

**Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 16 July 2007.**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.J.Elvers and C.D.Mortimer and the Financial Officer, Mr.M.Cox.

**1. PRAYERS**

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Town Mayor.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 were approved and signed.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

Councillor Mrs.Cawley - Agenda Item 9 - Bandstand at Ventnor Park  
Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia - Agenda Item 13 - Ventnor Tennis Club  
Councillor Mrs.V.Taylor - Agenda Item 8 - Sandown High School

These members did not vote these matters.

**4. WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE**

The report of a meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee held on 25 June 2007 was received.

**5. VENTNOR PARTNERSHIP**

The minutes of meetings of Ventnor Partnership held on 10 May 2007 and 28 June 2007 were received. Arising on thereon Councillor Mrs.Lawson, Chairman of the Partnership, and the Town Mayor gave details of a questionnaire being circulated generally and to local groups as part of the Health Check which sought to obtain views on the present situation in Ventnor and what people would like to see happen in Ventnor. This was part of a research process which would provide a source of information of great value to future planning and applications for funding.

**6. SANDOWN HIGH SCHOOL**

A letter from the Chair of Governors of Sandown High School regarding the proposal of the Governing Body to change the status of the School from a Community School to a Foundation School was considered. The comments of the Town Council were invited. Considerable discussion ensued on this matter and the majority of members did not feel that the proposal was a good one. Views were expressed that the benefits of such a change were unproven; it could lead to a restriction on admissions; it did not fit in with other current proposals for developing education on the Island or nationally; and in the opinion of some members it had political overtones.

The Town Clerk was instructed to convey these comments to the Governors.

Note: Councillor Mrs. V.Taylor left the meeting whilst this matter was under discussion.

**7. VENTNOR PARK**

The Town Clerk reported on his correspondence and discussions with officers of the Isle of Wight Council regarding the request of the Town Council that a contribution towards the cost of the provision of band concerts by Ventnor Enhancement Fund which was supported by the Town Council should also be made by the Isle of Wight Council. The matter had been passed between three officers but the final reply was that no funding was available.

The Town Clerk was authorised to negotiate with the Isle of Wight Council for an extension of the agreement which expired this year by which the Town Council undertook the management and operation of the Putting Green and its services.

**8. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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

**9. RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The Financial Officer submitted a written report on proposed new arrangements for Risk Assessment in respect of the business of the Town Council in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 together with notes from the Governance and Accountability Guidance.

Much of any risk was covered by his notes that were approved at the precept meeting held last January and approved by the Council in February. He suggested that the Town Council might set up a small committee to deal with risk assessment procedures on behalf of the Council and this was agreed.

It was Resolved - That this Committee consist of Councillors B.M.Lucas, S.B.Milford and Mrs.V.Taylor and the Town Mayor (ex officio).

**10. IW ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson gave a report on matters dealt with by the Association.

**11. VENTNOR TENNIS CLUB**

A letter was received from the Secretary of Ventnor Tennis Club regarding the proposals to refurbish the fourth court at the Club premises in St.Boniface Road in respect of which an application was being made for funding by the National Lottery. The Club asked the Town Council to support and endorse this application.

The Town Council were very pleased to do so and congratulated the Tennis Club on what they had achieved and their on-going efforts to provide very good affordable tennis facilities in Ventnor to the great benefit of the community.

**12. QUESTIONS**

Several questions were asked and answers given.

Councillor Mew again raised his concern about the cost of ferry services to the Island and Councillor Fitzgerald-Bond outlined the course of action being instigated by the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Mrs.SJ.Scoccia agreed to raise with appropriate officers of the IW Council concern regarding broken street bollards and the length of time skips were allowed to remain on highways.