

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 18th August 2008.

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

1. DEATH OF COUNCILLOR MRS.B.LAWSON

The Town Mayor expressed the sadness of the Town Council at the death of Councillor Mrs.B.Lawson who had been a member since 1991 and served three times as Town Mayor. She paid tribute to the great amount of public and community service given by Mrs.Lawson in so many ways. Other members of the Town Council added their tributes and all present at the meeting stood in silent remembrance.

2. PRAYERS

Rev.B.Downer led the meeting in prayers remembering especially the late Mrs.B. Lawson and her family.

3. MINUTES

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. QUALITY COUNCIL ACCREDITATION

The Town Mayor reported that she and the Town Clerk had attended the Assessment Panel for interview in connection with the application of the Town Council for Quality Council Accreditation and had been successful. The Town Council now had the status of a Quality Council.

6. REPORTS FROM THE POLICE AND THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The report of the police gave details of crime rates in the town which showed a reduction. There was still concern in relation to the number of young people out late. The Town Centre Manager made his report. He made his apologies for absence from the next meeting.

7. REPORT OF THE WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE DATED 14th JULY 2008

The report of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th July 2008 was received.

Arising on minute no.6 relating to the use of The Winter Gardens for the I.W. Jazz Festival 2009 the Chairman made a further report which was considered by the Town Council who also took note of representations made by other parties by letter and orally at question time prior to the commencement of this meeting.

It was Resolved – That in the light of the information now given the use of The Winter Gardens by M/s G.Ward and Mr.P.Snellen for the 2009 Jazz Festival be not allowed.

The Town Mayor expressed the appreciation of the Council to the Chairman of the Committee for her work in dealing with a difficult situation and the Council recorded a vote of confidence in her Chairmanship.

**8. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE****(a) Report of Grants Committee dated 28th July 2008.**

The report of the Committee was received and the recommendations contained therein were approved. Further information was given regarding an application by Interact and a late application by Ventnor Music for Fun Festival and it was agreed that grants of £100 each be made to these applicants.

**(b) Spring Hill Garden Group**

A letter from this Group explained that with a lesser number of volunteers than previously the Group needed to engage paid assistance to do some of more strenuous work and help with regard to the cost would be appreciated. It was Resolved - That the Council make a grant of £250 at this time and make specific provision in the budget towards the upkeep of this garden area.

**9. ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Mew reported that it had been discovered that ground sensor tubes containing mercury had been placed in the land at Havensbush unknown to the Parks and Countryside Officer and at this stage further works to provide allotments on the site could not be continued. Further investigations were proceeding with officers involved. The Town Mayor said that she had asked the Director of the Environment and Neighbourhoods for a report.

**10. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

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

**11. ISLE OF WIGHT HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ACT PLAN.**

The Town Clerk submitted an invitation from the IW Council to members to attend the launch of this project at Northwood House, Cowes on 10th October 2008.

**12. QUESTIONS**

Several questions were asked and answers given or referred to the appropriate authority.

**13. ATTENDANCE AT NEXT MEETING BY THE LEADER OF THE IW COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor said that the Leader of the IW Council, Councillor D.Pugh, would be attending the next meeting of the Town Council to speak about matters relating to the work of his Authority and to answer any questions from members.

Town Mayor