



MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

LG1 ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

10:00AM

8 APRIL 2026

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair), Ian Bond, Steve Milford, John Watkins & Ernie Polak-Harvey

Clerks: Morgan Williams & Alison Killick

DRAFT

MINUTE SUBJECT

19/26 PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

Ross Honeybourne raised concerns from the local community about the 8.8% increase on the Precept, also producing a report from “Ventnor Community” raising many questions.

Cllr Steve Milford responded that it is critical for the council to build up reserves on the budget.

Cllr Ian Bond responded that this is not a one-year issue, dating back to previous management.

Chair Steve Cooper responded that the SLCC sets criteria for reserves – the minimum being £100k – equivalent of 4 months on the budget. He also confirmed that a response via the Clerks will be provided against the points raised from the “Ventnor Community” report.

20/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests received at this time.

22/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2026

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 3 March 2026, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- accept the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 3 March 2026, with the following alteration to Minute 07/26:-
- delegate to the Clerks the inclusion of a short clause in the Terms & Conditions of Hire of the Green Room that the space is not permitted for any form of religious worship/preaching, and that all use of the space must be non-discriminatory, in line with the Council’s principals of inclusivity.

23/26 STANDING ORDERS: REVIEW

Members considered the tabled report proposing that Standing Order 8 be amended to include reference to the Deputy Mayor when the Mayor is absent.

It was unanimously resolved to:

reject the proposed changes to Standing Orders.

24/26 INSURANCE: REVIEW

As per the tabled report, the Town Council’s insurance broker has provided a pre-renewal review, giving the council an opportunity to ensure the cover to be provided is sufficient.

It was unanimously resolved:

- to recommend an increase in the daily payments limit from £30k to £40k, and require that any payments over £30k require two signatories for authorisation
- to authorise the Clerks to renew the insurance policy for 2026/27 with the changes in the report written and increasing the fidelity guarantee insurance cover to cover half the precept (from its current level of £150k).

25/26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

- Town Clerk Arrangements
- Employment Matter

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

26/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 27 May at 10:00am.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
