

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 13th July 2009.

Present: Councillor C.Welsford Town Mayor
 Councillor M/s D.Robinson Deputy Town Mayor
 Councillors M/s J.Garlick, D.George, B.M.Lucas, R.J.Mew, D.M.Nettleton,
 G.J.Perks and S.D.Stubbings.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.C.Bartlett and Mrs.S.J.Scoccia

Members were sorry to hear that Councillor Bartlett was unwell and asked Councillor Nettleton to convey to him their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2009 were approved and signed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D.M.Nettleton declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 relating to anchor points for the carnival bunting.

3. REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Quarterly Progress Report of the Environment and Neighbourhood Officer was received. He answered several questions from members. Concern was expressed regarding dropped kerbs which members said were dangerous and had caused accidents. The Town Mayor said he would raise this matter with the Highways Department.

4. REPLACEMENTS LITTER BINS AT TRINITY ROAD

The Town Clerk gave further information regarding the replacement of the existing round bins with rectangular bins to overcome obstruction of the footpath and reported that Southern Vectis were prepared to meet half the cost. This offer was appreciated but members did not feel that the Town Council should pay any sum towards this replacement as it was a matter for the IW Council to have dealt with properly in the first place. Councillor Welsford agreed to take this issue.

5. NO COLD CALLING AREAS

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia not being able to attend the meeting had circulated to all members estimates of the print costings for areas in St.Lawrence and Upper Ventnor for which there was a sum of £500 in the current year's budget. Councillor Welsford asked members to defer this item until the next meeting.

6. PILOT COMMUNITY DENTAL/ORAL HEALTH PROJECT IN VENTNOR

Councillor M/s D.Robinson gave a presentation on this project which was being undertaken to encourage dental hygiene and care for young persons in this area. It would be promoted through local schools and competitions and an entry in the Carnival. Members supported the project.

7. IW FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CONSULTATION

It was noted that a public consultation presentation would be given at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, at 6.30pm on 28th July 2009 regarding the "Model for Change" project being developed by the IW Council.

8. CARNIVAL BUNTING - ANCHOR POINTS

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from H.Ingram & Sons (Ventnor) Ltd. stating the existing anchor points to carry the carnival flags required a full inspection before the flags and bunting could be erected safely and this would be a 3 man job for checking each anchor point and supplying and resin fixing up to six new points

8. **CARNIVAL BUNTING – ANCHOR POINTS (Continued)**
 where necessary. The cost would be £600+VAT. There was no provision in the current budget for this purpose but it was recognised that the work needed to proceed urgently. The Town Mayor said that he would meet the cost from his Annual Mayoral Allowance and was sincerely thanked by members.
9. **ACCUMULATION OF SEAWEED AND OFFENSIVE SMELLS**
 Councillor Welsford reported that he had discussed this problem with senior officers of the IW Council and gave information to members. One solution being considered was the disposal of the seaweed by a gasification plant at Forest Road and a further investigation of the venting of gas from the pumping station. Several raised points on the matter and Councillor Welsford said he would bring these to the notice of the IW Council and Southern Water.
10. **SWINE FLU**
 The Town Mayor said he had attended a meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee and gave members an up-date on the present position in the Island.
11. **BUDGETS FOR NEWSLETTER AND NEW WEBSITE**
 Councillor M/s D.Robinson drew attention to the fact that the current budget was inadequate to meet the cost of the four Newsletters for this year by a sum of £1500. The Financial Officer suggested that the Council proceed with the issue of the current Newsletters and consider in December where there might be underspending in other budget items. This was agreed.
- Regarding the new website it was agreed that this must be deferred for consideration with next year's estimates.
12. **JUNCTIONS OF OLD PARK ROAD AND SPINDLERS ROAD WITH UNDERCLIFF DRIVE**
 Councillor Nettleton drew attention to these junctions which were very dangerous and reminded the Council that this was a matter which had been discussed on many previous occasions but had never been dealt with. He said that pressure should be put on the IW Council to take action. Councillor Welsford said he would discuss this with Councillor Mrs.Scoccia so that they could bring this forward with the current review of traffic and other related matters.
13. **WINTER GARDENS COMMITTEE REPORT**
 The report of a meeting of the Winter Gardens Committee held on 29th June 2009 was received. Arising thereon it was Resolved – That this Committee be renamed the Winter Gardens Management Committee.
14. **REPORT OF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
 The written report of the Financial Officer was circulated to members. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Risk Assessment Committee on 27th July 2009.
15. **RETIREMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK**
 The Town Mayor read a letter from the Town Clerk stating he recognised that the Town Council wished to consider changes in the organisation and operation of their functions and with this in mind he had decided that this is an appropriate time to retire from the office of part-time Town Clerk.

He therefore gave formal notice to retire on 2nd October 2009.

He had served as Town Clerk since the inception of the Town Council in 1974. Initially the activities of the Town Council were limited and it had been very rewarding to be associated over the years with the expansion and development of

15. RETRIEMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK (Continued)

the Town Council's services which he was certain had been of great advantage to the town's well-being and interest. Over recent years legislation had increased the importance of the role of local councils and this led to the ability of this Council to obtain Quality Status in 2008.

He offered his very best wishes for the on-going success of the Town Council and his thanks for having had the pleasure of working for the last 34 years as Town Clerk.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for all his work for Ventnor and the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council recorded the sincere appreciation of his long service.

16. QUESTIONS

Several questions were asked by members.

An out-of-date photo in the new edition of Yellow Pages was referred to Councillor M/s Robinson for action.

Councillor Nettleton said he thought consideration should be given to parking congestion in Park Avenue and he was advised to raise this with Councillor Mrs. Scocchia in connection with the current review of traffic regulations.

Councillor Perks questioned the appointment of a temporary head of Childrens Services at County Hall. Councillor Welsford said he understood the concern and would be discussing the matter at the appropriate place.

It was agreed that suitable recording equipment be purchased to replace that which is on loan at the present time with a check that it will be adequate for use in the Main Hall.

It was agreed that items for the provision of allotments and the condition of the Garden Estate at Upper Ventnor be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Town Mayor