



MINUTES OF VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 7PM

10 AUGUST 2026

DRAFT

Members present:-

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

Assistant Town Clerk: Alison Killick

MINUTE SUBJECT

32/26 PUBLIC FORUM

There were five members of the public present.

- County Cllr for Ventnor West, Ed Blake provided background about the statutory meetings of Ventnor Harbour Working Group – convened by the Isle of Wight Council, with a quoracy of four – two Isle of Wight Council officers, the Senior Harbour Master and one other.

The previous Town Clerk attended a meeting of this working group on 28 March 2025.

Cllr Blake continued that the Harbour adheres to the Port Marine Safety Code. He noted that achieving the associated recognised qualification is similar to obtaining Blue Flag status: it is a highly regarded accreditation, but one that is challenging to achieve.

- Bath Road rebuild has been instructed, although funding has not yet been confirmed. An official update on the project timeline is still awaited. The project is expected to affect both the surrounding area and local residents.
- The Isle of Wight Council was noted as having an ongoing responsibility to address the situation at Ventnor Central. Considerable resources continue to be spent on measures to prevent the building from falling into further disrepair, and there is a growing need for a long-term plan to secure the building's future and minimise the ongoing financial burden.
- Tracey Treadwell of the Mill Bay reported on the recent incident at Ventnor Beach involving two individuals who got into difficulty in the water.

Davin Gibbs, an employee at Blake's Hut, responded promptly to the incident by taking a kayak out to sea, successfully rescuing both casualties.

It was also clarified that the initial rescue attempt was made by Graham, a local resident who entered the sea to assist those involved.

Tracey noted that, contrary to some reports, the individual who entered the water was not the visiting police officer, but Graham acting on his own initiative to help those in distress.

- The Mayor informed the meeting that councillors had been asked to consider and approve a wider consultation exercise within the town, noting that beach safety would form an important part of the consultation.
- Local resident Ross Honeybourne raised concerns regarding the recent works undertaken at the Esplanade toilets, in particular regarding the need for installation of the new urinals to be inspected and approved.

33/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs James Toogood & Karl Hunter.

34/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this time.

35/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 June 2026 - having been previously circulated to Members - were taken as read.

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

accept the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 8 June 2026.

Minutes of the:-

- Policy & Resources Committee meetings of: 8 June, 9 June, 23 June & 14 July 2026
- Planning Committee meeting of 6 July 2026

were provided for information only.

36/26 FINANCE REPORT

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

Cllr Steve Milford commented that it was pleasing to note the town council's finances were forecast to deliver a positive variance, both in terms of under-expenditure and income exceeding target.

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

accept the Finance Report.

37/26 GRIEVANCE POLICY

The report provided Members with details of the Town Council's renewed draft Grievance Policy, as presented at the Policy & Resources Committee's meeting of 14 July 2026.

It was noted that the latest National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Grievance Policy is more up to date and reflects current best practice and compliance requirements.

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

approve the Grievance Policy

38/26 GDPR SECURITY COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

The report provided Members with a security compliance checklist.

As highlighted during the recent internal audit, it is good practice to confirm that all Members are aware of their responsibilities with regards to data protection and the handling of sensitive matters.

It was proposed by Cllr Ernie Polak-Harvey, seconded by Cllr Brayden Gibbins, and unanimously resolved that:

Members agree to complete the checklist and return them to the Clerk.

39/26 FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The tabled report provided Members with dates for forthcoming committee meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr Ian Bond, seconded by Cllr John Watkins, and unanimously resolved to:

approve the future committee meeting dates as per the report.

40/26 STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

The report provided Members with the current text from Standing Order No: 3c, with the Policy & Resources Committee recommending its removal to full council.

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

agree to the removal of Standing Order No: 3c as tabled.

41/26 VENTNOR HARBOUR WORKING GROUP

The outstanding agenda item from the Annual Town Council meeting of 18 May 2026 is to appoint a Member to the Ventnor Harbour Working Group.

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

- appoint Cllr John Watkins to the Ventnor Harbour Working Group.
- and - subject to the Isle of Wight Council accepting a substitute Member in the absence of Cllr Watkins:-

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

- appoint Cllr Linda Jefferies as substitute to the Ventnor Harbour Working Group.

42/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 October 2026.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR:

DATE