



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 5.15PM

9 JULY 2025

Members present:-

Councillors: Steph Toogood (Chair), James Toogood, John Watkins, Brayden Gibbins

Clerk: Katherine Burden

VTC Officers: Catherine Hammond, Jordan Royle

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### 30/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 2 members of the public present.

It was noted that everything went to plan on Saturday with the Comic Jazz Band and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in attendance. There was a good footfall. People were also attending Bonchurch Open Gardens.

It was thought that the format of two days will work.

### 31/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

### 32/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Steph Toogood declared an interest for item 8 but this is not a pecuniary interest.

Cllr Brayden Gibbins declared an interest for item 4.

### 33/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2025

The Minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 27 May 2025, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

Accept the minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 27 May 2025.

### 34/25 YOUTH UPDATE

An update was given on current activities. There were 6 children in the younger dance group who have never previously accessed youth provision. There are less children at youth club due to the good weather, school trips and end of term events.

The Youth Officer attended a Collaboration for Children Conference.

Cllr Steph Toogood had been approached as to whether the Youth Group would like to use the Scout Hut.

The Town Clerk would ask the Chair of Ventnor Carnival if VTC could hand out leaflets for Youth Club and associated events at the Carnival.

### 35/25 SUMMER FESTIVAL WASH UP

Cllr Steph Toogood expressed thanks to Business and Voluntary Sector Officer. It was noted that Maintenance Manager was extremely helpful on both days.

Stall holders paid £10 per stall and £480 was raised. Youth Club raised £90 from face painting.

The Coastguard vehicles were able to access the park and had good engagement with participants to raise awareness. There was an issue with the electrics in the Putting Green which was resolved. It

was noted that the finish time of 4pm worked well. A properly equipped first aid box if required for future public events.

The new format works, and Sunday is a good day for the park event. Bonchurch Open Gardens would like to do their event on a separate weekend from the Ventnor Summer Festival. It was suggested that the Ventnor Summer Festival take place the weekend before the Ventnor Fringe Festival. The Businesses would look at some possible dates and come back with some suggestions. August would not work for the businesses as they are already busy. The weekend of 11 and 12 July 2026 was suggested. Cllr James Toogood would liaise with Bonchurch Community Association to check their dates for Bonchurch Open Gardens.

It was suggested that a Working Group could be formed to include the businesses for the purposes of planning.

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#### 36/25 OUR PLACE

Cllr Steph Toogood gave an update on Our Place. It is a situation where you get stakeholders in the Town. Cowes work with Southampton University. Cllr Steph Toogood suggested that it would be worth investigating. Cllr John Nicholson, former Mayor of Cowes, has extended an invitation to talk about Our Place and the benefits. Cllr Watkins noted that the name might cause some confusion as there is an Our Place in West Wight.

It was agreed that Cllr Steph Toogood can liaise with Cowes to investigate Our Place.

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#### 37/25 SUPPORT-IN-KIND POLICY

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the Support-in-Kind Policy and explained that it would be given to organisations seeking support from Ventnor Town Council. It would include an appendix on small grants which would inform organisations that they could partner with Ventnor Town Council on external grant applications.

##### **It was agreed that:**

The Officers draft the Support-in-Kind Policy and bring it back to the Committee for agreement before taking it to the Policy and Resources Committee for scrutiny and final agreement.

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#### 38/25 PIRATE FEST

Cllr Steph Toogood commented that it works well to have the event in the school holidays and by liaising with the carnival committee through Shania, the events for the Pirate Fest are primarily taking place in the times that the Carnival do not have events.

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#### 29/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10 September at 10am.

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The meeting closed at 11.45am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE