

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor IW on 9th February 2009.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.C.Bartlett and C.J.Elvers.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2009 were approved and signed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors R.M.Mew and Mrs.S.J.Scoccia declared personal interests in agenda item 10(a) relating to financial assistance to Ventnor Carnival and Regatta Association.

Councillors C.Welsford and Mrs.V.Taylor declared personal interests in agenda item 7 relating to the reorganisation of schools in Ventnor.

3. IW FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION ON DRAFT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009/2014.

Officers representing the Authority made a detailed presentation on the Integrated Management Plan 2009/2014 which had been prepared to take account of new national guidelines and controls. The Audit Commission undertook inspection of local services which must attain national standards and make effective use of resources. The speakers outlined the implication of these new systems upon the service in the Isle of Wight and the necessary arrangements for deployment of resources in terms of equipment and staff. The service had a duty to provide protection and prevention services across all areas of risk and details were given of changes which would need to take place to meet requirements. The current use of retained staff was under review both in terms of training standards now needed and the availability of staff. Included in the proposals would be the provision of a new fire station for Ventnor.

Several options for the future had been drawn up and the IW Council would soon decide upon the preferred option. The option chosen would then be put forward for further public consultation.

Answers were given to questions put by councillors and members of the public present at the meeting.

On behalf of all those present the Town Mayor thanked the speakers for an excellent and very informative presentation.

4. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OFFICER

This report was received and circulated to members.

5. REPORT OF THE WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE DATED 12th JANUARY 2009

The report of the meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee held on 12th January 2009 was received.

## 6. REORGANISATION OF SCHOOL IN VENTNOR

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Mrs.J.Bell, School Organisation Unit, Department for Children, Schools and Families following the letter of objection to the current proposals made by the Town Council. The letter was noted. No reply had yet been received from the IW Council and this was awaited.

## 7. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT

A letter was received from Mr.M.Smith updating members on the current position relating to this appraisal. The Town Clerk said that he would remind Mr.Smith of the undertaking previously given that the Town Council would be given the opportunity to discuss with the consultants their proposals and options as they were being prepared and it would not be left until the exercise was completed before the Town Council were able to have an input.

## 8. WORK AT THE EASTERN ESPLANADE, VENTNOR

Following the meeting on site between members of the Town Council and officers of the IW Council a concept drawing for the area around the paddling pool was received and noted.

Members again expressed their complete dissatisfaction with the way in which the Isle of Wight Council have dealt with this matter reiterating their concerns. It was Resolved – To make a formal complaint setting out the following points of issue.

The plans which the Town Council saw initially for the Cheetah Marine development which received approval showed the proposed lay-out of the area around the paddling pool, the road lay-out and ancillary works, and the treatment of the area adjacent to the new public conveniences. The work which has subsequently been carried out is totally changed from the original design and is the cause of the criticism now made. The Town Council were not given any plans for the alterations nor were they consulted or asked for their comments and they are of the opinion that this should have been so particularly as the area involved in the development is a prime site in the town. No revised planning application was submitted and the public were therefore not able to submit their comments. The artists impression of the Cheetah Marine development which accompanied the planning application was out of scale and although we are now informed that an artists impression does not form part of a formal planning application the Town Council believe that if it is incorrect in its detail and scale it is misleading.

The lack of consultation is the crux of this matter. Local Councils have been repeatedly assured of the wish of the Isle of Wight Council to work closely together and this lack of communication and discussion does not demonstrate the intent or spirit of this assurance. All local councils on the Island may find themselves in a similar situation and the Council have raised the matter as an issue of principle with the IW Association of Local Councils.

## 9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applications for financial assistance from Ventnor Carnival and Regatta Association and the Spring Hill Garden Group were referred to the Grants Committee.

## 10. IW ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Councillor R.J.Mew reported on matters dealt with by the Association at the last meeting.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 – PRECEPT

The Financial Officer submitted estimates of income and expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2009 taking account of the decisions made for the year and the requirements of the Annual Risk Assessment.

These were approved and it was Resolved – That the Precept for the year commencing 1st April 2009 be fixed at £99,500.

12. REPORT OF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

13. QUESTIONS

Councillor Mew raised questions regarding the danger created by new dropped kerbs installed in the High Street and Councillor Fitzgerald-Bond agreed to bring this to the attention of the Highways Department.

Councillor Robinson asked a question relating to the Red Funnel advertisement on the Council's website and it was agreed to change the wording.

Councillor Lucas reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Beaches Advisory Committee and he was pleased to learn that the water quality at Ventnor was good and that there would be improved control of seaweed during the coming year with better removal.

Town Mayor