



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

LG1, SALISBURY GARDENS

10:00AM

26 MAY 2026

Members present:-

DRAFT

Councillors: Mark Jefferies (Chair), Karl Hunter, Steve Milford, Brayden Gibbens & Ernie Polak-Harvey (Substitute)

Clerk: Alison Killick

MINUTE SUBJECT

09/26 PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present:-

- Joyce Milford raised the issue of negative comments appearing on Facebook over the previous weekend, regarding the 31 Bus and wants to record her support for the service.
- The service provides a lifeline to local residents – particularly those who live in Bonchurch and St Lawrence – providing access to the Library and “Really Useful Thursdays” held at St Catherine’s Church.
- As from 1 June, the service will operate on Tuesdays (and now Thursdays, replacing Saturdays), and Fridays.
- Local resident and Chair of the Bus & Rail Users Group Stuart George suggested that if the 31 Bus Service was going to make money, then Southern Vectis would operate and run the service commercially.
- Stuart George also mentioned that usage of the 31 Bus generally translates into people shopping in the town.
- He confirmed that the vehicle is permitted to stand at Boots for only 5 minutes, thereafter, running around the route empty. This occurs four times every hour as the Traffic Commissioner will not allow standing time for any longer than this, on a busy bus stop serving Southern Vectis buses.
- It should be remembered that - when Wroxall was shut to traffic - the operators of the 31 Bus provided a service for local residents, to Upper Ventnor in-between the Southern Vectis shuttle service – at no additional cost to the town council.
- Cllr Steve Milford confirmed that the additional operating day of Thursdays is funded through a grant via the Isle of Wight Council, from 1 July 2026 and that he will provide information to advise the public exactly what the 31 Bus does and why Ventnor Town Council provide the service.

10/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Ian Bond.

11/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this time.

12/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 3 MARCH 2026

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2026 - having been previously circulated - were taken as read.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Accept the Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting of 3 March 2026.

13/26 SHORE HILL VEGETATION

Clerk Alison Killick introduced this agenda item.

As per tabled information, Clerk Morgan Williams is in discussions with contractors and Island Roads to remove overgrown vegetation at Shore Hill, which is encroaching onto private land.

Members noted this update, with no decision required.

14/26 MOTION FROM CLLR KARL HUNTER: LAND ADJACENT TO THE ROYAL HOTEL

Cllr Karl Hunter introduced this agenda item.

As per tabled report, Cllr Hunter has been liaising with the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads extensively for considerable time regarding a small plot of land to the west of The Royal Hotel, between Belgrave Road and Park Avenue.

The land is managed by Island Roads and owned by the Isle of Wight Council but has not been well maintained and is in a generally overgrown and unkempt condition.

Cllr Hunter's proposal is for the town council to acquire consent from the Isle of Wight Council under Section 96 of the Highways Act 1980 to cultivate this area, allowing the town council to reach its own agreement with The Royal Hotel.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- approve the proposal as tabled in Motion from Cllr Karl Hunter and authorise the Clerks to proceed accordingly.
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15/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The committee agreed to meet again on 18 August 2026 at 10am.

The meeting closed at 10:45am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
