



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Charles Chapman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith and Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Ivor Warlow, Shirley Smart and Chris Whitehouse

34. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016 be confirmed, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 47 should read that Cllr Stewart declared that he had a business consultancy with clients on the Isle of Wight and elsewhere in the UK.

Page A14, reports to the Executive Member, Cllr Hollis asked whether the Executive Member appreciated the importance of the Marine industry in the Medina Valley.

Concerns were raised by Cllr Stewart and Cllr Hollis that insufficient detail was provided in previous Full Council minutes around answers to questions for reports to Executive Members.

35. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Fuller declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8c, Motion on the Transfer of Public Toilets to Local Town and Parish Councils, as his wife was an employee of Top Mops who cleaned some of the facilities.

Cllr Whittle declared a pecuniary interest in item 7, The Future of Island Line - Options Report, as he was a local business trader in Ryde and would leave the chamber for the duration of the debate and vote.

Cllr Perks declared a personal interest as he was a local business trader in Ventnor.

Cllr Lumley declared a personal interest in agenda item 7, The Future of Island Line - Options Report, as he was a member of the Isle of Wight Residents Bus Users Group.

36. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Ms Diana Conyers	Requested more information on the financial implications of a devolution deal for the Solent region.	The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 03/16).
Ms Michelle Abbot	Asked whether members were aware of how damaging it would be to close the public toilets on Lake revetment.	The Leader advised that he was conscious of the importance of public toilet provision and appreciated that a substantial number of names had been recorded in a petition against the closure of the Lake revetment toilets. He advised for Ms Abbot to speak with the local member about a potential route to addressing the issue.
Mr Mark Chiverton	Asked a question regarding whether the council was aware of the growing concern around the implications of the decision to cease funding for road crossing patrols and whether the Local Authority had undertaken a detailed risk	The Leader indicated that there was a process of discussion and advice with and to schools which involved an identification of risk calculated on a set scale and that there was a significant time period before a decision would

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Mark Chiverton	assessment. Asked a supplementary question regarding why the decision to cut the road crossing patrol service was immediately taken as the road crossing patrol service was popular for retention in the online budget simulator for the public this year prior to the setting of the council budget.	take effect. The risk assessment process was going through as an integral part of the process. The Leader advised that he would be happy to meet and discuss the issue and would also provide a written response.

37. [Chairman's Report](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

38. [Pay Policy](#)

The Leader of the Council presented a report which contained further proposed amendments to the council's current pay policy, previously approved by Full Council at its meeting of 1 April 2015, for the forthcoming period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Recommendations within the report had been agreed by the Employment Committee and recommended for adoption by all members of Full Council.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (35)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith, Wayne Whittle

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Employment Committee's recommendation for the adoption of the updated pay policy statement for 2016/17 be agreed

39. [Devolution Deals with Government and the Development of Combined Authorities](#)

The Leader of the Council presented a report which advised on the current status of the combined local devolution deal for the Isle of Wight and Hampshire area.

Members were advised that the situation around the local deal had been subjected to many changes over the previous weeks. Following this and after much discussion with the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, senior ministers had announced that a period of three months consultation was needed before an announcement on any final decision was made.

An amended set of recommendations was tabled by the leader which sought the endorsement from all members of the Full Council decision made at the council meeting of 2 September 2015, as well as seeking the fullest possible consultation with the Isle of Wight community on any devolution deal document that the council was considering accepting.

Following discussions on how any future deal would affect the Island and its residents, it was suggested that the amendment should also include the consideration of a referendum of Island residents in order to ensure their involvement and secure support. The leader agreed to amend his proposal to include the suggested amendment of 'including consideration of a referendum'.

It was suggested that a report on the feasibility of a referendum would need to be taken to the next meeting of Executive as it posed a cost implication to the authority.

Members were also reminded of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 in which government reserved significant powers to introduce any changes to the local government landscape where there were perceived barriers to public service transformation in a particular area.

Following further discussion, a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (33)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks,

Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely,
Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward,
Roger Whitby-Smith, Wayne Whittle

Against (1)

Councillor Geoff Lumley

Abstention (1)

Councillor Alan Hollands

RESOLVED:

- I. THAT the decision of Full Council made on 2 September 2015 be endorsed.
- II. THAT the fullest possible consultation with the Isle of Wight community, including consideration of a referendum on any devolution deal document that the council is considering accepting, be agreed.

