



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

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LG1, SALISBURY GARDENS

10AM

14 JANUARY 2026

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Members present:-

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

Joint Clerks: Morgan Williams & Alison Killick.

VTC Officer: Catherine Hammond.

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## MINUTE SUBJECT

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### 76/25 PUBLIC FORUM

Dean Wilkinson was the only member of the public present, wishing to discuss agenda item 9, Tumble Dryer.

Wellbeing Café members are struggling to clean and dry their clothes. There is already a washing machine installed in the Green Room kitchen, but wet washing has to be air-dried which - in the cold weather with people not having any drying facilities at home and unable to afford heating – results in wet clothes hanging around for many days in a cold environment, causing a damp atmosphere.

Mr Wilkinson, in discussions with Officer Catherine Hammond, is prepared to purchase a tumble dryer, and donate this to Ventnor Town Council, along with associated safety equipment and installation of a double electric socket - primarily for use by Wellbeing Café members – providing the dignity of having clean and dry clothes.

Officer Catherine Hammond confirmed that the tumble dryer will only be used under supervision, not on an “ad-hoc” basis, stating that extensive background work has gone into establishing the suitability of this project.

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### 77/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies for Absence received.

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### 78/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr John Watkins declared an interest in item 9, Community Use Tumble Dryer.

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### 79/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Business and Community Committee meetings of 12 & 17 November 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 meetings of 12 & 17 November 2025.

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### 80/25 SUPPORT-IN-KIND POLICY

Chair Steph Toogood introduced this Agenda item, with Officer Catherine Hammond providing greater detail based on the Policy.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

recommend the draft policy to the Policy and Resources Committee, subject to adding further detail to include recognising Councillors’ time as Support-in-Kind, as well as some adjustments to the numbering in the document.

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## 81/25 2026 EVENTS

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this Agenda item for discussion.

Although event planning in Ventnor is taking place, Catherine is struggling with some community groups to establish any details of proposed events.

Once more information has been collected, an events calendar will be compiled and uploaded to VTC's website, Facebook etc.

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## 82/25 ST LAWRENCE MAGAZINE

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this Agenda item.

With the "St Lawrence Village Chatter" ceasing publication as the village shop closes next month, a local resident will create a new bi-monthly magazine, "St Lawrence Village Voice."

The cost of an advert/article is: full page £14, half page: £8 and quarter page £5. Catherine Hammond has suggested the town council submit an advert for Thursday Kitchen, alongside some brief narrative.

### **It was unanimously resolved to:**

- delegate to the officers - in consultation with the Chair - the production of an informative full-page article to be included in the new magazine providing information about the Council's range of services
  - request that the council allows sufficient funds within its 2026-27 budget for a full-page article in each of the magazine's bi-monthly publications (ie., 6 per year at a total cost of £84).
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## 83/25 INDICES OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2025

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this Agenda item on the recently released data from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025, with reference to targeting services towards meeting needs in the area.

LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) have an average population of 1600 people.

There are 3 LSOAs on the Isle of Wight in the most deprived decile:

- Ryde (Oakfield)
- Ventnor (town)
- Ryde (town)

Each LSOA receives a score and rank, with Ventnor's town area ranking as 018A. The data is showing that this area is more deprived *than most neighbourhoods in England*.

This serious downward trend shows that in the last 10 years since 2015 - where 13% of LSOAs in England were more deprived than Ventnor town - 2025 data shows that this has now declined to 7%.

Employment, health and disability are the issues most affected.

It was agreed that these statistics be acknowledged by all Members and for the full council to decide how these issues should be addressed.

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## 84/25 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this Agenda item for discussion.

- In partnership with the NHS, "KOOOTH" is a free, safe and anonymous online platform where young people between the ages of 10-25 can access mental health support.
- Co-ordinated by Youth Opportunities Officer Jordan Royle, Ventnor Youth Group will be holding an information evening at St Margarets Hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Eloise Preston, Playgroup Co-ordinator is recruiting for volunteers to assist with Ventnor Family Play sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings.

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**85/25 COMMUNITY USE TUMBLE DRYER**

Officer Catherine Hammond introduced this Agenda item.

As tabled in the report made available to the meeting, the purchase and subsequent donation of a tumble dryer by a volunteer member of the Wellbeing Café for use by vulnerable members of the community is proposed to be installed within the toilet area in the Green Room, Salisbury Gardens.

Users will pay for each drying cycle based on the Council's current electricity unit rate to cover energy usage.

An extra cost for additional electrical capacity in the form of a new double-socket is required, and the volunteer has offered to fund these works.

Cllr Watkins suggests that a Register of Use book is supplied and completed, gauging and recording usage with a report provided after an initial 3 months.

Officer Morgan Williams confirmed that the people who will be using it will need to meet eligibility criteria, such as demonstrating that they are in receipt of means-tested benefits etc.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

- agree to the proposal of installing a tumble dryer in the toilet lobby area of the Green Room, Salisbury Gardens, noting that there is minimal cost to the town council of staff time for its management.
- agree submission of the proposal to the next full town Council meeting for approval and provide a review after 3 months of usage to ensure that it is being used correctly.

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**86/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 16 April 2026 at 9:00am

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The meeting closed at 11:10am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

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