



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

14 APRIL 2025

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Steph Toogood, James Toogood, John Watkins, Mark Jefferies, Ian Bond, Linda Jefferies, Steve Milford, Sam Smith

Also present:- Katherine Burden (Clerk), Alison Killick (Assistant Town Clerk), Morgan Williams (Policy, Projects and Premises Officer)

MINUTE SUBJECT

17/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 4 members of the public present.

A member of the public asked about the issues with infrastructure in Ventnor. The Chair explained that the Ventnor Town Council is the conduit to Isle of Wight Council but can only lobby and put pressure on the Isle of Wight Council. Concerns were raised about access for emergency services near Belgrave Road.

18/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Julie Hutchison.

19/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this time.

20/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting of 10th February 2025 having been previously circulated were taken as read:

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Linda Jefferies, and unanimously resolved to:

Accept Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 10th February 2025.

The Minutes of the: -

- Planning Committee 20 January 2025
- Buildings Maintenance Committee 5 February 2025
- Business and Community Committee 6 February 2025
- Policy and Resources Committee 20 February 2025
- Business and Community Committee 4 March 2025
- Planning Committee 10 March 2025
- Policy and Resources Committee 8 April 2025
- Planning Committee 8 April 2025

are for information only.

21/25 FINANCE REPORT

Cllr Bond noted that there was £144,020 in reserves four years ago. Cllr Bond suggested the Policy and Resources Committee need to spend more time on budget monitoring. It was noted that the line relating to the No.31 Bus is grant money that needs to be carried over to the 2025/26 financial year.

Cllr Cooper suggested that Finance is added as a standing item for Policy and Resources Committee meetings.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Milford, seconded by Councillor Linda Jefferies, and unanimously resolved to:

Accept the Finance Report.

22/25 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2024/25

The receipts and payments for 2024/25 had been noted as part of the Finance Report.

23/25 STANDING ORDERS

The Town Clerk gave an overview and explained that a substitute for each committee would be appointed at the May Annual Council. If the substitute is asked and able to attend a committee in place of a committee member, the committee would confirm the substitute at the start of the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond , seconded by Councillor Sam Smith , and unanimously resolved to:

Approve the amended wording of Standing Order 6) a) (ii) to:

appoint and determine the terms of office of their members, and of any substitute members (whose role is to substitute for ordinary members who have confirmed to the Proper Officer before a meeting that they cannot attend with the substitute member confirmed by the Committee at the start of the meeting);

24/25 INDUCTION AND TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the Induction and Training arrangements for the new Council.

Cllr Cooper requested that the new Council be asked to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. Cllr Cooper noted that there will be training provided by IWALC in June for new Councillors.

The Town Clerk would explain legal elements and policies to the new Council. Cllr Bond suggested providing *The Good Councillor's Guide* and suggested obtaining some copies in booklet form if the guide is produced in this format.

Cllr Watkins suggested that the new Councillors have an informal discussion with the current Chairs of Committees prior to the May Annual Council to give them an overview of the Committee structure.

It was proposed by Councillor John Watkins, seconded by Councillor Steph Toogood , and unanimously resolved to:

Approve the Induction and Training arrangements for the new Council in Report 14/25 with the additions suggested by Members.

25/25 VENTNOR CARNIVAL FIREWORKS

The financial position of Ventnor Town Council was highlighted but the benefits for the Town were also discussed. It was noted that there is not a grants programme and other requests for financial contributions have been declined by the Policy and Resources Committee. It was also noted that although the fireworks take place during the Carnival week, it is not something organised by Ventnor Carnival.

A vote was taken with 7 members in favour and 2 members against. It was proposed by Councillor Sam Smith, seconded by Councillor Linda Jefferies and agreed to:

Contribute £250 to the Ventnor Carnival Fireworks in 2025.

26/25 ARMADA HERITAGE TRAIL

It was hoped that the launch of the Trail, which will be marked by interpretation boards, would increase footfall to the Town.

The report was noted for information.

27/25 WRITTEN MOTIONS BY MEMBERS

To be moved by Cllr Bond:

Council notes that:

- the NALC model standing orders for town and parish councils, from which VTC's orders are derived, contain no provision enabling a scheduled council meeting to be cancelled;
- some principal councils do have such provisions, based on an interpretation of section 101 of the 1972 local government act (as yet untested in law) that it allows power to cancel a scheduled meeting to be delegated, usually to the lead member and/or lead officer, generally following consultation with other members, in certain limited circumstances - these commonly being no business (no decisions to take, not just a 'light agenda') or an emergency preventing the venue being used to hold the meeting.

Council therefore notes that, currently, no-one within VTC has delegated power to cancel any scheduled meeting, but resolves that having such a provision would be sensible, to avoid situations where meetings are held with no business to transact, and to cater for unforeseen emergency situations.

Council therefore resolves to request its Policy & Resources Committee to bring forward to a meeting of the incoming council a proposed amendment to its Standing Orders, which would enable scheduled meetings of the council or its committees to be cancelled, in the limited circumstances described above, delegated to the decision of both the town clerk and mayor (or committee chair as appropriate), following consultation with the relevant other members.

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Bond, seconded by Councillor Mark Jefferies , and unanimously resolved to:

Request its Policy & Resources Committee to bring forward to a meeting of the incoming council a proposed amendment to its Standing Orders, which would enable scheduled meetings of the council or its committees to be cancelled, in the limited circumstances described above, delegated to the decision of both the town clerk and mayor (or committee chair as appropriate), following consultation with the relevant other members.

28/25 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cllr Bond noted that there would be a newsletter in April and suggested that May would be better to introduce the new Council. The Town Clerk explained that the April newsletter would be used to advertise various groups and events such as the Ventnor Summer Festival but there would be a May issue to introduce the new Council.

The report was noted for information.

29/25 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

It was resolved under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings (1960) Act:

To exclude the Public and Press whilst the next items are under discussion as they are of a confidential nature.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE