



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

VTC2, SALISBURY GARDENS

9AM

10 JUNE 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Mark Jefferies (Chair), Steve Cooper, Ian Bond, Steve Milford

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

VTC Staff: Catherine Hammond

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### 01/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 3 members of the public present.

Two volunteers from Planet Aware presented their proposed campaign to reduce cigarette butt litter. Planet Aware had carried out some surveys at the beach and Esplanade during peak and off-peak times. The volunteers found an average of 54 cigarette butts on Sundays and an average of 268 cigarette butts on other days. Planet Aware would like the campaign to be in place before the summer holidays and noted that there was an economic impact of clearing up cigarette butts at an average of £40 million a year across authorities in the UK. Planet Aware would like to have one or two banners on the seafront for the campaign and would like permission to place three ballot boxes. The volunteers would count the number of cigarette butts in the ballot boxes. Cllr Jefferies suggested that a ballot box could be put on the beach safety hut. Planet Aware confirmed that funding was in place for banners, posters and two ballot boxes but they were seeking funding for an additional ballot box and support with emptying the ballot boxes. Cllr Bond noted that it was a good campaign, but the committee would need a further report before any commitment.

Wendy Marshall gave an update on North Street Play Area and the work required to keep the area tidy including a weekly litter pick. Wendy Marshall also gave an update on Victoria Corner and noted that there are bushes that need cutting back. The Town Clerk noted that this was VTC's responsibility and would raise this with the contractors. Wendy Marshall asked whether a lock could be placed on the main blue bin outside the VTC office. The Town Clerk would follow up on this matter. Wendy Marshall also noted that a bin was needed for Dudley Road Car Park.

### 02/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Julie Hutchison.

### 03/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Steve Milford declared an interest in respect of the allotments.

### 04/24 COMMITTEE'S ROLES AND AREAS MANAGED

The Town Clerk had produced a list of open spaces managed under the Ground Maintenance contract. It was noted that other open spaces managed by VTC under separate contracts and agreements included the allotments, St Boniface Fields, Spring Hill and Ventnor Park.

It was noted that Cllr Bond would be raising the matter of Terms of Reference for the Committees at the Full Council. Cllr Bond raised the matter of budgets for Committees and whether there was a budget for environmental issues and initiatives. Cllr Cooper confirmed that there was a budget for environmental issues.

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**05/24 VENTNOR PARK EVENTS**

Catherine Hammond gave an update on Ventnor Day. It was noted that the tables and chairs which are usually provided by the Isle of Wight Council were no longer available on 6<sup>th</sup> July due to being needed for the Election. It was noted that Southern Water had announced the closure of Newport Road but could not guarantee it would be reopened on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Catherine Hammond confirmed that, so far, there had only been nine stallholders drop out due the change of date but others had taken stalls who couldn't do the original date. There is a full line up of bands and only one more caterer is needed. Cllr Milford noted that the team had been placed in an impossible position and were doing their best in an awkward situation. Cllr Bond suggested that the weekend would be better and there could be potential for the event to extend into the evening.

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**06/24 ALLOTMENT'S OVERHANGING TREES UPDATE**

The Town Clerk confirmed that she would follow up on this matter.

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**07/24 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

a) No Mow May

The Committee would support this in principle. It was suggested that verges are protected during No Mow May and rare orchids appear as a result. The bumblebee had also been removed from the endangered list.

b) Car Boot Sale

Cllr Cooper noted that free car parking is currently offered in the car park on a Saturday and a lot of visitors to the Town arrive by car. Cllr Bond suggested La Falaise as a possible alternative location. Cllr Cooper suggested that the proposal needs refining in terms of the location and day as, in its current form, it defeats the purpose of free parking. Catherine Hammond offered to work with Cllr Hutchison on the proposal. Cllr Bond suggested that this proposal would be a matter for the Business and Community Committee.

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**08/24 LA FALAISE DINOSAUR MAZE**

Cllr Jefferies noted that this matter was raised at the Annual Town Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May. When Southern Water did the work at La Falaise, they did not restore the dinosaur maze. The Town Clerk would follow up on this matter.

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**09/24 SPRING HILL GARDENS AND RATS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk would circulate the report from Hillbans to the Committee members.

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**10/24 LEESON ROAD AND LANDSLIP UPDATE**

Cllr Cooper informed the Committee that he had attended an IWALC meeting where he asked for support in lobbying efforts to reinstate the road and look at a fourth viable route.

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**11/24 BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL UPDATE**

Cllr Jefferies noted that the Biosphere Festival would be running at the end of the month at Quay Arts. The Town Clerk would investigate further as no other information had been received about this event.

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**12/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Bond suggested that this item be rephrased as future work as decisions could not be made under AOB. The Town Clerk also confirmed that AOB cannot involve decisions so would be for information only.

Cllr Cooper suggested that the proposal from Planet Aware be addressed at the next meeting. Cllr Cooper was in favour of supporting the campaign but not funding a ballot box.

It was noted that the North Street Play Area could become a safety issue.

An update was given on the Community Orchard consultation. Approximately thirty to forty residents attended the consultation held at St Margaret's Hall and there had been some good feedback. Cllr Jefferies noted that some attendees went to look at the orchids in the cemetery after the consultation.

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**13/24 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

In view of the confidential nature of the following items:

**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.

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The meeting closed at 10.30 am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

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