40. [The Future of Island Line – Options Report](#)

The Leader of the Council presented a report on behalf of the Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage which provided options to members on the future of the Island's train service operating between Ryde Pier Head and Shanklin, following the motion raised at Full Council on 2 September 2015 and the recently commissioned Garnett report which was a review of the future of the service.

Members were presented with the following amendment to the recommendations of the report by Cllr Bloomfield which was duly seconded:

THAT, in considering the Options Report by Christopher Garnett into the future of Island Line, Council

- (i) Thanks Mr Garnett for his work in consulting with stakeholders, considering options and preparing his report.
- (ii) Also notes and welcomes the technical response to the report submitted by St Helens resident Mark Brinton, a practising railway engineer with over forty years of experience (including in relation to Island Line).
- (iii) Whilst welcoming some of Mr Garnett's analysis, disagrees with his conclusion that there does not appear to be any clear logical arguments for Island Line being part of a wider franchise.

- (iv) Instead reaffirms the view set out in its September 2015 resolution to support Island Line remaining as a fully integral part of the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period.
- (v) Agrees to submit a copy of Mr Brinton's report to the DfT as a late representation to the consultation process and asks Ministers and the Rail Executive to take its content into account in preparing the Invitation To Tender (ITT) – to ensure that the franchise specification invites bidders to set out how they would invest in, maintain and improve the service throughout this time, including looking at different operational models (such as those set out in the reports prepared by Mr Garnett and Mr Brinton).
- (vi) Agrees to ask the DfT to ensure that within the next franchise specification there is an explicit obligation on the franchisee to work proactively with the ferry operators to ensure connectivity between services including taking due account of late running services including delaying rail departures as necessary.

The amendment was then debated and put to a named vote, the result of which was as follows:

For (18)

Councillors Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward

Against (14)

Councillors Lora Peacey Wilcox, Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker Smith, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, John Howe, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, John Medland, Colin Richards, Ian Stephens, Steve Stubbings, Luisa Hillard, Roger Whitby Smith

Abstention (1)

Councillor Stuart Hutchinson

The amendment stood and councillors then took a named vote on the substantive recommendation.

For (21)

Councillors Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans,

Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward

Against (0)

Abstention (11)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, John Howe, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Luisa Hillard, John Medland, Colin Richards, Ian Stephens, Steve Stubbings, Roger Whitby Smith

RESOLVED :

THAT Council agrees to the following:

- i. Thanks Mr Garnett for his work in consulting with stakeholders, considering options and preparing his report.
- ii. Also notes and welcomes the technical response to the report submitted by St Helens resident Mark Brinton, a practising railway engineer with over forty years of experience (including in relation to Island Line).
- iii. Whilst welcoming some of Mr Garnett's analysis, disagrees with his conclusion that there does not appear to be any clear logical arguments for Island Line being part of a wider franchise.
- iv. Instead reaffirms the view set out in its September 2015 resolution to support Island Line remaining as a fully integral part of the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period.
- v. Agrees to submit a copy of Mr Brinton's report to the DfT as a late representation to the consultation process and asks Ministers and the Rail Executive to take its content into account in preparing the Invitation To Tender (ITT) – to ensure that the franchise specification invites bidders to set out how they would invest in, maintain and improve the service throughout this time, including looking at different operational models (such as those set out in the reports prepared by Mr Garnett and Mr Brinton).
- vi. Agrees to ask the DfT to ensure that within the next franchise specification there is an explicit obligation on the franchisee to work proactively with the ferry operators to ensure connectivity between services including taking due account of late running services including delaying rail departures as necessary.

41. Reports of the Executive Members

(i) [The Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Organisational Change and Children's Services](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Hollis	<p>A question was asked around chain ferry advertisements and how much extra revenue had been generated.</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked regarding whether it was the policy of the ruling group to ignore the situation regarding the income and employment generator in the Medina Valley, when the Executive or local members would highlight the blight suffered by marine industries in Cowes either vocally or in writing, why a number of those industries required deep water access, and whether the Leader noticed at the recent green energy conference that Sustainable Marine Energy Ltd were not invited.</p> <p>A supplementary question was asked around the fact that having meetings was not expressing voluble, vocal or written support.</p>	<p>A written response would be provided.</p> <p>The Leader advised that it was not the policy of the ruling group to ignore the situation, and the Executive had held meetings with local businesses to ensure engagement. He advised that the reason for deep water access was obvious, and the lack of invitation was a matter for the Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>The Leader advised that it was dependent on the content of the meetings.</p>
Cllr Jones-Evans	<p>A question was asked regarding whether a briefing had been arranged in relation to the children's survey 2015.</p>	<p>A written response would be provided.</p>
Cllr Stewart	<p>A question was asked regarding whether the Leader would agree that A-Level results remained at a very low level of 4%.</p>	<p>The Leader agreed and expressed that there was room for improvement.</p>

