



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 5.30PM

21 AUGUST 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Steph Toogood (Chair), John Watkins, James Toogood, Steve Cooper (invited to attend by the Chair of the Committee)

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

VTC Officers: Catherine Hammond, Jordan Royl

## MINUTE SUBJECT

### 34/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 2 members of the public present.

Ross Honeybourne wished to note that the Pirate Fest went well. Ross Honeybourne is also the Chair of the Ventnor Business Association.

Cllr Ed Blake gave positive feedback on the Pirate Fest. Cllr Blake noted that the date for Ventnor Day had to be changed this year and suggested that events could be spread through the season. It was noted that the Fell Races take place in September. Cllr Steph Toogood noted that The Royal hold events and it would be useful to link up with them to find out what events they have planned. Cllr Blake suggested linking up with accommodation and hospitality owners. Cllr Steph Toogood suggested that a calendar of events happening in Ventnor would be useful. Ross Honeybourne asked about Ventnor Day being in Town. Cllr Steve Cooper would like to go out to consultation and noted that health and safety and finance would need to be considered. Cllr Cooper would like to see activities in town and would like it to be well assessed. Cllr Cooper suggested that the time period needs to be considered to maximise success as well as looking at the purpose and the financial aspects.

### 35/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Linda Jefferies and Teresa Preston.

### 36/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 37/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 24 July 2024, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

**It was unanimously resolved to:**

Accept the minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 24 July 2024.

### 38/24 VENTNOR DAY

Cllr Steph Toogood invited Catherine Hammond, Interim Community Development Officer, to provide feedback on Ventnor Day. Catherine Hammond noted that the date had been moved due to the road closure in July. There had been one first aid incident due to dehydration. The Isle of Wight Council had not provided tables this year and stall holders were asked to bring their own tables. It was noted that it was much easier with stall holders providing their own tables and a total of £440 was raised from stall holders pitch fees. There had been a steady stream of visitors throughout the day but there were less visitors from 4pm. Catherine Hammond suggested that the time period of 12 noon to 6pm was too long. It was suggested that four hours may be a better duration for the event. The jazz band had not been available this year due to the change of date. It was noted that the Carnival Committee and volunteers had helped the VTC volunteers.

Cllr James Toogood asked if there had been enough first aiders. Cllr John Watkins confirmed that there had been enough first aiders for the day. Cllr James Toogood asked the previous suggestion of having a Town Crier could be revisited and whether there could be other activities in town for the day such as busking and juggling. Cllr Steve Cooper noted that the costs of a Town Crier had been prohibitive as the uniform can cost anywhere between £1200-£2000. It was noted that there had been someone in town who had offered to be Town Crier and had a uniform. Cllr Cooper would follow up with the individual.

Cllr John Watkins suggested that the sign at the gate asking for a donation of 10p is not used again. Cllr Cooper agreed and noted that people do not always carry cash. Cllr Watkins also suggested that stall holders are asked to pay the pitch fee in advance.

The Town Clerk gave feedback on behalf of Teresa Preston. It was noted that stall holders had been happy to bring their own tables and it did not make sense to hire tables and chairs. Teresa Preston had suggested introducing a booking system with the option to pay pitch fees online. Costs could be saved by doing the poster in house. The change of date had proved difficult as there are so many events in August. July may be better although the original date had clashed with Mardi Gras.

Jordan Royle mentioned that some of the stall holders has asked if a meeting could be held before the event to give stall holders information. Jordan Royle noted that she had raised £100 for the Youth Group from their stall.

Cllr Steph Toogood suggested waiting for the Town Clerk to provide the expenditure and income figures from the day and having a meeting to discuss going forward with the event.

Cllr John Watkins commented that he was in favour of an August date.

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## **39/24 TOURISM**

### **A) TRAIL APP**

Cllr Steph Toogood noted that there had not been as many visitors post covid. Cllr Steph Toogood explained that the heritage boards on the seafront needed to be replaced. It was noted that Ross-on-Wye Town Council had introduced a Trails App and it was suggested that this is something that Ventnor Town Council could explore. The Town Clerk explained that the app could have a number of trails. Cllr Steve Cooper noted that other places were using Trail Apps. The Town Clerk would investigate whether it could also include running routes.

### **B) ORIENTEERING**

Cllr Steph Toogood invited Jordan Royle to introduce this item. Jordan Royle had investigated this with Wight Orienteers for the Youth Club initially. Wight Orienteers have created courses elsewhere on the island. It is possible to map a local park and enclosed areas. There are a few courses that could be used by holiday makers. The map can go online as well. Jordan Royle would follow up with assistance from Cllr Steve Cooper who is involved with the Fell Races and is familiar with routes and courses.

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## **40/24 BUSINESS**

### **A) TOWN MAP**

Cllr Steph Toogood explained that a Town Map had been mentioned at a business meeting. It was noted that the production of a Town Map is underway and is being organised by two individuals in town.

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## **41/24 YOUTH GROUP UPDATE**

Cllr Steph Toogood invited Jordan Royle to give an update on the Youth Group. Jordan Royle noted that the group had been involved with a conservation project run by the Bezos Foundation and had produced a number of works using clay, pasta and pastels. Jordan Royle had tried to encourage the group to engage with the Fringe Festival but only two members of the group had attended. Jordan

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Royle is part of the Isle of Wight Council's Early Help Scheme which provides signposting. The Youth Group currently meet in St Margaret's Hall as well as Rew Valley Sports Centre for Basketball and Badminton. Jordan Royle has met with the High Sheriff and the new Director of Children's Services at the Isle of Wight Council. Jordan Royle asked if it would be possible to arrange for litter bins at the portacabins. The Town Clerk would investigate the possibility of litter bins. Cllr James Toogood suggested that a small dustbin or similar might suffice as Jordan Royle was able to manage its placement and disposal of contents. This was suggested as a short term solution to save costs.

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**42/24 CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

Cllr Steph Toogood noted that Small Business Saturday is at the beginning of December. St Catherine's School would be holding their Fayre on 14<sup>th</sup> December and the Carnival had their event on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Catherine Hammond suggested that it was good to have events going on over the three weekends leading up to Christmas. The Town Clerk would ask St Catherine's Church when their Fayre is due to take place. Cllr Steph Toogood would investigate the possibility of street entertainers for Small Business Saturday. Catherine Hammond suggested checking whether there would be something at Ingrams Yard.

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**43/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 5.30pm

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The meeting closed at 6.31pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

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