

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 11th June 2007.

Present: Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs.M.Cawley Deputy Town Mayor
Councillors A.C.Bartlett, C.J. Elvers, Mrs.B.Lawson, B.M.Lucas,
R.J.Mew,
S.B.Milford and Mrs.V.Taylor.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J, S.Fitzgerald-Bond and C.D.Mortimer.

The Town Council learnt that Councillor Mortimer was unwell and had been admitted to hospital and the Town Clerk was asked to write to him expressing their good wishes for his speedy recovery.

1. PRAYERS

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

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 25th May 2007 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs.M.Cawley declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 relating to Band Concerts at Ventnor Park and said that she would not take part in the discussion or vote on this matter.

4. WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE

The report of a meeting of a meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee held on 14th May 2007 was received and approved.

5. GRANTS COMMITTEE

The report of a meeting of the Grants Committee held on 16th April 2007 was received and approved.

6. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE WINTER GARDENS VENTNOR

The Town Council received a letter from Dr.R.McInnes, Coastal Manager of the IW Council thanking the Town Council sincerely for their support once again of the International Conference recently held at Ventnor and said he was particularly grateful for the provision of The Winter Gardens as the conference venue and for the excellent reception given at the opening of the poster display and technical exhibition. Dr. McInnes said that the response from all delegates had been very positive and the conclusions and recommendations would be drawn together and published by mid-July.

The conference findings will help the Isle of Wight in addressing the physical problems likely to arise as a result of the impacts of climate change as well as supporting the case for national and European funding to respond to the impacts on the ground.

7. CONCERTS AT VENTNOR PARK BANDSTAND 2007

A letter was received from Ventnor Enhancement Fund saying that they were organising a comprehensive programme of concerts at the Park Bandstand for most Sunday afternoons commencing on 6th May 2007. This followed the decision of the IW Council to withdraw their proposal that the operation and management of the Bandstand might be taken over by the Town Council.

Although collections would be taken the Fund was unlikely to recoup all the costs relating to the payment of performers, advertising, programmes etc. and asked if the Town Council would sponsor the concerts to the sum of £500 for which provision had been made in the current years budget.

it was Resolved - To congratulate Ventnor Enhancement Fund on their initiative in arranging these concerts and to make a grant of £500.

Arising on this matter concern was expressed that the IW Council had in previous discussions with local councils indicated that where local councils agreed to undertake services in respect of functions of the County Council funding would be given in support of the provision of the service and the situation at the Bandstand appeared to breach this principle. The Town Clerk was instructed to write to the IW Council saying that they wished to emphasise the need to adhere to this principle notwithstanding their willingness in this case to make a grant towards the running of the band concerts by Ventnor Enhancement Fund.

HAMPSHIRE AND IW FARMING AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP (FWAG)

A letter from this group sought a donation towards the work of providing support

and advice to local farmers' on a range of subjects relating to environmental management. It was agreed that more information was required regarding the work of this group bearing in mind that locally organisations were already involved in the same projects. The request was referred to the Grants Committee for consideration.

REPORTS OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

(a) Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007

The Financial Officer submitted the final accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007. It was Resolved - That the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance relating to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 be approved.

(b) Audit of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007

Format notice of the Audit of these Accounts was given which will be advertised not later than 25th June 2007 and the notice of the appointment of the date for the exercise of electors' rights to inspect the accounts will be published by the Town Clerk.

(c) Report of the Financial Officer

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

(d) Amendment of Financial Regulations

The Financial Officer stated that in order to update the current Financial Regulations in line with present practice amendments were required to the Council's Financial Regulations and he submitted a written report setting out the alterations needed. It was Resolved - To adopt the proposed changes which are set out in the schedule to these minutes with immediate effect.

MOTIFS FOR STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS

The Town Clerk reminded members that earlier in the year the IW Council had agreed to meet the cost of providing motifs of three new street lighting columns in place of the festoon lighting which had been removed because it was no longer functioning. The Town Council had agreed to consider providing additional motifs if further new columns were installed and in fact a further five new columns had been erected. The cost of each motif including fitting was approximately £500. The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had selected a design suitable for all the year round use.

The Town Council had a longstanding reserve fund originally received from the former South Wight Borough Council amounting to £7,500 and designated for use in connection with decorative street lighting and if the Town Council wished this reserve fund could be used to provide the additional motifs now available for five columns.

It was Resolved - That five additional motifs be now purchased and that the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase further motifs as new street lighting columns are

- 11. LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007 ("REVISED CODE")** The Town Clerk reported on this revised Code which came into effect on 3rd May 2007 and had to be adopted by 1st October 2007. Paragraph 12(2) was not mandatory for local councils but otherwise it was recommended that the revised Code be adopted without amendment. He would in due course be submitting to members a new Code of Conduct based on the Model Code.

The Town Clerk had circulated to all members details of Training Sessions for members at various venues and dates during July and members should notify the Parish Liaison Officer of their choice or notify him and he would do so,

- 12. IW ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**
Councillor Mrs.Lawson reported on a number of matters considered by the Association at a meeting on 23rd May 2007. Arising thereon it was agreed that Mr.Mark Compton-Hall be appointed to represent the Town Council at a Forum to give Older People a Voice and that the Town Council meet his expenses in attending this Forum.

- 13. QUESTIONS**
Various questions were asked and answers given.

Town Mayor