



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

10:00AM

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Members present:-

DRAFT

Councillors: Mark Jefferies (Chair), Steve Cooper, Steve Milford & Karl Hunter

Assistant Town Clerk: Alison Killick

Officers: Morgan Williams & Catherine Hammond

MINUTE SUBJECT

27/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present.

Ross Honeybourne was pleased at Item 4 listed on the Agenda to discuss the Cascade Gardens, suggesting that this should revert to how it was.

28/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Ian Bond.

29/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

30/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 15 JULY 2025

The Minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2025 - having been previously circulated - were taken as read.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Accept the minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting of 15 July 2025.

31/25 CASCADE GARDENS

Officer Morgan Williams introduced this agenda item, confirming that drafting tender paperwork for renewal of the grounds maintenance contract is underway.

It was suggested that the Cascades Gardens could be extracted from the current contract and managed separately by a Friends/Volunteer group.

The Gardens previously received awards, however ongoing upkeep has not always been to the same standard once the award process completed.

Morgan reminded the Committee that both the Cascades and Hambrough Gardens are owned by the Isle of Wight Council, managed by Ventnor Town Council under agreement.

Cllr Karl Hunter asked how long the existing contract has to run and Morgan confirmed that it was approximately 5 years under the existing framework.

Chair Mark Jefferies mentioned the Payback team could be approached to complete some of the grounds maintenance works, but most of their work is completed on a one-off basis.

Due to the steep sloping nature of much of the Cascade Gardens, health and safety of operatives is paramount.

Assistant Town Clerk Alison Killick to review historical outsourcing of the Gardens' maintenance/planting (ie., sustainable planting regime in previous years) – and report findings to committee members at a forthcoming meeting.

32/25 LAND OPPOSITE THE HAMBROUGH

Discussion around cutting of hedges by volunteers was included within the Cascades Gardens agenda item, recognising that this area is also covered by the grounds maintenance contract.

33/25 COMMUNITY ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

The Chair asked Officer Catherine Hammond to introduce this agenda item.

Watering of the Orchard is very weather-dependent, with engagement of a watering contractor necessary this year due to the incredibly dry summer months.

Catherine's ongoing discussions with the Isle of Wight Council is to establish exactly what land Ventnor Town Council would like.

Cllr Steve Cooper confirmed conversations with Isle of Wight Council's Officer Lee Matthews that we could have the land "in perpetuity".

With the sloping nature of the land upon which the trees are planted, erecting a fence to prohibit access and mitigation with appropriate signage will help to ensure public safety and protect Ventnor Town Council under their public liability insurance.

Ventnor Town Council are only responsible for the trees/plants planted by them and this would be written into any contractual agreement with the Isle of Wight Council.

Morgan confirmed the budget situation with this project and - having spent around half the allocated budget so far - we are in a good financial position.

34/25 COMMUNITY ORCHARD WORKING GROUP

As approved at this Committee's meeting of 15 July - to join Cllr Steve Cooper on a Working Group comprising three Councillors to oversee arrangements for maintenance and ongoing matters at Ventnor Community Orchard:-

It was agreed that:-

After further discussions around the likely infrequency of Working Group meetings (possibly one each in spring and autumn), it is not necessary to form a Community Orchard Working Group at this time.

35/25 No:31 Bus

As approved at this Committee's meeting of 15 July 2025:-

It was agreed that:-

A No:31 Bus Working Group, comprising three Members plus the Town Clerk be formed.

This proposal will be taken to the full Town Council meeting in October to establish which Members will join.

Approve the draft Terms of Reference.

36/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

2 December 2025 at 10:00am

The meeting closed at 10:31am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE