



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

GREEN ROOM, SALISBURY GARDENS 5.30PM

05 DECEMBER 2024

Members present:-

Councillors: Steph Toogood (Chair), John Watkins, James Toogood, Linda Jefferies

Non-Committee Councillors: Mark Jefferies

Clerk: Katherine Baldwin

VTC Officers: Catherine Hammond, Jordan Royle

MINUTE SUBJECT

DRAFT

01/25

## PUBLIC FORUM

There were 6 members of the public present.

It was asked as to why the Public Forum is held at the beginning of meetings and how minutes of meetings can be accessed. The Clerk confirmed that draft minutes are published on the website.

In respect of item 6, it was raised that there is a concern about the beach safety and how the Pirate Fest can run in the event that beach safety is cut.

In respect of item 5, it was asked whether this would be an open group and the proposed membership.

02/25

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

03/25

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

04/25

## MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2024

The Minutes of the Business and Community Committee meeting of 5 December 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 5 December 2024.

05/25

## VENTNOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

St Catherine's School have asked to join and have proposed a summer fete at St Catherine's Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The Ventnor Business Association are discussing plans for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The Town Clerk confirmed that a request for free parking will be going to the Town Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February which proposes free parking in the Ventnor Town Council leased car parks from 10am-6pm on both Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The theme for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 will be Charity, Community and Children. There will be sports on offer in the top part of the park with demonstrations. The stalls will be £10 per stall. There will be a sea-based and heritage theme.

06/25

## WORKING GROUP – ARMADA HERITAGE TRAIL

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the Working Group and explained it would be transparent with agendas and notes published. The launch event is likely to be in May from 22-25 May. The Town Clerk noted that there is no cost to the Town Council other than support in kind.

**It was proposed by Cllr John Watkins, seconded by Cllr James Toogood and agreed to:**

The formation of the Armada 1588 Heritage Trail Working Group according to the Terms of Reference dated January 2025, as a Working Group of the Business and Community Committee.

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**07/25 PIRATE FEST**

There was an update on progress with planning for the event and an explanation that the event is in Carnival week as it is following the model originally used by the Fringe Festival.

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**08/25 YOUTH GROUP UPDATE**

The Youth Officer updated on attendance at Basketball and Badminton sessions. Dance classes are being offered which are supported by Isle of Wight Council funding. The dance classes have a group for those under 12 years old and a group for those over 12 years old. There are drop-in sessions for arts and crafts.

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**09/25 COMMUNITY GROUPS UPDATE**

The Business and Voluntary Sector Officer gave an update on Wellbeing Café activities including the Tuesday trips, Christmas Lunch at The Millbay and the pantomime at Shanklin Theatre.

The Business and Voluntary Sector Officer noted that the Household Support Fund have given over £6000 for warm items for Ventnor, £2,600 for food for Thursday Kitchen, £1,600 for Wellbeing Café lunches.

An update was given on the Thursday Kitchen which had served approximately 2,200 meals and 7,500 teas and coffees in 2024. The volunteers made 100 lunches for the Christmas Lunch. An “essentials” table had also been introduced. It was noted that the social benefit of Thursday Kitchen is really important.

The Business and Voluntary Sector Office gave an update on Really Useful Thursdays and noted that a range of organisations attend.

An update was given on Baby Box, Foodbank and Food Pantry. It was noted that a new wave of people had attended over the winter. There are now 156 members all of whom are from the PO38 area. Southern Housing and the Footprint Trust attended and were able to help people with energy top up. There is a new project called the Isle of Wight Distribution Centre which collect food from the supermarkets so that it does not go to the mainland as waste food. The Household Support Fund provided £9,000 for the Food Pantry, £6,000 for the Foodbank and £5,000 for Baby Box before Christmas. It was noted that it is difficult during the periods when funding is not available. The Household Support Fund money has to be spent before 31 March or it has to be returned.

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**10/25 VENTNOR LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Town Clerk gave an update on the Ventnor Library Partnership Agreement and explained that it needs to be renewed. The Town Clerk explained that Ventnor Town Council Officers are working with Isle of Wight Council Officers to make the most of the provisions at Library and the space. The Wellbeing Café will be using the Library for one session a week to make use of the resources.

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**11/25 VOLUNTEER SOCIAL EVENING**

The Chair explained that a Volunteer Social Evening is being explored with a view to close collaboration with those in Ventnor. The Chair welcomed any ideas of how this might work.

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**12/25 TOWN CRIER**

The Chair thanked Cllr John Watkins for proposing the Town Crier at a meeting in August 2023. William Nixon is the new Town Bell Man and it was noted that this was at no cost to Ventnor Town Council. The Town Bell Man has committed to High Days, Holidays, Birthdays, Coronations, VE Day, VJ Day, a noon round up in Town on Saturdays and a 1pm round up on the seafront on Saturdays during the holiday season.

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**13/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 5.30pm

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The meeting closed at 6.35pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR

DATE

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DRAFT