



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Ian Stephens (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, Dave Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Whittaker, David Williams
Apologies	Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Ivan Bulwer, Roger Dixcey, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles

65. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [23 February 2011](#) be confirmed.

66. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

67. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Mr Jenkins, on behalf of the Waterside Action Group, Ryde	The Cabinet Member's statement indicates the bidder is not in position to take over the Waterside pool.	The Cabinet Member indicated if the group concerned was able to meet all the obligations, including TUPE, then the Isle of Wight Council would be pleased to complete an agreement with the preferred bidder as soon as possible.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	A supplementary with regard to TUPE issues and the monies earmarked.	The Cabinet Member advised that TUPE was the transfer of undertaking regulation which could not come into action until there was an agreement to transfer an undertaking. The Council had allocated £100,000 to be used specifically to enable an attempt to progress the continuation of the Waterside Pool as an ongoing operation.
Mr Bob Blezzard, Sandown	What plans were in place to make Ethical Standards arrangements fit for purpose?	The Cabinet Member advised that the coalition government had set out changes to the ethical standards regime and the local authority would be looking at proposals in the localism bill, when those changes were made they would be implemented and the Isle of Wight Council would respond accordingly.
Ms Tanya Rebel	Cycle lane provision on the Isle of Wight, would there be maintenance as well as expansion of the cycle network on the Island?	The Cabinet Member advised there was provision in next year's highways maintenance programme budget for the maintenance of cycleways, as there was in the current year, it was an aspiration of the council to extend the cycle network.
Mr Simon Cook, Ryde	A supplementary - what prioritisation for cycling provision was to be taken in the future?  At the last cabinet meeting Councillor Pugh stated that the inside out programmes assertion that the road PFI would cost £11m per year was incorrect, what was the true cost over the next 25 years and did that include payments.	The Cabinet Member indicated the Island had one of the largest cycling networks in the country. It was the policy of the council to encourage cycling and do all possible to increase cycleways.  The Cabinet Member indicated the amount the council had to contribute depended on the final agreement with the Department of Transport. It would not be as much as £11m, more likely £8m which did include payments.

Name	Subject	Comment
	A supplementary regarding the current highways maintenance budget being approximately £8m per annum, is it that currently and has it been the same for the past five years.	The Cabinet Member indicated it was considerably more than that and that he would provide written details after the meeting.
Mr Stephen Goodman	PFI to generate £1bn for the Isle of Wight could that figure be justified.	The Cabinet Member indicated that over a 25 year period, jobs generated and general increase in money for economy for the Island did justify the figure.

68. **Chairman’s report, official announcements, communications and correspondence for the Council.**

The Chairman reported that he had visited Love Lane Primary School and watched their rehearsals for the Global Rock Challenge. He then had lunch with the children and invited them to visit County Hall.

The Chairman met with the Armed Forces Committee and was to give financial support through the Civic Office. He had also attended an award ceremony at TS Royal George, Ryde.

69. **Political Proportionality – Allocation of Seats**

Consideration was given to the allocation of two seats on committees to Councillor David Whittaker. Members believed it would be appropriate not to appoint at this time but to reconsider once Councillor Whittaker’s appeal had been concluded.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT this item be deferred until Councillor Whittaker’s appeal had been concluded.

70. **Cabinet**

**Reports of the Cabinet Members**

(i) **The Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and School Improvement**

A written report had been circulated for information. The Leader told members that he and the Chief Executive had visited Queensgate, he had also visited Godshill Primary School, and was due to visit Northwood Primary School on 17 March 2011. An invitation had been extended to Holy Cross to visit County Hall.

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Was it acceptable that a Cabinet Member did not have full information with regard to their brief?	The Leader indicated that the Cabinet Member was not expected to have details at his fingertips on highways expenditure for the past five years. A written response on those details would be provided.
Councillor Reg Barry	Why did the Pensions Committee meet on the same day as Planning Site Visits?	The Leader indicated it was an issue of scheduling which would be checked.
Councillor Chris Welsford	Did the Leader have an understanding of capital receipts coming from the sale of school properties?	The Leader advised he did and all capital receipts from any sites that were declared surplus to requirements for education were to be reinvested into services for Children and Young People. Multiple ownership of sites was also being looked at.
	A supplementary relating to reversionary leases being lost?	The Leader indicated that many leases went back decades, if lease arrangements to a particular site could not be found this did not mean that we could not clarify and regularise those arrangements in due course.
Councillor John Howe	The Leader indicated he was prepared to meet any councillor to discuss re-organisation of schools. Do you have concern for community schools on the Island?	The Leader indicated he was visiting Northwood Primary School the following day and requested from Cllr Howe clarification as to when he had tried to speak with him.

(ii) [The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy, Tourism, Leisure, Planning and Property](#)

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

A written question was put as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Wayne Whittle	Asked a question relating the Waterside Pool, Ryde.  A supplementary - the legal responsibilities existed in December and were the responsibility of this council, could there be an assurance this process would continue.	The Cabinet Member had provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 06/11</a> ) The Cabinet Member could not give an assurance that the council would be able to meet the terms that the other party was currently proposing.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Dave Stewart	Library services - asked for confirmation there would be flexibility within the developing approach by the council to enable groups to commence shadowing and training before the target date of 31 June?	The Cabinet Member confirmed he was keen to move as quickly as possible.
Councillor Chris Welsford	How could the delay in the handover be blamed on the action group when the council was not ready in relation to the TUPE arrangements?  Why didn't the council start the relevant TUPE procedure when it announced it would be handing over ownership of the Waterside Pool?	The Cabinet Member indicated the council was ready to conclude an agreement with the group as soon as terms could be agreed that enabled the council to meet its own obligations with respect to TUPE. The Cabinet Member advised that TUPE proceedings could not be started until there was a transfer undertaking which was agreed and put into action.
Councillor Geoff Lumley	At the last Cabinet meeting it was indicated that to keep all libraries open it would cost £262,000, it was understood there was a possibility of a legal challenge to some of the decisions made, therefore would it not be wise to spend that money now rather than to waste taxpayers money on	The Cabinet Member confirmed the council had received formal legal questions from solicitors acting on behalf of clients; work was being done to respond to those questions. The Cabinet member then read out the statement made by

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Reg Barry	legal challenge?  In view of what had been said with regard to the Waterside Action Group, would the Cabinet Member reconsider the amendment, as laid out in Appendix E, in the last council's minutes to allow more time for the action group to sort things out?	the Chief Executive on 15 March 2011. The Cabinet Member indicated the whole situation had been reconsidered. The plan was to continue operating the pool until 31 October 2011 which should allow the action group time to agree terms and allow the pool to continue.
Councillor Vanessa Churchman	Concerned that the council propose to shut Waterside pool by the end of October, would sound the death knell for the facility. Funding would be reduced by the end of October, what sort of money would be left for the group.  I understood £100,000 was to be given to the Waterside Pool, could council manoeuvre round that money and spend it themselves	The Cabinet member indicated that was an incorrect assumption. Aiming to reach an agreement on the continuation of the Waterside Pool, he was unable to forecast how much would be spent. The Cabinet member indicated £100,000 was allocated in order for the council to continue the programme of transferring control of the pool to another party, there was no suggestion that was money to be handed over, it was money to be used for the continuation of the transfer to an outside party.

(iii) [Cabinet Member for Major Projects, Performance and Customer Services](#)

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Asked a question relating to moving the One Island publication to quarterly. At a meeting of the council last year he had proposed a bi-monthly publication	The Cabinet Member advised that he believed it would be right to move to four editions per annum.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	A supplementary - why oppose a move to bi-monthly production so intractably and now you want to move to a quarterly publication, was it not a waste of time?	The Cabinet member advised he had taken into account views and came to a conclusion of the best thing to do, he made a decision and believed it was a good decision.
Councillor Chris Welsford	What was the size of the loan and the amount of annual interest for the transformation project for County Hall? A supplementary relating to savings of £195,000 per annum or £4.8m in total over 25 years of the project upon which decision was based?	The Cabinet Member would respond in writing. The Cabinet Member advised he would look into the issue and provide a written response.
Councillor Vanessa Churchman	Part of the transformation savings were based on capital receipts, thought money coming in on the sale of buildings could not be ring-fenced.	The Cabinet Member indicated that the transformation would require funding from capital receipts, there was no obligation to ring-fence to a particular service area and as the transformation programme covered the whole council it was prudent to use capital receipts.
Councillor Wayne Whittle	Did you read and examine the figures in detail in relation to the transformation.	The Cabinet Member indicated that a Transformation Delivery Board had been set up and met on a monthly basis to go through figures in detail. A Steering Group had also been formed.
	A supplementary - It appeared that £97,660 had been credited instead of debited per annum.	The Cabinet Member asked that that information be passed to him.
Councillor David Pugh	Did the Cabinet Member welcome the support from the Independent Group for the County Hall Transformation Programme in the budget they had presented at the February Council meeting.	The Cabinet Member indicated he did welcome that support.
Councillor Vanessa Churchman	How much was spent on highways in the last five	The Cabinet Member advised members that

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b> years?	<b>Comment</b>
		Councillor Giles would provide a written response.

