



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs David Williams (Vice Chairman in the Chair), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, George Brown, George Cameron, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Whittaker, William Wyatt-Millington
Apologies	Cllrs Peter Bingham, Ivan Bulwer, Vanessa Churchman, Roger Dixcey, Heather Humby, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles, Ian Stephens, Chris Welsford

---

9. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [19 May 2010](#) be confirmed.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Arthur Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 14 – Motion submitted by Cllr Lumley – as his daughter worked at Westminster house. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

11. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ms Wendy Wardrop, Cowes <a href="#">(PQ 22/10)</a>	Why has the council not appointed a trustee to Northwood House?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ms Ginnie Gledhill, Cowes ( <a href="#">PQ 24/10</a> )	Why is the Isle of Wight Council planning to remove a number of unique original paintings by a local artist from the walls of Northwood House?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.
Ms Liz Mackenzie, Cowes ( <a href="#">PQ 25/10</a> )	How the future of a charitable trust such as Northwood House, could be dealt with by an officer under delegated powers when consultation was at an advanced stage between all the Trustees and Cowes Town Council?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.
Margaret Ankers, Cowes ( <a href="#">PQ 26/10</a> )	How can it be in interest of the charitable trust or the council as a trustee, to withdraw from Northwood House given that the deficit funding for the last fiscal year was only £4,970?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.
Mrs Sue Weaver, ( <a href="#">PQ 27/10</a> )	The impact of the Council's threat to decline to maintain facilities at Northwood House and Park?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.
Jan Lewis, Whitwell ( <a href="#">PQ 28/10</a> )	Can I be assured that IWC has acted properly in all matters relating to the Trust monies and how should I go about finding information relating to all income and expenditure?	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Miss A Stephens, Cowes ( <a href="#">PQ 29/10</a> )	What actions will the Isle of Wight Council take to rectify and honour the commitments made to ensure Northwood House does not fall into disrepair.	The Cabinet member provided one comprehensive response to all the written questions which were asked on this subject which was to be made available on the Public Questions Register and on the Council's web site.
Mr David Miller, Cowes ( <a href="#">PQ 21/10</a> )	Places for displaced pupils when their current schools were closing, the first edition of School Report alludes to an admissions round for current Year 5 and 6 children (Years 7 and 8 in September 2011). Could the intent and scope of this be clarified including the funding of travel for pupils travelling over three miles to their secondary school, as notified in Statutory Notices?	The Cabinet Member advised that the arrangements for 2011-12 Secondary Admissions were as stated in the published Statutory notices.
Mr S Owen, Wroxall ( <a href="#">PQ 23/10</a> )	How did Social Services reach their current figures and how were providers supposed to fund day activities when their budgets had been drastically cut and day centre's were now not accessible?	The Cabinet Member advised that the Council remained committed to providing services to the most vulnerable in the community but those services must be aligned to need and ensure the most judicious use of the resources (Council tax funded) that the council had available to it. It is for this reason that the Council has had to review very carefully the way in which resources are allocated to all providers including those for learning disabilities.
	A supplementary question - Can the Local Authority explain why there has been no formal consultation with myself and my daughter about her future placement at Medina?	The Cabinet member advised that in terms of Day Care Provision a representative from the Local Authority was visiting all residential providers to ensure that all homes had suitable activities plan in

Name	Subject	Comment
		place for residents and although not all of those visits had not been completed yet there were no major issues identified and the majority of providers were working very positively with the Local Authority to ensure the continued wellbeing of the service users.

12. **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been circulated for information.

13. **Report from the Council's Returning Officer**

The vacant Ryde South seat of the Isle of Wight Council had been filled by Gary Taylor of the Conservative Party following a by-election held on 27 May 2010. The Vice Chairman welcomed Cllr Gary Taylor to his first Full Council meeting.

14. **Motion Submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution**

(Councillor Arthur Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room.)

In accordance with Procedure Rule 10, the following motion was moved by Councillor Geoff Lumley.

Now that the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government has committed to reducing government carbon emissions by 10% within the next year, the Isle of Wight Council now agrees to do similar, with consequent savings (advised in February 2010 as up to £410k in a full year) to be channelled into retaining the Westminster House care facility (£215k per annum) and lessening the first year grant cutbacks to independent providers working with vulnerable people as personal budgets are phased in.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport advised members that the Council was committed to reducing carbon emissions, there was an anticipated £12.3m saving from the Council's transformation programme over the next three years and that this sum included savings arising from energy and carbon footprint reduction initiatives.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the motion be rejected.

15. **The Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10**

The Leader introduced the Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report and the Chairman of the Ethical Standards Committee provided additional background information. He indicated he was disappointed with the point scoring and the time for the complaints that had recently been received. He reported on the slight error within the report which would be corrected prior to its circulation.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report be noted.

