



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

LG1, SALISBURY GARDENS

10:00AM

2 DECEMBER 2025

Members present:-

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

Joint Clerks: Alison Killick & Morgan Williams

MINUTE SUBJECT

37/25 PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present.

Tom Fahey, owner of The Terrace, Shore Hill has been in conversations back and forth between Island Roads, Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council for some months regarding creepers/vines growing up and across their land.

It's a sheer slope and in 2024, it cost them £1500 to get it sorted, and this is unaffordable each year.

Tom queried whether the overgrowth cut-back could be included in the regular cutting of that area.

Clerk Morgan Williams confirmed that these would be additional works, not included in our grounds maintenance contract – meaning an additional cost to Ventnor Town Council.

Creepers could perhaps be cut back once per year, from growth.

38/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no Apologies for Absence received.

39/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

40/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the meeting of 30 September 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 30 September 2025.

41/25 FINANCE UPDATE

Clerk Morgan Williams introduced this agenda item, providing Members with information regarding the end of October receipts and payments relating to the committee's budget lines.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Note the Finance Update.

42/25 No:31 BUS WORKING GROUP

Cllr Steve Milford introduced this agenda item.

The service is under-used, requiring a substantial promotional push to raise awareness locally.

Cllr Milford confirmed that it is preferable to continue with the current service ie; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, with some discussion around switching days from Fridays to Thursdays.

Discussions continued briefly around progress being made by the No:31 Bus Working Group and its suggestion that the service continues with the current provider.

The council's Standing Orders do not require us to go out to competitive tender for the current contracts and we are not aware of any other potential competitors to run the service.

Cllr Karl Hunter enquired about the legal aspect of the usual running of the 31 Bus. Morgan confirmed that there are 2 contracts in place – the usual Tuesdays & Fridays contract and then a second contract to include Saturday run times in accordance with the additional funding from the Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Steve Cooper suggested that the service could be increased even further given appropriate funding.

Cllr Steve Milford suggested that – given a further 3-year deal at the end of the current contract - a possible increase in fares to £3 from the current £2.50 for a single journey may be required.

He also suggested that a business plan be drafted, to present to the Isle of Wight Council, with consideration given as to what funding can be achieved, what Ventnor Town Council are prepared to contribute, etc.

It was unanimously resolved:

- that Ventnor Town Council do not go out to competitive tender for the current contracts
 - that the 31 Bus Working Group work on producing a Business Case to submit to Isle of Wight Council.
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43/25 SHORE HILL VEGETATION GROWTH

Clerk Morgan Williams introduced this agenda item, providing members with information regarding the overgrowth of greenery reported by property owners adjacent to land that Ventnor Town Council manages under its grounds maintenance contract.

Morgan confirmed that - as the maintenance of the boundary is not included as part of the grounds maintenance contract - works to cut back the encroaching overgrowth will come at an additional cost to the council.

However, with an anticipated underspend against budget for grounds maintenance, funding could be arranged.

Cllr Steve Cooper says that we have responsibility for that land, suggesting that the town council formalise a permanent arrangement so that this issue is not revisited year-on-year.

Morgan confirmed that there is an underspend against the current budget, so the required works could be achieved in this year's budget, subject to costs.

It was unanimously resolved to:

instruct the Clerks to seek quotations to cut back this area and discuss joint funding of this work with the owners of the Terrace and investigate a long-term solution.

44/25 FREE PARKING REQUESTS

Clerk Morgan Williams introduced this agenda item.

To support events in Ventnor throughout the year, requests for free parking in any of Ventnor Town Council's managed car parks – Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road – are often received by the council from various community groups, businesses, etc.

Due to the financial element, these requests have previously been considered by full council.

It is felt that - to simplify the process – a policy be drafted to deal directly with such requests.

It was unanimously resolved that:-

The committee request that the Clerks draft a policy which deals with free parking requests in a simple and less time-consuming manner than the current arrangement.

45/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

3 March 2026 at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 11:00am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
