



# MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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**GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS      9AM**

**6 AUGUST 2025**

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Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper; Steve Milford; John Watkins, Ernie Polak-Harvey

Please note: Cllr Steph Toogood was present but not acting as a committee member

Clerk: Shelley Scothorne

Officers: Morgan Williams

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**MINUTE      SUBJECT**

**DRAFT**

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**69/25**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the public raised concerns regarding the lack of maintenance of the Cascades and queried whether it fell within the remit of Ventnor Town Council. The Council confirmed that it is responsible for the maintenance of the Cascades, with the work contracted out. This matter has previously been addressed by the Environment and Transport Committee. Ventnor Town Council committed to follow up with the contractor to ensure the concerns are addressed. Members of the public shared images to illustrate the issues raised.

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**70/25**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies received.

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**71/25**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were provided by both Cllr Steve Milford and John Watkins as Trustees of Baby Box.

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**72/25**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2025**

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 1 July 2025, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

Accept the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 1 July 2025.

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**73/25**

**FUNDS FOR IT**

**It was agreed to:**

Proceed with the purchase of IT equipment in accordance with the agreed approach. In addition, officers will ensure that all office capital equipment is properly logged and monitored for renewal. Sufficient provision will be made for replacement and upgrades in all future budgeting cycles to maintain operational efficiency and asset integrity.

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**74/25**

**SLCC TOWN CLERK MEMBERSHIP**

**It was agreed to:**

Proceed with the purchase of SLCC membership for the new Town Clerk. Provision will be made for its renewal on an annual basis in all future budgeting cycles to ensure continued access to professional support and resources.

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#### 75/25 NEW SIGNAGE FOR VENTNOR TO REVIEW PUBLIC PROPOSAL

##### **It was agreed to:**

At this time proceed with a polite decline of the public offer considering the Council's ongoing focus on financial recovery and fairness. While the generosity of the proposal is appreciated, any future consideration would need to follow due process and align with Council policy.

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#### 76/25 BABY BOX, FOOD BANK, PANTRY PROPOSED ROOM RENTAL

Cllr Steve Cooper explained the background this item. The clerk confirmed it was on the Full Council agenda Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm, for decision.

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#### 77/25 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – VENTNOR WINTER GARDENS

Cllr Steve Cooper guided it would be helpful to capture the public support and feedback for this item. The public forum asked if it was possible for the council to capture this through Facebook.

**It was agreed to:** It was agreed officers would explore the feasibility of using Facebook to capture public support and feedback

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#### 78/25 FINANCE

**Car parks:** Cllr Steve Cooper queried the cycle followed by Isle of Wight Council for car park charge increases, and whether Ventnor Town Council's charges were aligned. Officers confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council typically reviews and adjusts its parking charges on an annual April budget cycle, and that Ventnor Town Council's charges are aligned to this schedule.

**IWC Library Partnership Agreement Renewal:** Cllr Steve Cooper requested a verbal update from the Clerk regarding the renewal of the Isle of Wight Council Library Partnership Agreement. A brief update was provided, with a more detailed report to be presented at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 11th August 2025 at 7pm.

**Boniface Fields Portacabins:** Cllr Steve Cooper requested an update on progress of planning permission. The officer guided application was in progress, with update on timings in the next few weeks.

**Green Room Rental, Salisbury Gardens:** Cllr Steve Cooper requested a verbal update on interest in rental and repainting of the room, and the benefit to the community that it could be rented in the evenings. The officer guided enquiries were positive, albeit slow in translating into bookings, and that repainting of the room was in progress of being looked at.

**High Interest Back Account & Reserves:** Cllr Steve Milford requested an update on the status of Council reserves and whether they had been transferred into a high-interest bank account. Officers advised that this process is underway, with consideration being given to options that maximise interest returns while ensuring accessibility and compliance with financial regulations.

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#### 79/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025, 9am

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**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: Staff Update

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The meeting closed at 09:42 am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

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DRAFT