



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

7PM

11 AUGUST 2025

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Mark Jefferies, Ian Bond, Linda Jefferies, Steve Milford, Brayden Gibbins

Also present:- Shelley Scothorne (Clerk), Alison Killick (Assistant Town Clerk), Morgan Williams (Policy, Projects and Premises Officer), Catherine Hammond (Business and Voluntary Sector Officer)

## MINUTE SUBJECT

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### 60/25 PUBLIC FORUM

- 1) **Presentation by Lisa Beaney - Green Isle of Wight CIC**
    - a) Lisa Beaney presented on the CIC's work in energy advice and retrofit solutions.
    - b) Cllr Steve Cooper requested a follow up with Green Isle of Wight CIC regarding potential futures ways of working with Ventnor Town Council (VTC)
    - c) **Action 2025/08-01:** *Cllr Steve Cooper to follow up with Green Isle of Wight CIC to arrange a meeting.*
  
  - 2) **Cllr Ed Blake, Isle of Wight Council (Ventnor And St Lawrence Division)**
    - a) **Provided updates across a number of topics including:**
      - i) Carparks: Detailing motion he is leading to correct the weighting of Ventnor 8 x car parks to ensure short stay options are appropriately allocated.
      - ii) His recent visit with MP Joe Robertson: With discussions focussed on ferries and road challenges.
      - iii) Confirmation of a pending visit from Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on 23 September 2025.
      - iv) Cllr Ed Blake made a request to use the Green Room to host a Q&A during that visit.
      - v) Cllr Ed Blake noted the address of Ventnor's antisocial behaviour was one area to be discussed.
      - vi) **Action 2025/08-02:** *Cllr Ed Blake to contact Clerk to book the room and confirm requirements.*
  
  - 3) **Community Right to Bid, Winter Gardens:**
    - a) Cllr Ed Blake confirmed he had led the community right to bid submission supported by the town community.
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### 61/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1) Cllrs Karl Hunter, James Toogood and Steph Toogood sent their apologies.
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### 62/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1) A declaration of interest was provided by Cllr Steve Milford as a Trustee of Baby Box.
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### 63/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1) The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read.
  
  - 2) **It was unanimously resolved:** to accept the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9th June 2025 as a true and accurate record.
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The Minutes Of The: -

- a) Buildings & Maintenance Committee 18 June 2025
- b) Planning Committee 10 June, 3 July & 5 August 2025
- c) Policy & Resources Committee 1 July 2025
- d) Business & Community Committee 9 July 2025
- e) Environment & Transport Committee 15 July 2025

Are For Information Only.

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**64/25 FINANCE REPORT**

- 1) The Finance Report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read.
  - 2) **It was unanimously resolved:** to accept the Finance Report as presented.
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**65/25 APPOINTMENTS & VACANCIES TO COMMITTEES**

**1) Building and Maintenance Committee Vacancy**

- a) Council noted a vacancy on the Building and Maintenance Committee. As all members present at the meeting are already appointed members of the Committee or substitutes, it was not possible to resolve the vacancy at this time.
- b) The matter will be carried forward for consideration at a future meeting when additional members are present or nominations can be received.

**2) Rescheduling of Next Buildings and Maintenance Committee**

- a) Council considered the timing of the next scheduled meeting, originally set for 9am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025.
  - b) **It was unanimously resolved:** to reschedule the meeting to 9am, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
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**66/25 ISLE OF WIGHT & VENTNOR LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RENEWAL UPDATE**

For information only.

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**67/25 SLCC TOWN CLERK MEMBERSHIP**

For information only.

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**68/25 BABY BOX, FOOD BANK, PANTRY PROPOSED ROOM RENTAL**

- 1) It was clarified that the room in question is part of the Town Council's operational premises, and not a commercial unit within Salisbury Gardens, ensuring the arrangement remains within the Council's community support remit.
- 2) **It was unanimously resolved:** to progress exploration of this arrangement, subject to further consideration of availability, terms of use, grant funding requirements, and alignment with Council priorities.
- 3) **Action 2025/08-03:** Cllr Steve Cooper committed to raise a motion at the October 2025 meeting to support the progression of this arrangement.

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**69/25 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: WINTER GARDENS**

- 1) **It was resolved:** by a majority to support the recommendation and proceed accordingly to seek (VTC) securing a role of consult on this process, based on Winter Gardens being considering a town asset of strategic importance.

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**70/25 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT OFFICER PROVISION**

- 1) (VTC) considered the proposal from the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) to fund and appoint an (IWC) Environmental Officer.
- 2) Following discussion, it was agreed that the current delivery model, whereby (VTC) staff lead environmental operations, implementing work based on the strategy set by councillors, remains a sustainable and proportionate approach.
- 3) **It was unanimously agreed:** that this model should be continued, particularly in the context of the Council's ongoing period of financial recovery.
- 4) It was also noted that some external concerns have been raised with councillors by other users of the (IWC) Environmental Officer service, specifically regarding challenges in demonstrating return on investment and value for money.

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**71/25 VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES**

- 1) **It was unanimously agreed:** to remove Katherine Burden, the former Town Clerk, and to add Shelley Scothorne, the newly appointed Town Clerk, as an authorised signatory.

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**72/25 BELGRAVE ROAD GREEN AREA**

- 1) **It was unanimously agreed:** to undertake further exploration and clarification regarding the ownership of the plot, following comments raised during the meeting suggesting it may have previously been owned by the Royal Hotel.
- 2) It was also noted that volunteers are understood to continue clearing the area, although the frequency of this activity remains unclear, and would need to be better understood as part of any future arrangements.
- 3) **Action 2025/08-04:** Officers to support Cllr Karl Hunter to progress next steps.

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The meeting closed at 7:50pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE