



Minutes

Name of meeting	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Susan Scoccia (Chairman), Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Charles Chapman, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Philip Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Christopher Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Conrad Gauntlett, Alan Hollands

Introduction and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all invited guests, Elected Members and members of the public to Annual Council. Revd Canon Graham Morris was invited to lead the Chamber in prayers. Council was advised that this would be Revd Canon Graham Morris' last Council meeting. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Revd Canon Graham Morris for his service.

1. [Suspension of Procedure Rule](#)

Council considered a motion to formally suspend Procedure Rule 14(4) for agenda items 1, 2, 7a and 8, which would enable the suspension of usual time limits for speeches.

RESOLVED ;

THAT Procedure Rule 14(4) in as far as it relates to the length of speeches be suspended for agenda items 1, 2, 7a and 8 for the duration of the meeting.

2. **Election of Chairman**

Councillor Ian Ward was proposed and seconded as Chairman of the Council. There being no further nominations it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Ian ward be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor Ward thanked Members for their support and appointed Mrs Trish Ward as his Consort and presented her with the badge of office. The Revd Chris Theak was appointed as the Chairman's Chaplain and his nominated charities for the year were John's Club and St Vincent's.

Councillor Ward formally declared his acceptance of office and took the Chair.

Tributes were made to the outgoing Chairman and the Past Chairman's badge was presented.

Councillor Scoccia thanked everyone for their support throughout the year and presented a cheque of £6,000 to her nominated charity, St Catherine's School.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Charles Chapman was proposed and seconded as Chairman of the Council. There being no further nominations it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor Charles Chapman be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

Councillor Chapman formally declared his acceptance of office and thanked Members for their support.

4. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [20 March 2013](#) be confirmed.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

6. **Chairman's report, official announcements, communications and correspondence for the Council.**

The Chairman advised that a delegation from Coburg would be visiting the Island and a reception would be held on 28 May 2013 commencing at 3.00 pm in Conference Room Four, County Hall, Newport.

A Community Covenant Seminar would be held in the Council Chamber on 30 May 2013 commencing at 1.00 pm.

7. **To receive from the Returning Officer the results of the Council elections held on 2 May 2013**

The Chairman invited Council to note the results of the elections held on 2 May 2013, as circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

THAT the results of the Council elections held on 2 May 2013 be noted.

8. **To elect the Leader of the Council who will also be the Chairman of the Council's Cabinet.**

(a) **To determine the term of office of the Leader**

Members were reminded that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required that council elect a leader for a term of four years. The Localism Act 2011 now gave Council discretion to decide upon the term of office of the leader.

Members believed the office should be held until the next meeting of the Annual Council.

RESOLVED :

THAT the term of office of the Leader of the Council be until the next meeting of Annual Council.

(b) **Election of Leader**

Councillor Ian Stephens was proposed and seconded as Leader of the Council. There were no further nominations. Following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor Ian Stephens be elected Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet until the next Annual Council..

Councillor Stephens thanked Members for their support and announced his intention to [appoint the following to the Cabinet](#):

Cabinet Title	Cabinet Member
Deputy Leader	- Cllr Steve Stubbings
Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education	- Cllr Richard Priest
Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory	- Cllr Jonathan Bacon
Cabinet Member for Health, Community and Adult Wellbeing	- Cllr Gordon Kendall
Deputy Cabinet Member for Health, Community and Adult Wellbeing	- Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox
Cabinet Member for Public Protection	- Cllr Phil Jordan
Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Protection	- Cllr Julia Baker-Smith
Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economy	- Cllr Shirley Smart
Deputy Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economy	- Cllr Roger Whitby-Smith
Cabinet Member for Resources	- Cllr Jonathan Gilbey
Cabinet Member for Sustainability	- Cllr Luisa Hillard
Deputy Cabinet Member for Sustainability	- Cllr John Medland

Council was advised that a Cabinet Member could delegate their full powers to their deputy, which would include full voting right should the need arise.

It was also noted that the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members would be considered at the next meeting of Full Council due to be held on 19 June 2013.

9. [**Change to Committee System**](#)

The Leader indicated there was an intention to move towards a new form of governance, it was noted consultation around the new committee structure would be held. A Constitution Working Party would be established, to be

formed of the Leaders of all Groups on the Council including the Liberal Democrat member. It was intended that the Working Party would report back to Council with a preferred option to be considered by the 16 October 2013 meeting of Full Council. The Independent Remuneration Panel would be asked to make recommendations on a revised members' allowance scheme which would be considered at the Council meeting due to be held on 15 January 2014. It was anticipated that the final report be considered by Annual Council on 19 March 2014.

Members were advised that delegations to Cabinet Members would be removed with immediate effect, with the exception that the Leader could appoint the Cabinet members and determine their portfolios.

There was some discussion around the effectiveness of a Committee system and there was a proposal that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

Following debate the proposal to defer the item was put to the vote and was lost.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the Council move to a Committee form of governance as from the next Annual Meeting of the Council
- (b) THAT the next Annual Meeting of the Council be held on 19 March 2014, reverting back to May thereafter.
- (c) THAT a Constitution Working Party be established comprised of the Leaders of all the Groups on the Council (or their representatives) and the Liberal Democrat member, to work with officers to develop a range for options with recommendations on a preferred option to be considered by the full Council on 16 October 2013.
- (d) THAT the Chairman of the Working Party report back on progress to all Full Council Meetings in the same way as Cabinet Members currently did.
- (e) THAT the Council made it clear to the Working Party that the proposed Committees should be politically proportionate and therefore there was no need (in the new arrangements) for a separate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (f) THAT full Council received an interim report on 18 September and agreed the consultation process.
- (g) THAT full Council determined the preferred option on 16 October 2013.
- (h) THAT once a preferred option had been identified the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to consider that and make recommendations to the 15 January 2014 Council on a revised members' allowances scheme to accommodate the proposals.

- (i) THAT Council remove the delegation to individual Cabinet members with immediate effect. Except for the Leader to appoint the Cabinet members and determine their portfolios.
- (j) THAT the current constitution be amended so that it was stated that all members of the Council could attend the meetings of the Cabinet and would be invited to speak on any of the agenda items before a vote was taken.
- (k) THAT the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the constitution to reflect any agreed changes.

10. **Appointments and Constitutional Issues**

An updated copy of recommendations was circulated to all members, which included recommendations on proposed appointments.

There was some discussion around the Overview and Scrutiny Committee having reverse proportionality, the start time of meetings and whether the Regulatory Committee be changed so there was separate Planning and Licensing Committees.

A proposal was put to keep the Regulatory Committee in its current form. Following debate the proposal was put to the vote and was lost.

An amendment was proposed that the Constitution be changed so that all Committees had the power to determine their own start times and locations of meetings.

A vote was then taken on the amendment which was upheld.

Following a vote on the substantive motion it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Council approve the following:

- (a) THAT the Structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (with three panels), the Employment, Audit, Pension Fund and Appeals Committees remain as is, other than the terms of reference of the Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 1 (attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- (b) THAT the Regulatory Committee be changed so that there was a separate Planning Committee and Licensing Committee as set out in Appendix 2 and 3 (attached to and forming part of these minutes);
- (c) THAT the Constitution be changed so that all Committees had the power to determine their own start times and locations of meetings;

- (d) THAT the following be appointed as Chairmen (or Vice Chairman) of the detailed Committees/Panels:
- (i) Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Geoff Lumley
 - (ii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel - Cllr John Howe;
 - (iii) Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel - Cllr Paul Fuller;
 - (iv) Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel - Cllr Ivor Warlow;
 - (v) Audit Committee - Cllr Reg Barry;
 - (vi) Employment Committee - Cllr Bob Blezzard;
 - (vii) Planning Committee - Cllr Charles Chapman;
 - (viii) Planning Committee Vice Chairman - Cllr John Howe;
 - (ix) Licensing Committee - Cllr Colin Richards;
 - (x) Pension Fund Committee - Cllr Bob Blezzard;
 - (xi) Appeals Committee - Cllr Colin Richards;
- (e) THAT all interim Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for all the above be determined by the Council at its next meeting;
- (f) THAT the Scheme of Delegation be agreed as set out in Appendix 4(1) (2) and (3) (attached to and forming part of these minutes), which removed the delegations to individual cabinet members, other than the leader's ability to appoint the cabinet and determine their portfolios;
- (g) THAT the changes to the Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 5 (attached to and forming part of these minutes) be approved;
- (h) That the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority in consultation with a Designated Independent Person, to deal with requests for dispensation without the need for a meeting of the Appeals Sub Committee where that was deemed to be appropriate;
- (i) THAT Councillor Dave Stewart be appointed as the member to the Police and Crime Panel and Councillor Ray Bloomfield be appointed Deputy;
- (j) THAT the other outside bodies would be circulated for members to express interest and then if more interest than places available Council would decide the appointments;
- (k) THAT the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the constitution to reflect the above changes.

11. [Approving the process of the appointment of the Head of Paid Service](#)

It was recommended that this item be deferred to a future meeting of the Council to allow more time for a root and branch service review. It was suggested that the Head of Service role should remain with Mr D Burbage for the interim period.

RESOLVED :

THAT the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Council and that it be requested that Mr Burbage's contract be extended.

12. [To approve the following programme of ordinary Council meetings for the ensuing year](#)

The proposed dates for future Council meetings, as amended earlier in the meeting, were considered and following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT the following dates be approved:

Wednesday, 19 June 2013 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 17 July 2013 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 18 September 2013 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 16 October 2013 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 20 November 2013 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 15 January 2014 - (6.00 pm)

Wednesday, 26 February 2014 (**BUDGET COUNCIL**) (5.00 pm Start)

Wednesday, 19 March 2014 - (6.00 pm) - (**ANNUAL COUNCIL**)

CHAIRMAN