

Minutes of a meeting of VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 10th August 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, G.J.Perks,
 Mrs.S.J.Scoccia and S.D.Stubbings.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.C.Bartlett and D.M.Nettleton

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2009 were approved and signed.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WINTER GARDENS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Councillor G.J.Perks stating that he had decided to resign his membership of the Winter Gardens Management Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

4. NO COLD CALLING AREAS

The Council considered the recommendations of Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia deferred from the last meeting in relation to the introduction of designated no cold calling areas in Upper Ventnor and St.Lawrence together with estimates for necessary print costing for which there was a sum of £500 in the current year's budget. It was Resolved - To proceed with this project and accept the lowest estimate received.

Councillor Mrs.Scoccia said she would liaise with the Town Mayor regarding the format of the printed material.

5. REPORT OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE DATED 27th JULY 2009

The Council received this report together with further information from the Financial Officer. It was Resolved - To approve the recommendations of the Committee with the addition that a grant of £210.45 be made to Ventnor Partnership and that the application from the Spring Hill Garden Group be placed on hold pending further information regarding the future of this Group.

6. UNDERCLIFF DRIVE

The recommendations of the Joint Working Party with Niton and Whitwell Parish Council in relation to issues to be brought to the notice of the consultants engaged by the Isle of Wight Council, Halcrow Group Ltd., to investigate the options for the retention of a traffic route between Ventnor and Niton were received and approved.

A letter from Halcrow Group Ltd. gave details of the project study information and requested the preliminary comments of the Town Council. It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Joint Working Party form the Town Council's preliminary comments at this stage. There will be a further consultation with the Town Council at a later stage and also a public consultation on the eventual proposals.

7. OFFENSIVE SMELL EMANATING FROM THE BEACH

The Town Mayor updated members on the present position regarding this problem together with reports from the Head of Environment and Waste and the Principal Coastal Engineer of the Isle of Wight Council. A large quantity of seaweed had been removed from the harbour area and this would need to continue on a regular basis. The problem is aggravated by fine sand mixed with the seaweed which creates a sludge. Tests have shown that the smell does not come from Southern Water's apparatus. Investigations were on-going to find any possible long-term solution.

8. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Mew asked that the Town Council give urgent consideration to the provision of allotments. He asked that the public be invited to suggest any land which they considered might be suitable for this purpose as so far it had proved impossible for the Council to find any site.

9. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The report of the Financial Officer was received.

10. PROPOSED JAZZ FESTIVAL AT SALISBURY GARDENS

The Town Mayor stated that the IW Council had received an application for the hire of land at Salisbury Gardens for a Jazz Festival in April 2010 and asked for the views of the Town Council on this matter. The Leader of the IW Council requested that such views be made known to him tomorrow morning (11th August 2009) as a decision had to be taken. Members expressed differing views and a lengthy discussion took place following which it was Resolved - That the IW Council be informed that the Town Council had no objection to such a hiring.

Councillor Welsford said he would convey this decision to the Leader of the IW Council as requested.

11. QUESTIONS

A number of questions were raised by members.

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scoccia said that she did not like the message of Councillor Welsford in the last Newsletter and asked if he would withdraw certain of his comments. Councillor Welsford said he stood by what he had written and would not retract his remarks.

Councillor B.M.Lucas said that where articles for inclusion in the Newsletter were written by individual members it should be made clear that the contents were those of the writer and this was agreed.

The absence of a street nameplate in Esplanade Road and the continued siting of scaffolding on the property awaiting development by TESCO in the High Street were referred to Councillor Welsford to be raised with the appropriate department of the IW Council.

Councillor Scoccia said she would ask the Highways Dept. to investigate the alleged dangerous condition of a wall by the bus stop in Newport Road.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Resolved - That the public be excluded whilst the following matter was dealt with in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

13. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

It was Resolved - That the Town Council seek to appoint an interim part-time officer to fill this post for a period of six months to allow time for further consideration of the terms of a permanent appointment and a precise job description possibly to encompass a manager role for The Winter Gardens.

Town Mayor