



MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

LG1, SALISBURY GARDENS

9AM

11 NOVEMBER 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Steve Cooper (Chair); Ian Bond; Julie Hutchison; Steve Milford; John Watkins

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

Officers: Morgan Williams

Non-Committee Councillors: Mark Jefferies

MINUTE SUBJECT

DRAFT

55/24

PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present and a non-Committee Councillor. Cllr Jefferies wished to speak in respect of agenda item 4 and suggested that the biodiversity budget could be used to fund the feeding of ducks in Ventnor Park.

56/24

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

57/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Steve Cooper declared an interest in respect of agenda item 5 noting that he has an association with the Fell Runners Association but not the Ryde Harriers. Cllr Cooper was involved setting up the Ventnor Fell Races with Brenda Lawson and Eddie Leal. Cllr Cooper helps with the logistics and marshals for the event itself.

58/24

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 30 September 2024, having been previously circulated to Members were taken as read.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Accept the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 30 September 2024.

59/24

VENTNOR PARK DUCKS

It was suggested that Ventnor Town Council commit to a financial contribution of £250 for one year from the Sustainability and Biodiversity budget. The situation would be monitored by the officers.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Contribute £250 to feeding the ducks at Ventnor Park from the Sustainability and Biodiversity budget. This would be spread over the year as a monthly payment of £20.

60/24

VENTNOR FELL RACE SERIES SUPPORT

Cllr Cooper explained that he had been approached by the Race Director for a financial contribution. The original idea for the Ventnor Fell Race Series was to increase footfall in the town and extend the tourist season. There are ongoing discussions about the possibility of moving the event from September to October. However, there are some logistical difficulties with moving the dates. It was noted that the Fell Runners fundraise for the event. A contribution of £100 was suggested.

It was unanimously agreed:

That Cllr Steve Cooper would ask the Chair of the Fell Runners Association to write to Ventnor Town Council with the Association's financial position so that Ventnor Town Council could consider the request for a financial contribution.

61/24 COMMS – OFFICER/COUNCILLOR REMIT AND SCOPE

It was noted that there is still some confusion between the Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Town Council. It was suggested that Ventnor Town Council should have social media channel for communications. It was noted that Ventnor Town Council had an X account under the previous Town Clerk but it would not be possible to retrieve this account. Cllr Hutchison wished to note that any Council that uses social media, endorses social media. It was suggested that a banner is added to the website which signposts users to the Ventnor Town Council newsletter. It was suggested that a Facebook group could be set up. The Town Clerk asked whether the intention would be to allow the members of the Facebook group to comment and, if so, whether there would be responses to the comments or if comments would be switched off. These are matters for consideration.

It was noted that there was a mailing list under the previous Town Clerk which still existed. The Town Clerk raised concerns about using the mailing list without going through GDPR processes to ask for consent to retain details and the purpose for holding those details.

It was emphasised that communication is important and needs to be considered.

62/24 COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

It was noted that members had spent a long time considering the flaws and dysfunction of the previous system and the proposed changes are counterproductive. It was suggested that it is not a good time to make changes to the current system. It was suggested that meetings could be diarised for the year as with Town Council meetings.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Note the Committee Restructure Proposal paper but defer any considerations with regard to the current Committee Structure until May 2025.

63/24 VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING HOURS – GENERAL

The Town Clerk explained that Ventnor Town Council does not advertise opening hours for visitors to attend the office and telephone the office. The Town Clerk suggested that opening hours are agreed and advertised both on the website and at the office.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Approve the proposals for Ventnor Town Council office opening hours as per the paper presented by the Town Clerk.

64/24 VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING HOURS – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSURE 2024

The Town Clerk proposed opening hours for Ventnor Town Council Office over the Christmas and New Year period for 2024.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Approve the proposals for Ventnor Town Council office opening hours over the Christmas and New Year period as per the paper presented by the Town Clerk.

65/24 MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL (NALC MODEL)

This had previously been discussed at an HR Committee.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Refer the Member/Officer Protocol to the Town Council with a recommendation from the Committee to adopt the Protocol.

66/24 **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.

The meeting closed at 10.22 am

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

DRAFT