16. **Petition Scheme and other Constitutional Amendments**

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 required every local authority to adopt a Petition Scheme which would set out how it would handle petitions. The changes came into effect on 15 June 2010.

Petition signatories would not be limited to those on the electoral roll, they could be signed by anyone who lived, worked or studied in the local authority area. Petitions with 2,500 or more signatures would trigger a debate at Full Council or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was also noted that an e-petition scheme was in the process of being developed and would be ready to implement by the deadline of 15 December 2010.

Members asked how many petitions of 2,500 or above, had been received over the last five years? The Leader indicated that he had no recollection of any with that number of signatories since 2005.

The Leader advised members that as Island public sector partner organisations were moving toward integrated working, there was a need for flexibility in the Council's constitutional arrangements for the establishment of committees which dealt with the appointment of officers at Head of Service level and above.

The Council was currently recruiting a Head of Service post which was jointly funded by the Isle of Wight NHS PCT. Therefore a change to the Employment Committee terms of reference was necessary to allow health partners, and other potential future partners, an equal role in the recruitment decision making process.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the petition scheme be approved and the following amendments be made to the Constitution:
- Article 4 – The Full Council: Paragraph 5 (Petitions - page 29) to be revised to read “As described in the Petition Scheme (see page...) petitions can be presented to meetings of Full Council and those containing 2,500 or more signatures will be debated by Full Council.”

- Article 5 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee (page 31): New responsibility “(8) To consider evidence from directors, heads of service or their nominated representative in respect of petitions containing 2,500 or more signatures as described in the Petition Scheme (see page ...).”
  - Procedure rule no. 1 – Cabinet, Committees and Scrutiny Panel meetings - paragraph 2 (p.93): New item “(e) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider evidence from directors, heads of service or their nominated representative in respect of petitions containing 2,500 or more signatures as described in the Petition Scheme (see page ...).”
  - Inclusion of the Petition Scheme at the end of the Constitution subject to minor amendments to clarify that the petition scheme related to petitions with 2,500 or more signatories.
- (ii) THAT the proposed amendment to the employment committee’s terms of reference be approved, to include:

In the event of a post at head of service level or above being determined as a jointly funded post between the Council and a partner organisation to agree to the recruitment and, where agreement is given, the committee can agree the make up of the sub committee which may include partners from other organisations.

## 17. Cabinet

### Reports of the Cabinet Members

- (i) [The Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor William Wyatt-Millington ( <a href="#"><u>MQ 13/10</u></a> )	At a recent meeting of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel three questions were asked, one of which was answered immediately. I understood written answers would be sent to me within two weeks, to date no answers had been received, was that acceptable?	The Cabinet Member would provide a full written response.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Reg Barry	When did Council decided to censor member annual reports.	The Cabinet Member advised that members' annual reports do not contain any political content, as they are being placed, using council resources, on the Council's web site.
Councillor Geoff Lumley	School improvement, can you give an assurance that years 6, 7 and 8 in the next school year, will get the full breadth of curriculum delivered.	The next academic year 2010/11 would be a crucial transition year. There would be some issues in relation to reduced staffing. Determined to ensure that full access to the curriculum will be delivered.
Councillor John Howe	I asked a question at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel and it took six weeks to get a response. If a member has a question on school re-organisation can we be assured of responses within a reasonable timescale?	The Cabinet Member advised that if he was copied in to any questions he would raise them in his regular discussions with offices.
Councillor Paul Fuller	What steps were being taken to ensure school travel plans would be considered when schools were allowed to expand in the future?	The Cabinet Member indicated that each school was required to have a travel plan and needed to present them to the local authority. There was no statutory requirement for a school travel plan to be formally approved prior to their expansion.

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

A written report had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor William Wyatt-Millington ( <a href="#">MQ 14/10</a> )	How do we, as a council, ensure that delegated planning decisions taken by officers are seen as being transparent by the public?	The Cabinet Member indicated that the delegated process worked on the basis that all recommendations were fully scrutinised by experienced officers prior to delegated decisions being taken by officers, or prior to referral to the local member. A copy of the justification report accompanied the request to the local member as part of the referral process.
Councillor Colin Richards	The number of enquiries relating to planning is there sufficient funds diverted to the planning service to allow them to give an even better service.	The Cabinet Member indicated that a great deal of effort had gone into improving the efficiency in the planning service.

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

A written report had been circulated for information.

(iv) [Cabinet Member for Resources](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Paul Fuller ( <a href="#">MQ 12/10</a> )	How, when and by whom was the decision made to withdraw from Northwood House, where were the minutes of the meeting at which that decision was made and how could elected members of this authority obtain minutes of such meetings?	The Cabinet member provided a comprehensive response which was available on the Members' Questions Register and on the Council's web site.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	A supplementary question by what process could both members of this authority and the wider community hold such decisions to account?	The Cabinet Member believed that by asking your questions the authority was being held to account.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Colin Richards	Could the Council be reassured that before Northwood House was finally vacated that any property belonging to the Isle of Wight Council would be removed.	The Cabinet member assured him this would be done.

