



MINUTES OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

20 APRIL 2026

DRAFT

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Steph Toogood, Ian Bond, Brayden Gibbins, Karl Hunter, Steve Milford, Ernie Polak-Harvey, Mark Jefferies, Linda Jefferies & John Watkins.

Clerks: Morgan Williams & Alison Killick

MINUTE SUBJECT

18/26 PUBLIC FORUM

There were six members of public present.

Ross Honeybourne provided Members with a paper from Ventnor Community.

Debbie Honeybourne referred to an earlier meeting, querying details about the No:31 Bus project and its financial viability.

Cllr Steve Milford responded that it is fair to say the service isn't financially viable, which is why Southern Vectis do not provide this kind of community transport service. The additional runs to the service are grant-funded by the Isle of Wight Council. Ventnor Town Council provide this service for locals and the community.

Clerk Alison Killick provided further background as to why the town council decided originally to take on the route. Originally operated by Wight Bus, the service was funded by the Isle of Wight Council, who - due to budget cut-backs - withdrew its support for all community transport, with the town council deciding to take on the route.

19/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr James Toogood.

20/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this time.

21/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 February 2026 - having been previously circulated to Members - were taken as read.

It was proposed by Cllr John Watkins, seconded by Cllr Linda Jefferies and unanimously resolved to:

accept the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9 February 2026.

Minutes of the:-

- Buildings & Maintenance Committee meeting 12 February 2026
- Environment & Transport Committee meeting 3 March 2026
- Planning Committee meetings 5 February & 14 April 2026
- Policy & Resources Committee meetings 3 March & 8 April 2026

were provided for information only.

22/26 FINANCE REPORT

The report provided members with information regarding the finances of the town council at end of March 2026, including details of payments made during February & March 2026.

- Chair Steve Cooper asked that it be recorded that - following the meeting with the public and the Ventnor Traders Association - Ventnor Town Council will provide financial figures to clarify how funds are spent and the relevant budget lines.
- Clerk Morgan Williams responded that the town council moved to a committee-based financial reporting system around 18 months ago, with finances presented as such, and would

welcome a further discussion about how the figures could be made easier to interpret by the community.

It was proposed by Cllr Milford, seconded by Cllr Steph Toogood and unanimously resolved to:

accept the Finance Report

23/26 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The report provided asked Members to review the Financial Risk Management arrangements currently in place.

Clerk Morgan Williams answered queries from the meeting, confirming that the Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover in place has been increased to reflect half the amount of the precept. Cllr Steve Milford raised the point that although the report identified risks associated with elections, the management of it was not something that the Town Council had direct control over. Clerk Morgan Williams noted that the Council had agreed to establish ring-fenced reserves to safeguard the Council in the case that elections are costly.

It was proposed by Cllr Mark Jefferies, seconded by Cllr Steve Milford, and unanimously resolved:

to approve the schedule provided.

24/26 TOWN COUNCIL'S BANK ACCOUNT

The report provided asked Members to consider increasing the daily payment limit on the town council's bank account from £30k to £40k per day.

It was proposed by Cllr Ian Bond, seconded by Cllr Steve Milford, and unanimously resolved that:

- the daily payments amount for the town council's bank account be increased from the current £30k to £40k per day
 - any individual payments of over £1k, will require two authorised signatures.
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25/26 PLANET AWARE: CIGARETTE BUTT LITTER CAMPAIGN

The provided report asked Members to re-consider supporting Planet Aware in their proposed campaign to reduce cigarette butt litter.

Cllr Ernie Polak-Harvey suggested volunteering to distribute leaflets, etc.

It was proposed by Cllr Mark Jefferies, seconded by Cllr Linda Jefferies, and unanimously resolved to:

- agree to the inclusion of the town council's logo on the Cigarette Butt Litter campaign.
 - agree to erecting posters on the town council's assets/noticeboards.
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26/26 SUPPORT-IN-KIND POLICY

The draft of this policy was agreed at the Policy & Resources meeting of 3 March 2026 and is for information only.

27/26 ABSENCE POLICY

The draft of this policy was agreed at the Policy & Resources meeting of 3 March 2026 and is for information only.

28/26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

Town Clerk Arrangements.

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.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
