



CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 21/23

17 APRIL 2023

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to propose that Members sign up to the National Association of Local Councils' Civility and Respect Pledge.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Following Members' recent informal meeting Councillor Steve Cooper is proposing that Members sign up to the National Association of Local Councils' Civility and Respect Pledge.
 - b) Councillor Steve Cooper will propose a motion to that effect and a copy of the Pledge is attached to this Report.
-

2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to sign up to the National Association of Local Councils' Civility and Respect Pledge.



Ventnor Town Council

Civility and Respect Pledge

Definition of Civility and Respect

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word.

Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), and One Voice Wales (OVW), believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

By our council signing up to the civility and respect pledge we are demonstrating that our council is committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.

Signing up is a simple process, which requires councils to register and agree to the following statements:

| Statement | Tick to agree |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. Ventnor Town Council expects all it's staff to abide by the same parameters of operation. | |
| Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff | |
| Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors and has a broad, but bespoke framework of expectation on ethical leadership available upon induction of elected members and for staff training purposes. | |
| Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy. | |
| Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise. | |
| Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment, when and if it happens. | |



Ventnor Town Council

Civility and Respect Pledge

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme | |
| Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate. Ventnor Town Council further commits to reaffirming our commitment bi-annually to this set of values by way of a simple signature of elected members. | |

Bi-annual commitment from elected members 2023

Brian Lucas.....Dated.....

Dave Logan.....Dated.....

Ian Bond.....Dated.....

Julie Hutchison.....Dated.....

John Watkins.....Dated.....

James Toogood.....Dated.....

Mark Jefferies.....Dated.....

Phil Warren.....Dated.....

Steph Toogood.....Dated.....

Steve Cooper.....Dated.....