(ii) **The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Integration**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Deputy Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones- Evans	A question was asked around whether an update could be provided on the service delivery at Westminster House. A supplementary question was asked requesting more detail.	The Deputy Leader advised that discussions were ongoing in relation to the matter. The Deputy Leader advised that due to the sensitive nature of the issue, he was not prepared to give any further details at that time.
Cllr Stewart	A question was asked requesting confirmation that the Deputy Leader supported the purchase of the DPS system for Adult Social Care on the 27 May 2015 at a cost of some £950,000.	The Deputy Leader advised that he supported the purchase.

(iii) **Executive Member Environment (Sustainability) and Local Engagement**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	A question was asked around progression on the purchase and provision of solar panels for County Hall.	The Executive Member would provide a written response.

(iv) **Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Lumley	A question was asked requesting more information about when the parking strategy and policy would be put together.	The Executive Member advised that the strategy was in the process of being developed and an exact date could not be provided as work was ongoing.
	A supplementary question was asked as to whether the Executive Member would accept assistance in putting the strategy and policy together.	The Executive Member welcomed collaborative working with members.
Cllr Bloomfield	A question was asked as to whether the closure of the Lake revetment toilets would result in a public health problem.	The Executive Member admitted that it would be an inconvenience.
Cllr Stewart	A question was asked regarding whether the Executive Member would join Cllr Stewart in congratulating the Police and Crime Commissioner on the appointment of a new Chief Constable for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and whether he could extend an invitation to her to visit the Island and meet members.	The Executive Member was very pleased and advised that an offer of a visit had already been made. An update would be provided following confirmation of arrangements.
Cllr Lumley	Whilst not directed to the Executive Member, a question was asked of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman as to whether he could report back to members on the Hampshire Police and Crime Scrutiny Panel.	The Scrutiny Committee Chairman advised that he would be happy to update members on information discussed by the Panel and would prepare a report for the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.
Cllr Evans	Jones- A question was asked around the creation of the Isle of Wight Festival traffic management plan and whether the provision would exist in future years due to ongoing budget pressures.	The Executive Member advised that he would talk to Cllr Jones-Evans about the matter following the meeting.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Hollis	A question was asked around whether the Executive Member should thank the previous administration for the implementation of the Highways PFI contract.	The Executive Member advised that although the contract had brought some money to the Island in terms of the Island's roads, there were still problems around trying to resolve contractual issues.
Cllr Whittle	A question was asked regarding the Council's policy on safe school parking and whether it needed to be revisited.	The Executive Member advised that this would be looked at as safe parking around schools was essential.

(v) **Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Leader of the Council who was responding on behalf of the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	A question was asked regarding whether any progress reports had been received following the meeting in relation to Ventnor Haven and also whether any action had yet been taken to address the underperformance and delays in the broadband project.	A written response would be provided.

(vi) **Executive Member for Planning and Housing**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones- Evans	A question was asked regarding how the Executive Member proposed to engage with the business community, particularly those with	The Executive Member advised that there was a regular developer's forum through the Chamber of Commerce which she would be attending. Any

Name	Subject	Comment
	schemes regarding economic generation.	suggestions regarding how to ensure better and further engagement with the business community would be welcomed.
Cllr Fuller	A question was asked as to whether the Executive Member was aware that meetings used to take place with the Federation of Small Businesses and whether those would continue in light of her new role as Executive Member.	The Executive Member advised that she was not aware of such meetings but would be happy to liaise with the Federation of Small Businesses to ensure their continuation.
Cllr Blezzard	A question was asked regarding when members could expect to receive the report following the peer review.	The Executive Member informed that the report was being drafted and the procedure needed to be checked to decipher the appropriate committee for the report to be brought to.
Cllr Stewart	A question was asked requesting an update on the Executive Member's engagement with residents and other interested parties around concerns raised in relation to the forthcoming planning application by Red Funnel at East Cowes.	The Executive Member advised that she had met with East Cowes businesses and discussed their concerns. She would continue to liaise with them on matters such as the issue surrounding extant permission and the loss of employment permitted through that.
Cllr Whittle	A question was raised regarding whether the Executive Member was in charge of the enforcement of planning applications, as there was a landslide at Robin Hill and concerns were raised over why Planning Services had allowed this and whether it was being investigated.	The Executive Member would provide a written response.

(vii) [Executive Member for Regeneration, Economic Sustainability and Development](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones- Evans	A question was asked regarding who the members of the Economic Development Board were and whether there were minutes from the meetings which were publicly available.	The Executive Member advised that the Board comprised of the Isle of Wight College, Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce and the Isle of Wight Council, and any minutes would be available after they had been agreed as a proper and accurate record.
Cllr Pitcher	A supplementary question was asked as to whether there was a section on the council's website in which the minutes could be viewed. A question was asked regarding the policy in relation to responding to requests for information from members.	The Executive Member advised that if there was not an area on the website to view the minutes of Board meetings, it would be arranged. The Executive Member advised that if he had missed a request from a member, it would be assumed that the member would resubmit the request in order to receive an answer.
Cllr Stewart	A supplementary question was asked around when the Executive Member would keep Cllr Perks informed in relation to developments regarding the car park at Ventnor industrial estate which was originally agreed to at the last Executive meeting. A question was asked regarding whether a list of the council's strategic assets had been produced and whether Cllr Stewart could obtain a copy.	The Executive Member apologised that he had not been in touch but advised that the issue was mentioned at a recent scrutiny panel meeting in which Cllr Perks was in attendance. The Executive Member explained that the client had put forward a new application which was still being worked upon and that was the reason for the lack of information at that time. The Executive Member advised that there was an area of the council's website which referred to assets, but assurance could not be given that an updated list was available.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Fuller	A question was asked as to whether the Executive Member agreed that discussions with businesses along the River Medina were ongoing and whether it could be confirmed that he would be taking a positive lead in future discussions.	The Executive Member advised that discussions were ongoing and that he was working alongside stakeholders in the Medina Valley to create policies for opportunities such as employment.

42. **Report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

A written report had been circulated for information. Members were informed that Cllr Stewart had taken the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee to the Executive and answered questions. Members were advised that he would chair the next Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on Cllr Priest's behalf.

Oral questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones- Evans	A question was asked requesting clarity on whether £4m savings on discretionary services as referred to in the Scrutiny Committee's upcoming workplan had already been achieved or whether it was going to be considered.	The Chairman explained that his understanding was that the item was within the original budget list and that he would question whether the items within the previous budget papers could realistically be saved.
Cllr Stubbings	A question was asked as to whether the Chairman agreed that if a scrutiny review had been undertaken on Children's Services under the previous administration, the situation of being under a ministerial directive could have been avoided.	The Chairman advised that he agreed with Cllr Stubbings; actions could have been taken to ensure a better transition to a two-tier education system but that the council should learn from the experience.

43. **Procedure Rule 26**

A proposal to extend the meeting by up to thirty minutes was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED :

THAT the meeting be extended by up to thirty minutes.

44. **Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution**

(a) **By Councillor Dave Stewart**

Prior to discussion, Councillor Dave Stewart withdrew his motion.

(b) **By Councillor Geoff Lumley**

"Council believes that mental health should be given equal priority with physical health.

Council resolves to:

1. support 'Time to Change' - the mental health anti-stigma campaign;
2. request our Health and Wellbeing Board to explore the adoption of the Time to Change pledge, better workplace practices, and encourage others to do so as well."

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (35)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Charles Chapman, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith, Wayne Whittle

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

(c) **By Councillor Bob Blezzard**

The Isle of Wight Council takes the view that the current transfer of public convenience provision to town and parish councils should be made as simple and easy as possible and therefore resolves that wherever possible the freehold ownership of public convenience sites currently held by the Isle of Wight Council should be transferred to the relevant town and parish councils without any strings or conditions attached where the town or parish council has agreed to take over the financing and management of the facility.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (26)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Gordon Kendall, John Medland, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Roger Whitby-Smith

Against (6)

Councillors Reg Barry, John Howe, Geoff Lumley, Phil Jordan, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens

Abstention (1)

Councillor Luisa Hillard

(d) **[By Councillor Daryll Pitcher](#)**

Council agrees that a referendum of Islanders will be held on any agreed or imposed devolution deal with Hampshire local authorities, once the details are known - particularly the financial redistribution and governance elements.

The Monitoring Officer advised that as this item would have the effect of materially increasing the expenditure upon a service, the motion would stand adjourned without discussion until the next ordinary meeting of the Council, and the Executive would consider whether it desired to report thereon back to the Full Council.

CHAIRMAN