

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW. on 12th May 2008.

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, B.M.Lucas, R.J.Mew,
 S.B.Milford, M/s D.Robinson and Mrs.V.Taylor.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson.

1. PRAYERS

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

2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was Resolved - That Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Mrs.Scoccia thanked members and officers for their support over the past year and for re-electing her for a further year.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Mayor made the statutory declaration acceptance of office.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

It was Resolved - That Councillor Mrs.M.Cawley be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2008 were approved and signed.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest.

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES.

It was Resolved - That Committees and representatives on other bodies be appointed as set out in Schedule No. 1 to these minutes.

8. DATES OF MEETINGS 2008/2009

It was Resolved - To approve the dates of meetings of the Town Council and Committees as set out in Schedule No. 2 to these minutes.

Councillor R.Mew said that he would prefer meetings to commence at 7pm and not 6.30pm but this was not supported by other members.

9. ANNUAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE TOWN MAYOR 2008/2009

The Town Mayor left the meeting whilst this matter was considered and the Deputy Town Mayor presided. It was Resolved - That the Town Mayor's annual allowance for the year 2008/2009 be fixed at £1,250.

10. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town **Manager** submitted his report on activities since the last meeting and gave information on various matters. Relating to the repainting of street furniture it was agreed that the colour scheme should be black and gold. His suggestion that the notice boards in the town which currently did not seem to be the direct responsibility of any department of the IW Council should be made the responsibility of the Town Manager was agreed.

11. SKATEBOARD PARK – EASTERN ESPLANADE VENTNOR

Councillor Mrs.V.Taylor reported upon the formation of Ventnor Skate Board Group which had been set up to take over the responsibility of the skateboard facility on the Eastern Esplanade and to ensure its future viability and upkeep. The Group had been in negotiation with the IW Council and were taking a 20 year lease of the site from 1st June 2008. Plans were in hand for the reconstruction and proper arrangements to meet statutory requirements. Details were given of costs including insurance at £400 and expenses to be met relating to the lease from the IW Council and inspections in the sum of £170.

Those involved in the project had extensive experience and the Group would be properly managed financially. Much support had been given from local sources to enable this Group to be set up and Councillor Taylor thanked all those involved.

The Town Council welcomed this report and it was Resolved – That the Town Council make a grant of £570 towards their costs.

Councillor Mrs.Taylor abstained from voting on this resolution.

12. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia gave an update on the present position relating to Undercliff Drive and said that Mr.Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, would attend the next meeting of the Town Council to discuss the matter and the comments made by the Town Council in previous correspondence. She reported on her discussions with the Chairman of Niton and Whitwell Parish Council who had now indicated that they would join the suggested working party but wished to reserve the right to deal with the project as a full Council. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Niton and Whitwell Parish Council after meeting Mr.Love.

13. PARKING IN HIGH STREET, VENTNOR

Attention was drawn to the fact that local traffic wardens were in their very strict adherence to regulations making it extremely difficult for traders to load and off-load vehicles in the High Street. There was clearly a need for a designated loading and unloading area giving ample time for this to be undertaken. It was agreed that the attention of Mr.Kevin Burton, the responsible officer of the IW Council be drawn to the existing situation and that he instruct traffic wardens to use proper discretion and also investigate the provision of designated sections to overcome the problem.

14. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2008.

The Town Clerk submitted formal notice from the District Auditor that the date for the exercise of electors rights has been fixed at 4th August 2008. He would issue the statutory formal notice in due course advising electors of their rights.

15. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Financial Officer submitted to members his written report.

16. RECORDINGS AT MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

This matter had been raised at the Annual Town Meeting by Mr.Simon Perry and referred to this meeting for consideration. Information was given to members that the intention was that an audio recording be made of the proceedings and published on Ventnor Blog.

16. RECORDINGS AT MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL (continued)

Some members expressed their concern that such recording might impede debate but others felt that it would be a further way of developing public interest in Council affairs particularly with those people who were unable to attend meetings.

It was Resolved – To agree in principle that such recordings be allowed subject to the Town Clerk consulting with the Monitoring Officer regarding any restriction or control which were necessary.

17. QUESTIONS

Various questions were asked and answers given. Where appropriate it was agreed that questions be referred to other Council departments for attention and action.

Town Mayor