

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 10th September 2007.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.J.Elvers,
Mrs.B.Lawson and C.D.Mortimer.

1. PRAYERS

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

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2007 were approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute no. 4 of the last meeting the Town Mayor said that only one member had taken the opportunity to visit the Control Centre with her.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE
DATED 13th AUGUST 2007

The report of a meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee dated 13th August 2007 was received.

6. EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER - VENTNOR ESPLANADE

A letter from Messrs. N.Gibbs and C.D.Mortimer expressing serious concerns about the new experimental traffic order on Ventnor Esplanade had been circulated to members. The writers believed that the restrictions would have long term adverse consequences on commercial activity along The Esplanade and the regeneration of Ventnor. They requested that the Town Council reconsider the position.

The matter was very fully discussed and the Town Mayor said she had personally replied to the writers explaining the reason why the present order had been made and had pointed out that it is experimental and is being closely monitored with comments being recorded and it can be modified during the 18 months that it is in force should circumstances prove this necessary or vital.

In the course of the discussion members said that the question of safety was of paramount importance and the traders on The Esplanade should take advantage of the Order to place tables and chairs outside their premises which was one of the reasons why the present order had been introduced.

It was Resolved - That the Town Council support the continuance of the Order for the experimental period of 18 months.

It was agreed to check with Mr.Burton of the Highways Department to what whether there might be some advantage in relaxing the order in part during the winter months.

7. CONSUTATION ON NEW DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Town Council noted these proposed orders which they fully support.

8. PARISH AND TOWN PLANS GRANT

A report was received from the Town Mayor and Mr. Mark Compton-Hall on the work which they were carrying out to enable the creation of a Town Plan for Ventnor identifying the needs of the community, prioritising the issues raised and determining how they might be tackled. The 5 year plan covers everything of relevance to residents in the town and the Health Check when completed would be the foundation for the Town Plan.

Through the Rural Community Council application could be made to Defra for grant aid for this project and an application had been prepared seeking £3500 towards the costs involved with a contribution in kind from the Town Council of £250.

Members congratulated and thanked Councillor Scoccia and Mr. Compton-Hall for the great deal of work they had undertaken and for their initiative and were pleased to endorse the application of the continuation of the project.

The Town Council formally approved the contribution of £250.

9. COASTAL AND GEOTECHNICAL WORK

Upon his retirement from the service of the Isle of Wight Council as Coastal Manager, Dr. Robin McInnes wrote to thank the Town Council for their ongoing interest and support in his department's coastal and geotechnical work over many years. He also listed work which had been undertaken since 1987 to reduce risks to people and property from the hazards of coastal erosion and landslip.

Members paid tribute to all that Dr. McInnes had achieved during his years of service which totalled 36 years with Island Councils since 1972 and sent to him their very best wishes for his retirement.

10. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

11. VENTNOR GARDEN ESTATE

Further to Minute No. 11 of the last meeting the Town Clerk reported that he had not yet received any reply to his letter to the Isle of Wight Council regarding the condition of this area. The Town Mayor said that the matter was being looked at by several departments of the IW Council who had responsibility for different issues affecting the land and work to deal with the untidy state would be put in hand. The Town Council could put forward their ideas of what development should take place and she suggested that a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider this and report back to the Town Council.

This was agreed and Councillors C.J. Elvers, R.J. Mew, Mrs. V. Taylor together with the Town Mayor were appointed to serve on this Sub-Committee.

12. QUESTIONS

Concern was expressed about the temporary railing around the Paddling Pool on the Eastern Esplanade which were of a poor appearance and similarly railings erected in Bath Road. Councillor Fitzgerald-Bond said that he would raise these matters with the appropriate officers of the IW Council and report back.