

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 8th September 2008.

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

1. PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Town Mayor.

2. PRESENTATION OF QUALITY COUNCIL CERTIFICATE

Mr. David Guy, Chairman of the Assessment Panel, accompanied by other panel members attended the meeting and congratulated the Town Council on achieving Quality Council status. He presented to the Town Mayor the formal Certificate verifying the award.

3. COUNCILLOR DAVID PUGH

Councillor David Pugh, the Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, attended the meeting and spoke of the desire of his Authority to ensure that local councils are involved in local and strategic decisions that affect their communities. He referred to the opportunities available under the concept of parish empowerment whereby services could be delivered by local councils if they so wished. He emphasised the need for better communication and said the IW Council were taking steps to make certain that prompt replies were given to issues raised by local councils.

Councillor Pugh answered a number of questions put by members including traffic speed indicator signs, funding for youth services, the improvement of the Garden Estate at Lowtherville, the provision of tourist information centres, wind turbines, recycling of domestic refuse, the provision of an abattoir on the Island and the urgent need for repairs at The Winter Gardens.

Councillor Pugh said that he would make certain that in respect of a these matters he would raise the points made with officers and appropriate members of the IW Council.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Pugh for his attendance and the information he had given and for his promise of action.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2008 were approved and signed.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

6. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

7. IW ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Councillor Mew reported on the business of the Association.

8. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

A letter from the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods acknowledged receipt of a copy of the motion passed at the meeting of the Town Council on 14th July 2008. This would be brought to the notice of the consultants who will be undertaking the work of reviewing the options for Undercliff Drive and will be considered by the IW Council during the consultation phase. He confirmed that Ventnor Town

8. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE (Continued)
Council would be involved at key points throughout the process.

9. QUESTIONS
Several questions were asked and answers given.

Councillor Bartlett expressed concern that those responsible for damage to Ventnor Middle School at a cost of £40,000 were not being prosecuted. This was deplorable and gave out the wrong message to offenders. He asked Councillor Pugh to take this matter further particularly bearing in mind that it was the property of the IW Council which was so substantially damaged. Councillor Pugh agreed to do so.

10. PRESENTATION OF PAINTING OF THE WINTER GARDENS
Councillor Mrs.Cawley presented to the Council a painting of The Winter Gardens to be hung on the premises.

The Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council thanked Mrs.Cawley for her generosity which was much appreciated.

Town Mayor