

Minutes of a meeting of the WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 24th November 2008.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.S.Fitzgerald-Bond and C.Welsford.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008 were approved and signed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr.Steve Squires of Industrial Maintenance Services made a presentation regarding the possible installation and use of a wind turbine at The Winter Gardens to generate electricity for energy conservation.

He said that a wind turbine of a height of 15 metres could be satisfactorily sited at the rear car park capable of producing an energy yield of 24,000 kWh/annum in a mean wind speed of 5.0m/s.

The price offered by energy companies for output, LECs, ROCs and REGOs is constantly changing and is offered on a project-specific basis. The estimated annual income from the Power Purchase Agreement would be £3,168 based on the characteristic current offer price (13.2 per kWh) but it is possible that this sum may be increased. This income could be applied towards the cost of electricity used at The Winter Gardens.

Ventnor Town Council is eligible for a SALIX grant. Salix Finance is an independent publicly funded company set up in 2004 to accelerate public sector investment in energy efficiency technologies through invest to save schemes. The SALIX grant will apply to 50% of the cost of the project (estimated at £54,000 exclusive of VAT) and the remaining 50% can be sourced by the Low Carbon Building Programme phase 2 (LCBP Phase 2). This latter grant would be sourced by the Ventnor Winter Gardens Action Group.

To proceed with the SALIX grant the Town Council need to register their interest by 1st December 2008.

Mr.Squires has discussed this project with Mr.Bill Muphy, Head of Planning, and Mr.Jim Fawcett, Principal Sustainability Officer, of the Isle of Wight Council, and Mr.Fawcett would be very glad to help in the application for grants.

Members were impressed with the presentation and technical information given by Mr.Squires and accepted his offer to arrange for them to visit an existing wind turbine installation to see it in situ.

Councillor Bartlett who had first raised the possibility of a wind turbine at The Winter Gardens proposed that providing the IW Council approved of the project which is in line with the island's ECO image the Town Council proceed with this scheme.

3. ENERGY CONSERVATION (Continued)

All members of the Committee supported the proposal and it was Resolved – That the necessary steps be taken to obtain the approval of the Isle of Wight Council; to register the interest of the Town Council with Saix Finance with the assistance of the Principal Sustainability Officer of the IW Council; and to initiate the appropriate application for planning consent.

The Chairman thanked Mr.Squires for his attendance and the very full presentation he had given which had enabled the Committee to make a decision as to the action to be taken.

4. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs.Cawley gave a report on activities and work at The Winter Gardens since the last meeting. The redecoration of the main hall has been done, all curtains in the hall on the wall have been cleaned and the stage curtains are being cleaned using part of the money given by a benefactor. The restaurant windows have been dressed with a valance and curtains at the dividers to make it cosier in the winter. The ladies toilet in the Chancellor Room has been recarpeted. A problem with flies is currently being dealt with by Rentokil and it is thought that the problem arises from work relating to the repair and replacement of drains. The volunteers continue to give excellent support and all the work on the curtains has been done by M/s Sandie Fraser at no cost to the Town Council. Ventnor Boxing Club who are grateful for the help given at The Winter Gardens whilst they were seeking permanent premises have volunteered to help with staffing. This would be of great assistance as their trainers were appropriately qualified and would assist greatly in the control of young people at events on the premises.

The Chairman was thanked by members for her report which once again showed the progress being made at The Winter Gardens and the Town Clerk was asked to write to Ventnor Winter Gardens Action Group thanking them for all the assistance given which was invaluable.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Resolved – That the public be excluded whilst the following matter was dealt with in view of the private and confidential nature of the information to be given.

6. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The report of the Financial Officer was received and he answered members' questions.

He was asked to produce a report in a form which would allow information not of a private, confidential or commercially sensitive nature to be available to the public as this would indicate the actual costs which the Town Council had to meet in maintaining and operating The Winter Gardens particularly as a community facility for the town.