

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 8th October 2007.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs.M.Cawley and S.B.Milford.

1. PRAYERS

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

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2007 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. TOWN CENTRE MANAGERS

The Senior Town Centre Manager, Mr.R.Campbell, and the Town Manager for Ventnor, Mr. R.Reed, attended the meeting and explained the nature of their duties. They would be working to forge links with the police, businesses, residents and all other partners who have an interest in the town and would like to have a close relationship with the Town Council. They answered questions from members.

They were invited to attend meetings of the Town Council.

5. CASUAL VACANCY – VENTNOR WEST TOWN WARD

The Town Clerk reported on the action to be taken following the resignation of Mr.C.D.Mortimer. The requisite notice of the casual vacancy had been published on 5th October 2007. If ten electors for the Ward requested in writing to the Returning Officer that an election be held this would follow otherwise the Town Council would be required to fill the vacancy by co-option.

6. BLUE FLAG AWARD FOR VENTNOR

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia gave details of the requirements for the award of a Blue Flag for the beach at Ventnor which could now be met. She paid tribute to the local volunteers whose training and assistance would make this possible.

As part of the criteria it was necessary for the Local Authority to appoint a local committee to undertake the running of the Blue Flag scheme and the Town Council were asked to nominate a member to serve on this group. Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson offered to do so and this offer was accepted.

Councillor Scoccia explained that to meet the criteria it was necessary to site specified litter receptacles on The Esplanade and she would like to know the views of members on this point. Members said that the receptacles must be of an attractive design and should not be detrimental to the general appearance of the area. It was agreed that a position on the Eastern Esplanade would be most suitable.

7. CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson said she had been asked by a group of local traders if the Town Council could contribute towards the cost of providing festoon lighting in the town centre during the Christmas period in conjunction with a Fun Day which they were organising on 8th December 2007. It was pointed out that the Town Council had met the cost of the new permanent decorative features mounted on street lighting columns and had no other funds for decorative lighting in the current years budget and therefore could not offer assistance.

Councillor Mrs.Lawson said that she would explain this to the group.

8. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The written report of the Financial Officer was circulated to members. He said that he had received a further letter containing confidential information regarding legal costs on which he needed a decision. It was agreed that this matter be considered with the public excluded at the conclusion of this meeting.

9. GRANTS COMMITTEE

The report a a meeting of the Grants Committee held on 10th September 2007 was received and approved.

10. WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE

The report of a meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee held on 24th September 2007 was received.

11. VENTNOR PARTNERSHIP

The minutes of a meeting of Ventnor Partnership held on 9th August 2007 were noted.

12. IW ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson gave a report on matters dealt with by this Association and NALC.

13. PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS

Councillor R.J.Mew and the Town Clerk updated members on their endeavours to find suitable land for the provision of allotments. The possibility of land at Ventnor Middle School was under consideration and the Town Clerk said that this was dependent upon the decisions to be taken by the IW Council under their schools policy which was under review. Over thirty residents had now indicated their wish to have an allotment.

Councillor Mew said that he considered that perhaps land off The Shute in the ownership of the National Trust might be be a site for allotments and it was agreed to invite Mr.Tony Tutton of the National Trust to discuss this with the Town Council.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Resolved - That the public be excluded whilst the following matter was discussed in view of the confidential nature of the information to be given.

15. LEGAL COSTS

A further letter from the Council's solicitors regarding costs relating to legal proceeding in respect of The Winter Gardens was considered and the report of the Financial Officer noted. It was Resolved - To offer without prejudice the settlement as proposed by the Council's legal advisers.

Town Mayor