



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS

6PM

18 MAY 2026

Members present:-

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

Also present:- Joint Acting Town Clerks Alison Killick & Morgan

MINUTE SUBJECT

31/26 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR 2026/27

It was proposed by Cllr Ian Bond, seconded by Cllr Karl Hunter and unanimously resolved that:

Cllr Steve Cooper be appointed as Chair of the Council and Town Mayor until the next Annual Town Council Meeting.

32/26 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2026/27

It was proposed by Cllr Steve Cooper, seconded by Cllr Karl Hunter and unanimously resolved that:

Cllr Steve Milford be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Council and Deputy Town Mayor until the next Annual Town Council Meeting.

33/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs James Toogood & Brayden Gibbins.

34/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

35/26 OTHER APPOINTMENTS

It was unanimously agreed:

To appoint Cllr Steve Cooper as Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and to appoint Cllrs Ian Bond, Steve Milford, John Watkins and Ernie Polak-Harvey as members of the Policy and Resources Committee and to appoint Cllr Karl Hunter as a substitute member of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was unanimously agreed:

To appoint Cllr Ian Bond as Chair of the Buildings Maintenance Committee and to appoint Cllrs Linda Jefferies, Mark Jefferies, Steve Cooper and Steve Milford as members of the Buildings Maintenance Committee and to appoint Cllr Steph Toogood as substitute.

It was unanimously agreed:

To appoint Cllr John Watkins as Chair of the Planning Committee and to appoint Cllrs Steph Toogood, James Toogood, Karl Hunter and Linda Jefferies as members of the Planning Committee and to appoint Cllr Steve Cooper as substitute.

It was unanimously agreed:

To appoint Cllr Mark Jefferies as Chair of the Environment and Transport Committee and to appoint Cllrs Karl Hunter, Brayden Gibbins, Steve Milford and Ian Bond as members of the Environment and Transport Committee and to appoint Cllr Ernie Polak-Harvey as substitute.

It was unanimously agreed:

To appoint Cllr Steph Toogood as Chair of the Business and Community Committee and to appoint Cllrs Ernie Polak-Harvey, John Watkins, James Toogood and Brayden Gibbins as members of the Business and Community Committee and to appoint Cllr Linda Jefferies as substitute.

It was unanimously agreed:

that Cllr Mark Jefferies be appointed as the main representative for the Rew Valley Sports Hall Steering Working Group, noting that Island Free School currently has exclusive access to the Sports Hall.

It was unanimously agreed:

that Cllr Steph Toogood be appointed as the voting representative for IWALC (Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils).

36/26 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The requirements a Town or Parish Council must fulfil to be eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence are:

- Two-thirds of its Members must have been elected or stood for election.
- The Town Clerk must hold one of the recognised qualifications including that for the General Power of Competence.

For the year 2026-27, the town council does meet both of the above requirements for GPC, having at least two-thirds elected Members and Joint Acting Town Clerk Alison Killick holding the CiLCA Qualification including General Power of Competence.

It was acknowledged that:

the Town Council is eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence - as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 – for the year May 2026 to May 2027.

37/26 STANDING ORDERS

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

to adopt Standing Orders for 2026/27.

38/26 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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

to approve the amendments to the Financial Regulations and adopt the Financial Regulations for the year 2026/27.

39/26 SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

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

to approve the amendments to the Scheme of Delegations and adopt the Scheme of Delegations for the year 2026/27.

40/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th June at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 6:30pm

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

DATE
