

Minutes of a meeting of the WINTER GARDENS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, IW on 10th August 2009.

Present: Councillor D.George Chairman
Councillors M/s J.Garlick, B.M.Lucas, R.J.Mew, M/s D.Robinson, Mrs.S.J.Scoccia,
S.D.Stubbings and C.Welsford.

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

1. MINUTES

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M/s J.Garlick declared a personal interest in the fixing of hiring charges for The Winter Gardens.

3 REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee received a report from the Chairman on his work during the last month. He had invited all members and members of the Winter Gardens Action Group to give their views on the future of the building. He had worked alongside the staff at The Winter Gardens in order to gain a fuller understanding of how the building operates. He was convinced that there is a need for professional management.

The building was in need of substantial repair and refurbishment and to this end a meeting had been arranged between the Head of the IW Council Property Services and members of his staff and the Town Mayor and himself on 13th August. An overriding issue is the need for the building to be made watertight. In the meantime a general and inexpensive tidying up was planned to allow the building to become more welcoming.

The Chairman made a number of proposals upon which decisions were taken as follows:

1. The relocation of the administration office from the backstage area to the room currently used as the Town Clerk's office which would be relocated to the room next door to it currently used for storage space. The backstage office to become the Facilities Managers office.
2. The Winter Gardens to be generally available for hire only but with selective co-promotion of events between the Town Council and professional promoters as determined by the Committee.
3. That professional promoters be encouraged to hire the premises and its facilities and that the bona fides of such promoters be thoroughly checked through their professional associations and that where appropriate references be obtained from venues where bookings had previously been made.
4. That the following hire structure be adopted:
A hire fee of £400 for professional promoters with additional costs for advertising and security for each hiring period the same fees to be applied to hirings by the concessionaire;
A hire fee of £300 for large amateur events such as amateur dramatic groups for each hiring period;
A hire fee of £150 for registered charities for fund raising events;
A negotiated rate for bookings that directly benefit special interest groups within the local community.

3. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN (Continued)

5. That the local Hotel Association be invited to provide a list of accomodation which could be made available at a discounted rate.
6. That the foyer and crush area immediately outside the main hall be redecorated and that the foyer be made available for the use of local artists and photographers to show their work and that the crush area be turned over to a permanent exhibition illustrating the history and future of the building.
7. That expressions of interest be invited from any group or individual who wishes to run a fetsival in Ventnor in 2010 such a fetival to be wide ranging and include a number of different strands. These discusslons to be discussed at the next meeting on September 21st 2009.

4. VENTNOR AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A request from the Ventnor and District Local History Society to erect a stand in the foyer of The Winter Gardens to exhibit old photos together with information from the heritage Museum was agreed.

Chairman