(v) **[Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)**

A written report had been circulated for information.

(vi) **[Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Housing](#)**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Chris Welsford ( <a href="#">MQ 17/10</a> )	Could the Cabinet Member please explain why the Women's Refuge was not a vital service and why it deserved to be treated in this way?	The Cabinet Member advised that the current Provider, the Island Women's Refuge, had been offered an extension of contract, until 31 March 2011 which they had accepted. We believe the contract sum offered (£54,797.34) was sufficient to provide housing related support to clients in the refuge.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Asked if a copy of the written response relating to the question raised by Cllr Welsford could be circulated to all members of the council.	The Cabinet member agreed to do this.

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

A written report had been circulated for information.

An oral question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor John Howe	Indicated he had been appointed to the Adoption Panel, but to date had not received any training.	The Cabinet member advised him that training had been arranged and would take place on 30 June and she would ensure that he would get all the information.

(viii) **Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport**

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor William Wyatt-Millington ( <a href="#">MQ 15/10</a> )	I understand that the decision on the Ventnor-Niton Options Report will be a delegated decision. Can I be re-assured that the traffic lights for Whitwell and Niton, proposed in the report by the consultants and condemned by a packed public meeting in Niton Village Hall, will not be implemented as part of the final scheme?	The Cabinet Member indicated that the delegated decision report would take into account views expressed through the public consultation process. He understood the strength of feeling with regards to the proposed traffic lights.
Councillor Chris Welsford ( <a href="#">MQ 16/10</a> )	Can the Cabinet Member please explain to members what he intends to do to allay fears that we face the loss of these both the Ryde Inshore Rescue and Sandown & Shanklin Inshore Rescue Independent lifeboats if the lifeguard services currently provided by Isle of Wight Council are taken over by the RNLI.	The Cabinet Member indicated that the lifeguards were directly employed and managed by the Council at an annual cost of over £100,000. The provision of the service was discretionary but considered essential to ensure the safety of beach users.
	Would the Cabinet Member please explain to members what stage negotiations have reached with the RNLI and	The cost of this service was significant and consideration was being given as to whether there

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	<p>what time scales we are looking at for any decision on this matter?</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member understand that if Sandown &amp; Shanklin Independent Lifeboat is lost, the area between Shanklin and St Catherine's Point will suffer an unacceptable and potentially life threatening reduction in lifeboat response times.</p>	<p>was a more cost effective way in which the service could be provided. This might be through a competitive tendering or commissioning exercise. The RNLI has made approaches to the Council for consideration as a provider of this service and informal discussions had taken place with Council officers.</p> <p>No decision has been taken to transfer these services to the RNLI and confirmed that some form of competitive process would be necessary to demonstrate best value in the arrangements for the Council to do so.</p>

Oral questions were asked of the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Ian Ward	If services were outsourced to the RNLI could you ensure their fundraising activities were curtailed to the areas not operated by the Inshore Rescue service?	The Cabinet member indicated that consultation would be held with all interested parties which would include the various inshore rescue services around the Island.
Councillor Colin Richards	At the Council meeting in March a public consultation was promised on the Military Road, when would this be held?	The Cabinet Member advised that a meeting had been arranged the following day with the Association of Town and Parish Councils. It was anticipated it would be brought back to Cabinet in September 2010.
Councillor Margaret Webster	Could an assurance be given that a tender for a local bus service in East Cowes be included in the tenders for non commercial bus services.	The Cabinet Member indicated that would be the case.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Rodney Downer	Why were the lights being left on in the public conveniences in Wroxall, was it possible to turn them off thereby making a saving.	The Cabinet Member indicated he would look into the suggestion.
Councillor Stuart Dyer	How was the review for the new parking charges going and would council be informed of the outcome?	The Cabinet Member indicated that the review was part of the budget debate, and did not anticipate any decision would be taken until the mid year review in September

(ix) **Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were asked of the Cabinet Member as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Councillor Reg Barry	Asked if it was permissible to dispose of dog muck in normal public waste bins as this could be seen as a health hazard.	The Cabinet Member indicated he would provide a written response.
Councillor Roger Mazillius	Believed the traffic management relating to the Isle of Wight Festival had been well managed.	The Cabinet Member indicated there were some issues around the festival which would be reported later in the year.
Councillor Dawn Cousins	Asked for an assurance for both herself as the ward councillor and the parish council that they would be consulted prior to the event next year.	The Cabinet Member gave that assurance.

CHAIRMAN