

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 14th July 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, Mrs.B.Lawson, B.M.Lucas, R.J.Mew, S.B.Milford and Mrs.D.Robinson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs.V.Taylor.

1. PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Town Mayor.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs.M.Cawley declared a personal interest in agenda item No. 8
 - Childrens's Playground on the Eastern Cliffs.

4. NO COLD CALLING AREAS.

M/s Julie Woodhouse of the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership made a presentation relating to controls which can be introduced by Trading Standards to identify and specify areas and streets which might be made "No cold calling" areas to protect vulnerable residents against unwanted salespersons and traders. She explained how the scheme works and answered questions. It was agreed to consider this matter at a future meeting. The Town Mayor thanked M/s Woodmore for her attendance and the information she had given.

5. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The report of the Town Centre Manager was received.

6. PROPOSED CHILDRENS' PLAYING AREA - EASTERN CLIFFS, VENTNOR

The Town Clerk and Mr.Phillip Le Mey of Ventnor Enhancement Fund reported upon further discussions with officers of the Isle of Wight Council regarding the proposal for Ventnor Enhancement Fund to provide this children's playing area.

The IW Council agreed now that there were no practicable obstacles to the use of of the site for this purpose and were pleased that the Ventnor Enhancement Fund were proposing to fund the scheme. At present the the IW Council were not able to adopt the playground without some input towards the cost of inspection, insurance and maintenance. The Town Clerk said that for this purpose an annual contribution of £750 would be sought from the Town Council. Mr.Le Mey outlined the steps now to be taken to progress the scheme.

It was Resolved - That the Town Council agree to make an annual contribution of £750 towards the costs referred to above

7. ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk and Councillor R.J.Mew made a report on their negotiations and discussions with the IW Council regarding the possible provision of allotments by the Town Council on land adjoining the former council depot at th Old Shute. The IW Council were pleased to support this scheme and plans had been prepared to delineate the precise area to be used. Estimates had been received for fencing and the provision of gates. Rotataivating and ground clearance would be arranged and a water supply investigated. The Town Council welcomed this report and authorised the Town Clerk and Councillor Mew to proceed.

8. IW COUNCIL (PARKING PLACES) ORDER No.1 2008

This Order was considered by the Town Council in relation to the proposal to change the designation of the Central Car Park in High Street from long stay to short stay. The Town Council had already suggested that if the car park was divided into short stay and long stay sections they would have no objection but the Engineering Department of the IW Council had said that this was not a practicable proposition and the necessary works would be considerable. The Town Council did not accept this answer.

It was Resolved – That the IW Council be informed that the Town Council object to the proposal to alter the designation of this car park since its present designation does not cause any problem for parking and the proposed alteration is not in the public interest.

9. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

Councillor A.C.Bartlett had given notice that he wished to move a motion that a Public Enquiry should be held regarding the works to be carried out in Undercliff Drive. He wished to withdraw this motion since it was apparent that such an Enquiry would only result in all issues previously discussed being raised again.

He now put to the the Town Council a motion as follows:

" This Council is keen to put the years of uncertainty, disruption and unproductive expenditure aside and look forward to establishing a long term future for Undercliff Drive. To this end they welcome the recent pledge of the Isle of Wight Council to maintain the road and employ a geotechnical consultant to facilitate measured improvements. The Town Council requires Undercliff Drive to be permanently kept open for traffic as follows under these criteria:

For all cars and light commercial vehicles under 10T laden weight;
 For local single decker buses;
 For service vehicles serving the Undercliff Drive area residents and businesses;
 A 30 mph speed limit to apply throughout;
 The traffic restrictions to be better signed and positively policed.

The surface of the road to be re-levelled in those localised areas where extreme changes in level occur.

In the event of future minor and localised ground movement remedial resurfacing to be carried out expeditiously to enable the road to reopen without undue delay.

The road to be diverted around the area currently controlled by traffic lights.

Reconstruction of the road infrastructure to be carried out in sections out of season as budgetted funds allow.

The Whitwell Road route to be kept in good order to accomodate the heavy traffic and holiday coaches which are not permitted on Undercliff Drive."

On being put to the meeting this motion was approved and adopted and the Town Clerk was instructed to inform the IW Council accordingly.

10. IW ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
Councillor R.J.Mew reported on the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
11. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER
 - (a) General
The written report of the Financial Officer was submitted to members.
 - (b) Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008.
The Financial Officer submitted the Final Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008. It was Resolved - That the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance relating to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008 be approved.
12. REPORT OF WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE
The report of the Winter Gardens Committee dated 9th June 2008 was received.
13. WORKSHOP AT THE WINTER GARDENS
It was Resolved - That Councillor R.J.Mew be appointed to represent the Town Council at a workshop at The Winter Gardens at 7.30pm on 17th July 2008 to consider the two new Health and Wellbeing projects in Ventnor being developed in line with the Town Plan.
14. ISLAND PLAN CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS.
It was Resolved - That Councillors R.J.Mew and M/s D.Robinson represent the Town Council at a meeting to be held at the Broadway Centre, Sandown on 31st July 2008 to consider this matter.

Town Mayor