

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 12th November 2007.

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

1. PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Town Mayor. Members learned with regret of the death of Mr.P.Grice a former member and Town Mayor and stood in silent tribute.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2007 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager for Ventnor reported on his activities and numerous matters with which he had dealt. He had made contact with several local groups and had explained his role. He answered questions raised members.

5. CLOSURE OF THE POST OFFICE AT LOWTHERVILLE

The Town Mayor and other members reported upon issues relating to the intention of Post Office Ltd. not to provide a post office facility at Lowtherville. Whilst it was noted that the previous post office had been closed due to the personal position of the postmistress the Town Council made it clear that they believed that the continuance of the service in Upper Ventnor is of the utmost importance. The area has a substantial resident population and the post office in Church Street is over a mile away and to reach it incurs journeys up and down steep hills which causes difficulty for many users. Moreover the area is one which is developing with new residential properties and the Town Mayor said it was likely that the Isle of Wight Council would be marketing land at the Garden Estate for housing in the next year. Members said that they understood that there were potential opportunities for the service to be provided in other existing properties such the local schools, Ventnor Social Club and the Community Centre.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk write to the National Consultation Team, Post Office Ltd., emphasising that in the opinion of the Town Council the proposal to abandon the post office service in Lowtherville does not appear to have taken into account the physical and demographic conditions of the area and this is a case where such factors are of the highest importance and the Town Council request that the proposal be considered.

6. VARIOUS ISSUES – REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MRS.S.J.SCOCCIA

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia submitted a written report to members on various matters affecting the town

7. FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

A letter containing the draft proposals for electoral arrangements in the Isle of Wight had been received. No changes were proposed in respect of Ventnor.

8. REPORT OF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

9. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2007

The Financial Officer submitted the notice of completion of audit of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 which had been received from the District Auditor. The Town Clerk would publish the requisite statutory notice.

10. PARISH TASK GROUP

Following the presentation at the Annual Parish Workshop the Town Council were invited to nominate to the IW Association of Parish Town Council a member to be one of four members to serve on this Group. It was Resolved – That Councillor Mrs V.Taylor be nominated for selection.

11. ISLAND CORE PLAN STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Notification was received that a meeting of representatives of local groups to further consider this matter would be held at Falcon Cross Hall, Falcon Cross Road, Shanklin IW at 6.30p. to 8pm on Wednesday 9th January 2007 and the Town Council were invited to appoint three members as representatives. It was Resolved – That Councillors Mrs.B.Lawson, B.M.Lucas and S.B.Milford be appointed.

Town Mayor