

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 14th April 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, R.J.Mew, S.B.Milford,
M/s D.Robinson and Mrs V.Taylor.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs.B.Lawson and B.M.Lucas.

1. PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Town Mayor.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2008 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. REPORTS FROM TOWN CENTRE MANAGER AND THE POLICE

The Town Centre Manager gave an update on works carried out to bus shelters, the Eastern Esplanade Car Park and Pound Lane Car park.

Police Sergeant R.Stapleton reported on several matters. He was pleased to say that that there had been no problems during the week-end Jazz Festival.

5. REPORT OF THE WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE DATED 31st MARCH 2008

The report of the meeting of this Committee dated 31st March 2008 was received. The Chairman said that the Jazz Festival last week-end had been very successfully held at the Winter Gardens. It was Resolved - To record a vote of thanks to Councillor Mrs.Cawley, all the staff at the Winter Gardens and the volunteers who had worked very hard and long hours to ensure the event could be held so well.

6. SKATEBOARD PARK - THE EASTERN ESPLANADE

The Town Clerk reported that he had received an enquiry from Property Services Department of the IW Council asking if the Town Council would wish to take over the licence to operate this site which was now out of use. The condition of the site was such that if no licensee could be found the equipment must be removed. The Town Council do not have the physical or financial resources to take over the site and believe that only an active club can do so and instructed the Town Clerk to reply accordingly.

7. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

The Town Clerk submitted a further letter from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods regarding the maintenance of Undercliff Drive which repeated the earlier assurance that the IW Council will continue to undertake maintenance as is currently being done until a long term solution has been determined.

8. CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE

The Town Clerk had circulated to members documents from the Public Transport Officer of the IW Council regarding current subsidised bus services and invited the Town Council to give their views in respect of such services and of any unmet public transport needs.

8. CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES (Continued)

Mr.Stuart George very helpfully gave a report analysing the bus services detailing and explaining usage and passenger numbers. He recommended the need for the retention of particular services and timings required to provide an adequate public service. In one or two cases the usage made it difficult to argue for the retention. It was especially important to retain the 0656 hours service no.3 Monday to Saturday for Ventnor residents working in Newport and Cowes.

Members thanked Mr. George for his great assistance and it was Resolved - To respond to the Public Transport Officer in line with the recommendations made by Mr.George.

9. TOWN PLAN

It was Resolved - To formally approve and adopt the Town Plan for Ventnor for the years 2008-2012 which be launched at the Annual Town Meeting on 21st April 2008. The Plan will be monitored and reviewed every year.

10. PARISH MASTERCLASS

A letter was received from the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership outlining the use of a Masterclass which would provide for each local council an opportunity to discuss and self-assess their effectiveness. It was agreed to defer any action on this matter until after the Town Council had achieved Quality Status which they were hoping to do in the next two months.

Councillor M/s D.Robinson abstained from voting on this matter.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Financial Officer submitted to members his written report.

12. QUESTIONS

Councillor R.Mew raised questions regarding the condition of walls and gardens adjoining several car parks and suggested that a meeting with the appropriate officer of the IW Council should be held to deal with the problems which were not only dangerous but unsightly. Councillor J.S.Fitzgerald-Bond said he would take up this matter and report back.

Town Mayor