



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 10AM

12 NOVEMBER 2025

Members present:-

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

Cllr Ernie Polak-Harvey substitutes for Cllr Linda Jefferies at this meeting.

Joint Clerks: Morgan Williams & Alison Killick.

VTC Officers: Catherine Hammond, Jordan Royle.

MINUTE SUBJECT

DRAFT

56/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present.

Adrian Pinnock enquired about item 4), Ventnor Carnival's Christmas Event.

Concerns were raised regarding timeliness of the event, with meetings for its planning only just starting.

Community events should be self-funding.

The "Carols" event could be central to town, ie., Spring Hill Gardens – rather than being held in St Catherine's Church.

57/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence received from Cllr Linda Jefferies.

58/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

59/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 10 September 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 10 September 2025.

60/25 VENTNOR CARNIVAL'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

Ventnor Carnival Committee have requested financial assistance from Ventnor Town Council for hiring St Catherine's Church and bands to participate in a Carols event, which has previously taken place at Ventnor Park.

Providing this funding enables the Town Council to be involved in Christmas events in town, but that they have no liability for it.

For clarity, this is not Ventnor Town Council's Christmas event.

Chair Steph Toogood confirms that Ventnor Town Council are already providing assistance throughout December - free parking in the Town Council's three managed town car parks for December 6 (Small Business Saturday) and 13, Ventnor Christmas Event.

The Chair also confirms that - if the "Carols" event takes place at Spring Hill Gardens - this would require staff time to be on site, organising etc.

Cllr Watkins addresses the meeting that this is public money, it comes off the precept – it has not been raised specifically for Christmas events.

Clerk Morgan Williams confirms to the meeting that the toilets in Central Car Park close at 6pm - a statutory requirement of the planning permission currently in place.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Recommend that Ventnor Town Council offer support-in-kind, however are unable to offer financial assistance for this event.

61/25 FIRST AID TRAINING

With only one volunteer member at Thursday Kitchen having sufficient First Aid training – who is currently undergoing medical treatment – it has become apparent that one other First-Aid trained volunteer member is vital.

In addition, the Wellbeing Café's Co-ordinator Emergency First Aid at Work certificate requires renewal.

Courses run by the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service:-

- The RQF Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work certificate (6 hours minimum), is valid for 3 years at a cost of £90 per person.
- The RQF Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work certificate (18 hours minimum), is valid for 3 years at a cost of £220 per person.

Officer Jordan Royle was able to obtain competitive cost from the Isle of Wight Council's Emergency First Aid at Work courses:-

- Emergency First Aid at Work Course Level 3: 2-day course at a cost of £60 per person

It was unanimously resolved to:

approve the expenditure of up to £450 maximum from the Community Development budget line for two volunteers from Thursday Kitchen and one member of the Town Council's staff to complete First Aid Training.

62/25 COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE FORUM

Officer Catherine Hammond and Chair Steph Toogood introduced this Agenda item.

The aim is to agree on the creation of a Community Collaborative Forum - initially as a pilot scheme - to support businesses, groups and voluntary organisations in a fair and equitable manner, with the Town Council as facilitators, offering support and co-ordination.

63/25 SUPPORT-IN-KIND POLICY

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this agenda item.

The policy will include an Appendix on small grants, for organisations on a once-a-year basis, informing organisations that they could partner with Ventnor Town Council on external grant applications.

It was agreed that:

Officer Catherine Hammond continue to work on the policy, with a draft going to the Policy & Resources Committee in due course.

64/25 YOUTH WORK UPDATE

Youth Opportunities Officer Jordan Royal provided the meeting with an update.

- Following "The Together for Children conference" organised by local youth groups in collaboration, to showcase their work - another event is being planned, to capture the voices and opinions of Isle of Wight youth, from across the organisations involved in planning, and others, island-wide.

Isle of Wight Children's Services were invited – assisting with support and funding - with planning the event organised by Graham Biss from Community Action, Ventnor Youth Club, Network Ryde, Brading Youth Club, Revive and SWAY.

The next event - "Youth Voice" is currently in its planning stages.

- Ventnor Youth Group are pleased to announce the continuation of basketball sessions, with all the children seemingly enjoying the sessions and getting involved whether they love sports or not.
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Comments from many children and their parents are that actual sports clubs are quite serious and competitive. Ventnor Youth Group's approach to physical games and sports like this is proving popular, encouraging all children to get involved and reap the benefits - bolstering their confidence, physical and mental health, with a marked increase in their physical skills and desire to play "match games."

Reflecting upon accessibility to sport in Ventnor and children's overall participation in physical activity, this is very positive.

In recent years it has widely been reported that children are doing less physical activity and are suffering with weight and obesity, albeit also correlated to diet.

In 2022, a Health Survey for England found that **27% of children aged 2 to 15 were overweight or obese.**

Some feedback was gathered from the children, with the data collected indicating that every child left the basketball sessions with an improved mood and session ratings of 9's or 10's. Staff were described as 'friendly and kind'. All children said they would return.

Ventnor Youth Group strives to run a variety of different sessions, to suit children's variable interests.

Cllr John Watkins wishes to register his thanks to Jordan, in particular for all of the grant funding that she has achieved for various youth projects.

At 11:45am, members unanimously agreed to close this meeting, with the remaining agenda items to be discussed on Monday 17 November at 10:00am.

65/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17 November at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:45am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