(iv) **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Asked if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be a bit more outward looking, and look at the priorities of Island people.	The Chairman indicated he was working on that.

(v) **Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Housing**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor John Howe	Asked a question relating to reports of the elderly in hospital having problems with meals and not being fed properly.	The Cabinet Member indicated that he did not have direct responsibility for the NHS.
Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox	Were the 240 affordable housing units at Pan Meadows for Medina Housing Association? A supplementary - how was the council assisting with Houses in Multiple Occupation?	The Cabinet Member confirmed that was the case. The Cabinet Member advised that the council was giving advice.
Councillor Chris Welsford	How many day care centres for the mentally ill and those with learning disabilities have actually been closed and how many are proposed for closure?	The Cabinet Member indicated he would provide a written answer.



(vi) **Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor John Howe	Asked a question relating youngsters being refused entry to St George's as there was not enough room.	The Cabinet Member indicated she was happy to meet with Cllr Howe to discuss.
Councillor Chris Welsford	Attended the seminar on sexual health what reassurance was there that the work would continue? A supplementary - were members of that team under threat of redundancy?	The Cabinet Member was happy to give reassurance and ensure updates were provided. The Cabinet Member indicated it was not for her to comment. The Chief Executive advised that the sexual health team was funded by the PCT.

(vii) **Cabinet Member for the Environment, Transport and Corporate Services**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. Councillor Giles advised members that confirmation had been received from the Department of Transport that in order to support local councils and communities, specifically in the development of local transport services, £10m had been allocated in transitional revenue budget for 2010/11. The Isle of Wight had been allocated £48,002 to help community bus initiatives to develop. In addition, to help councils make the best use of that money, the Department had formed a partnership with the Community Transport Association's Consultancy Group to provide every rural local authority with consultancy time to the value of £2,600 to advise on practical ways to get value for money from Community Transport, which could buy approximately six days of consultancy time.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Chris Welsford	Asked if cycleways were originally included in the highways PFI and were they still included?  A supplementary - if cycleways were no longer included was there a budget to maintain them?	The Cabinet Member advised that under the original proposals they were included but were no longer. The Cabinet Member indicated there was money in the budget for maintenance of cycleways.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor John Howe	Was the maintenance of line marking on Island roads to be continued as they seemed to be disappearing?	The Cabinet Member advised there was regular inspections, and asked if councillors knew of areas where the lines had disappeared to advise him.
Councillor Colin Richards	There was an average of 26 claims by motorists this winter related to pothole damage, what percentage was settled in favour of the claimant?	The Cabinet Member indicated he would provide a written response.

(viii) **Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety** ([Recording 1](#) and [2](#))

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Asked a question relating to community safety with regard to the Isle of Wight Festival if numbers were increased to 90,000.	The Cabinet Member indicated that a full consultation process would take place once the licence application had been submitted.
Councillor Dawn Cousins	Asked if the consultation process for the event could be clarified?	
Councillor Geoff Lumley	A supplementary – In 2008 Mr Giddens made a commitment not to increase numbers.	The Cabinet Member indicated it would be subject to the licence.
Councillor Dawn Cousins	Asked that information was made available on the Council's web site and was easily available.	The Cabinet Member advised he would speak with the Licensing Section.
Councillor Roger Mazillius	Whilst recognising the additional pressures, it was a marvellous reflection that the organiser wanted to increase numbers to 90,000.	The Cabinet Member agreed and believed it was a great showcase for local groups.
Councillor Julie Jones-Evans	How did residents bring forward the Probation pay back scheme?	The Cabinet Member advised it was through the Community Safety Team.
Councillor Margaret Webster	Would Councillor Giles work closely with the local member with regard to traffic management through East Cowes during the festival period?	The Cabinet Member indicated that a tighter management plan would be needed if the numbers increased.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Dave Stewart	The Festival was only three months away, why hadn't the licensing application been submitted?	The Cabinet Member indicated the applicant had been asked for an application on numerous occasions, but to date none had been forthcoming. Upon receipt of an application there would be a 28 day consultation period; if any representations were received a hearing would need to be held within 20 working days after the end of that consultation period.

CHAIRMAN