



MINUTES OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

VENTNOR LIBRARY

7PM

13 OCTOBER 2025

Members present:-

DRAFT

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Steph Toogood, Mark Jefferies, Ian Bond, James Toogood, Steve Milford, John Watkins, Brayden Gibbins, Linda Jefferies & Ernie Polak-Harvey.

MINUTE SUBJECT

73/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present.

County Cllr Ed Blake confirmed the community meeting arranged at the Green Room, 6pm tomorrow (14 October) to provide updates re the Winter Gardens.

Cllr Blake also confirmed removal of the rockfall at Belgrave Road, with the hope of opening the road in time for the parade for Remembrance Sunday on 9 November.

He also provided information on highway works in Wroxall throughout the winter, together with resurfacing of the graben, Newport Road.

74/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Karl Hunter.

75/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

76/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 August 2025 - having been previously circulated to Members - were taken as read:

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

accept the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 11 August 2025.

The Minutes of the: -

- o Buildings & Maintenance Committee 8 September 2025
 - o Policy & Resources Committee 6 August & 1 October 2025
 - o Business & Community Committee 10 September 2025
 - o Environment & Transport Committee 30 September 2025
- are for information only.

77/25 FINANCE REPORT

The report provided Members with information regarding the end of September balances, and payments made during August and September 2025.

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

Accept the Finance Report.

78/25 BUDGET PROCESS 2026/27

Ventnor Town Council is required to approve a budget and therefore calculate a required precept for the upcoming financial year.

It was proposed by Cllr John Watkins, seconded by Cllr Steve Milford and unanimously resolved to:

- o approve the proposed schedule as outlined in the report provided
- o confirm exact dates with Officers in due course.

79/25 RESPONSE FROM EXTERNAL AUDIT

Following the recent audit by the External Auditor, the Report and Certificate in respect of 2024/25 Financial Year, and the action points raised to be carried out by the staff team were noted by Members.

80/25 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2026

The provided report asks Members to approve bi-monthly Town Council meeting dates for 2026. The Town Council is recommended to approve the continuation of bi-monthly meetings to be held in February, April, June, August, October and December 2026 and approve the date of 18 May as its Annual Town Council Meeting and Annual Town Meeting, with a venue to be confirmed.

It was unanimously resolved to:

approve the full Council meeting dates as outlined above for the year 2026.

81/25 VENTNOR SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026

A provisional date of Sunday 28 June 2026 – following “Ventnor Day” on Saturday 27 June, organised by the town’s traders – be considered.

Members are recommended to agree the date of Sunday 28 June 2026 for Ventnor Summer Festival, to be held in Ventnor Park, with confirmed support from Councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr Steph Toogood, seconded by Cllr Ernie Polak-Harvey and unanimously resolved to:

Agree the date of Sunday 28 June 2026 for Ventnor Summer Festival, to be held in Ventnor Park.

82/25 FREE PARKING IN DECEMBER

The report provided asks Members to consider free car parking in its three-managed car parks in town, for two Saturdays in December.

The Town Council is recommended to provide free car parking in Dudley Road, Market Street and Pound Lane car parks on Saturday 6 and 13 December for “Small Business Saturday” and “Light Up Ventnor” respectively.

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

provide free car parking as outlined above.

83/25 NO:31 BUS WORKING GROUP

Approval of a Working Group for the No:31 Bus to progress the tendering and grant process towards a new contract for 2026 was agreed at the Environment & Transport Committee’s meeting of 30 September.

Councillors are recommended to appoint three Members to join the Working Group together with the Town Clerk, and to approve the draft Terms of Reference.

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

- that Cllrs Steve Milford, Mark Jefferies and John Watkins join the Working Group, together with the Town Clerk.
 - to agree the draft Terms of Reference as provided.
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84/25 TREE WARDEN NETWORK

Wight Nature Fund has recently completed set-up of a framework for Tree Wardens for the Isle of Wight – becoming a county network within Tree Council’s national Tree Warden network.

Cllr Jim Toogood had previously expressed an interest in becoming a Tree Warden for Ventnor.

Cllr Ernie-Polak Harvey would also like to be considered.

The Town Council is recommended to consider both Cllrs Jim Toogood and Ernie Polak-Harvey as Treen Wardens for Ventnor.

It was unanimously resolved:

to appoint Cllrs Jim Toogood & Ernie Polak-Harvey as Tree Wardens for Ventnor.

85/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 December 2025, Green Room, Salisbury Gardens.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
