIGHT BEACON

The suggestion that the new Beacon could be used in providing a "newsletter" for quality council purposes was discussed. However, with information already regularly printed within the South Wight Chronicle and the IOW County Press, it was believed that our obligations in this respect are already fully covered. In the light of this, and the suggested cost of using the Beacon, the proposal was rejected.

#### 15 QUESTIONS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Councillor Lucas confirmed that the Town Clerk has made a new application regarding his role within our quality council status.
- b) Councillor Milford requested an update on the current position with regard to allotments. Councillor Mew suggested we might consider buying land in order to offer greater opportunity to residents,
- c/ Councillor Mrs Scoccia advised that proposals had been passed on to the Probation Officer, concerning restorative justice works to be undertaken,
- d/ Councillor Mew suggested that Winter Gardens staff could be used in monitoring and helping maintain public seats and bus shelters.
- e/ Members were advised as to a meeting concerning the skateboard park,
- f/ Councillors Mrs Scoccia and Fitzgerald-Bond agreed to enquire about recycling opportunities for commercial premises.