



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

VTC2, SALISBURY GARDENS

5.30PM

12 JUNE 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Steph Toogood (Chair), John Watkins, Cassie Bailey, James Toogood

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

VTC Staff: Catherine Hammond, Teresa Preston, Jordan Royle

MINUTE SUBJECT

01/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

02/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors.

03/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr John Watkins declared an interest in Baby Box, the Foodbank and Food Pantry as he is on the Steering Group. Cllr John Watkins also declared that he is a frequent supporter of the Well-Being Café.

04/24 LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS, CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Steph Toogood noted that there needs to be more of a link between organisations and suggested that the Committee needs to look at the list of community organisations. Cllr Watkins suggested compiling a list of groups in Ventnor and the surrounding area. Catherine Hammond suggested linking with the Ventnor Local website. Catherine Hammond and Teresa Preston would compile the list of groups, charities and organisations. Cllr Watkins suggested that there needed to be links to pages and contact details on the VTC website.

05/24 SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE TOWN AND SEAFRONT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PUTTING GREEN CONTRACT

It was noted that there are meetings taking place regarding reforming a Business Association. There had been a misunderstanding as to the role of the Business Development Officer as it was not intended that the postholder look after the local businesses but was rather the Development Officer for VTC. Cllr Steph Toogood would follow up on the progress of the reforming of the Business Association.

It was noted that the Newport Road would now be closing on 24th June rather than 17th June. Cllr James Toogood noted that the new schedule for the No. 31 bus would be starting next week further to the Isle of Wight Council giving a two year grant for the service. The signage would take two weeks to arrive once the order has been placed and would then need to be installed. The timetable is in the Southern Vectis timetable booklet.

Cllr Steph Toogood noted that the situation with Bath Road is not good and will not be open for the summer season due to the legal route that is being pursued.

It was noted that Jackie Tiller is doing sterling work in relation to the Putting Green Contract.

06/24 TOURISM INCLUDING BEACH SAFETY

Cllr Steph Toogood has asked Brian Roberts for a report on beach safety. The staff at the beach safety hut have had to call the coastguard rescue once this year. VTC approved a course for sea rescue for the beach safety staff but they were unable to take up the offer this year.

07/24 HEALTH AND WELLBEING INCLUDING THE WELL BEING CAFÉ

Catherine Hammond informed the Committee that the Well-Being Café has seventeen new members and there have been some day trips using the minibus from Aspire. The bus can accommodate up to 15 people for trips. It was noted that it is difficult for Terri to cook for so many people on a Tuesday. There is some subsidy for a few people on the Tuesday trip. Recent trips have included Quarr Abbey, Brading Downs, Lidl, Aldi, Morrisons, Oasis, Ryde Tesco and Busy Bee Garden Centre. The group also go to the Putting Green and will go to some of the free events at the Ventnor Fringe in July. Cllr James Toogood raised the issue of smoking outside the Green Room. Catherine Hammond would follow up. Catherine Hammond estimated that there were forty regular attendees although a higher number of members overall. Living Well come in fortnightly and there have been visits from Working Towards Wellbeing, Footprint Trust and Green Isle. Cllr Watkins raised the matter of capacity, and it was noted that a new location would need to be considered due to numbers. Cllr Steph Toogood asked for ideas for the autumn.

Cllr Steph Toogood informed the Committee that a few of the councillors had met with the surgery and the new managers are making changes. A newsletter had been issued but it had not been seen by many people. The newsletter explained the new structure in relation to the 8am phone calls. It was noted that there are currently two doctors, but four doctors are needed. The Town Clerk would be including the news from the surgery newsletter with the VTC newsletter when it recommences in July.

Jordan Royl noted that the government initiative on social prescribing is only being prescribed to adults and not children at the surgery.

08/24 ARTS AND CULTURE INCLUDING LIBRARY AND YOUTH SERVICES

Jordan Royl gave an update on the youth services provision which includes drop-in sessions, basketball and badminton. Jordan Royl had met with other groups around the Island and they are looking at putting together a bid for a lottery grant to share. There are challenges with space and volunteers. Jordan Royl had submitted a bid for a grant to start dance classes. There are approximately twenty attendees for basketball and fifteen to twenty attendees at the drop-in sessions. It was noted that the land behind St Margaret's Hall is wasteland with asbestos so cannot be used. Jordan Royl has asked if the land outside St Margaret's Hall could be levelled and a removable basketball hoop be used. The hire cost for St Margaret's Hall is approximately £20-30. Basketball and badminton are held monthly with arts and crafts covered in the drop-in sessions. The activities are currently all free of charge. There were four new attendees last week and two new attendees today. One attendee comes from Wroxall as there is no youth provision in that area. Jordan Royl has two goal posts from a grant and would like to use them on the astroturf at St Boniface Fields.

Cllr Steph Toogood mentioned that the Community Shed had talked about making sets for children which they could make and decorate such as bird boxes. Cllr Watkins suggested that this could be a winter project. Cllr Watkins had received an expression of interest for volunteering for academic sessions and would liaise with Jordan Royl.

Cllr Steph Toogood asked about the library provision. Catherine Hammond would follow up but confirmed that the library still holds story time. Cllr Watkins explained that people could get hearing aids checked in the Green Room in the past and suggested that this could take place in the Library. Cllr Watkins would follow up on this matter.

09/24 COMMUNITY EVENTS INCLUDING VENTNOR DAY, VENTNOR CARNIVAL AND VENTNOR FRINGE

Teresa Preston gave an update on Ventnor Day. There were now 48 stalls for the new date of 16th August whereas there were only 39 stalls for 6th July. There are still 20 replies outstanding. The

event licence has been changed as has the collecting permit. The music is covered and stage management will be in place. The Isle of Wight Council has not replied to the enquiry for tables and chairs for the new date. The stall holders would be charged £10 if a business and charities would be free. Cllr Steph Toogood asked if the letter to stallholders could ask for donations due to the price being dropped. Teresa Preston confirmed that First Aid cover was in place. Teresa Preston confirmed that the Children's Fayre has been transformed into Ventnor Day.

Cllr Steph Toogood gave an update on the Pirate Fest. There will not be any activities on the Friday due to Ventnor Day but there will be activities happening on the Thursday and the Saturday.

Teresa Preston gave an update on the Ventnor Carnival. A bid was submitted for a grant but was not successful, so smaller grants are being explored.

It was noted that use of Ventnor Park by the Ventnor Fringe had been approved at Full Council. Ventnor Fringe are liaising with the Ventnor Enhancement Fund regarding lighting at the park.

10/24 MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FUND AND GRANTS TO LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

11/24 USE AND HIRE OF THE GREEN ROOM

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

12/24 SKATE PARK

It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

13/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10 July at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
