



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 9AM

3 SEPTEMBER 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Mark Jefferies (Chair), Steve Milford, Steve Cooper, Julie Hutchison

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

MINUTE SUBJECT

28/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

29/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

30/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

31/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 8 JULY 2024

The Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting of 8 July 2024, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read. The Confidential set of minutes recorded Cllr Steve Cooper as present which is incorrect.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Accept the minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting of 8 July 2024 subject to the amendment to the Confidential minutes.

32/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8 JULY 2024

Cllr Steve Milford asked about the matter of Ventnor Town Council staff assisting with emptying the litter bins for Planet Aware. The Town Clerk explained that she had contacted Planet Aware but had not heard anything further as Planet Aware had been liaising with the Isle of Wight Council. Cllr Cooper had heard from Planet Aware who had expressed disappointment that Ventnor Town Council were unable to help with the project. However, Cllr Cooper explained to Planet Aware that Ventnor Town Council does not own the assets that had been identified by Planet Aware for the litter bins. Planet Aware are looking to do something in Spring 2025 and Cllr Cooper has suggested that they approach Ventnor Town Council in January with any proposals.

33/24 COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave an update on the Community Orchard site visits which took place last week. This was an opportunity to get advice from those who run Orchards. The meeting finished on site at Steephill Down Road to discuss next steps. An informal meeting would be arranged for those interested in being involved in the orchard which would take place at the site on Steephill Down Road on Saturday 14th September at 10.30am.

Cllr Jefferies noted that it was advised not to plant all the trees at once. Cllr Cooper expressed concern about potential flooding. Cllr Hutchison suggested that wood chip would be suitable and it was also suggested at the orchard site visits that two layers of cardboard could be used as it stops light getting in and the cardboard goes into the ground.

Cllr Jefferies explained that the site at Merstone is cut twice a year which includes cutting pathways.

Cllr Hutchison explained that seeds which drop from wildflowers at the Merstone site are collected and planted in Pan Country Park to increase biodiversity.

The matter of watering the site was raised. Cllr Hutchison noted that it is possible to use water bags.

Cllr Cooper asked if there was any money available for signage. It was noted that a historical board was needed for the site.

The Town Clerk was tasked with looking into the possibility of installing wildlife cameras. The Town Clerk would also look into the matter of emptying bins at the site. The Town Clerk would investigate the possibility of Ventnor Community Shed being involved with producing seating for the site.

It was noted that the taller trees would need to be planted in the first phase of planting and would need to be located at the back of the Orchard.

34/24 MAPLES DRIVE WORKS

The Town Clerk gave an update on the works at Maples Drive. The trees and foliage from Boniface Fields had overgrown onto Maples Drive. This matter had been ongoing since November 2023. The Town Clerk had been informed by a resident that an ivy-covered bow had broken off and fallen into Maples Drive a few weeks ago. The Maintenance Manager had cleared the path and road. However, this highlighted the urgency of the works.

The Town Clerk had obtained three quotations for the works and instructed a contractor following consultation with the Mayor and Chair of the Environment and Transport Committee as the costs fell within the Clerk's delegated powers. The Town Clerk confirmed that the works would be carried out on Thursday 5th September and the residents had been informed.

35/24 COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (OPEN SPACES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE)

The Chair had asked for this paper so that Committee are aware their areas of responsibility. The Chair had noticed a problem at Havensbush but had not been certain if it was the responsibility of the Grounds Maintenance contractor. The Town Clerk would investigate but noted that the contractor was not responsible for maintaining trees. The Town Clerk noted that there was a joint responsibility with Isle of Wight Council for tree maintenance and Ventnor Park in respect of the costs.

The Town Clerk would send the relevant maps to the Committee for information.

Cllr Hutchison raised the matter of wildflowers and noted that planting would need to take place over the winter if it were to happen. Cllr Hutchison suggested outreach and education to explain why wildflowers are important.

Cllr Hutchison noted that that cars were parked on the triangle at Trinity Road. Cllr Hutchison had spoken with Cllr James Toogood about the possibility of planting a hedgerow to discourage cars from parking on the area. It was noted that the Woodland Trust offers free packs for planting hedgerows.

36/24 HAVENSBUSH MAINTENANCE

The Chair showed the Committee photographs of the area at Havensbush. The area had been mowed by the bramble has overgrown and not been maintained. The Town Clerk would investigate this matter. There was some discussion as to whether wildflowers could be planted on the bank and it was noted that there are some wildflowers there already.

37/24 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7th October 2024 at 9am.

The meeting closed at 9.50 am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE
