



# Minutes

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Name of meeting | <b>FULL COUNCIL</b>   |
| Date and time   | <b>WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>   |
| Venue           | <b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>   |
| Present         | Cllrs Susan Scoccia (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Cameron, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Ian Stephens, David Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Whittaker, David Williams |
| Apologies       | Cllr George Brown, Vanessa Churchman, Roger Dixcey, John Howe, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles, Colin Richards   |

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34. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [19 September 2012](#) be confirmed.

35. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

36. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Mr Dave Miller of Cowes | Could the leader explain why the Local Authority's reorganisation transition failed many of the Island's children, and what was being put in place to support them reaching their potential? | The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#"><u>PQ 18/12</u></a> ) |

| <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
|                               | Supplementary – Asked if attainment expectation was based on poorly researched data.   | The Leader advised on the significantly improved uplift in results, re-organisation was predicated on a joined up approach across the Key Stages providing the best learning environment.  |
| Mr Mathew Martin of Cowes     | Was the Council in favour of a referendum on Britain's position in the European Union?   | The Leader advised that the Council had no formal position but he was personally in favour.  |
|                               | Supplementary – Would the Leader be willing to debate the issue with Mr Martin?  | The Leader indicated that he would contact Mr Martin if he left his contact details.   |
| Tanja Rebel of Cowes          | Why was a totally unsustainable 2 <sup>nd</sup> asphalt plant being considered?  | The Leader advised it was subject to a planning application which would be considered in the normal way.   |
|                               | Are you aware that if allow the asphalt plant you would be going against eco-island?   | The Leader indicated that the Island Plan Core Strategy was approved in March 2012 and any planning application would be determined in accordance with those policies.   |
| Mr Stephen Goodman of Newport | The Councils input into eco-island was conspicuous by its absence, would the Council leadership join those who cared about the future? | The Leader advised that the Council had secured nearly £700,000 of European funding to help finance the necessary preparatory works for its Solent offshore energy centre. It had also secured £1.1m towards the establishment of a private sector led consortium, Solent Offshore Renewable Energy Consortium, to support businesses across the south east. |
|                               | Supplementary – What plans did the Council have for the Frank James hospital site?   | The Leader advised that the site was not in the ownership of the Local   |

| Name                         | Subject  | Comment   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
|                              |  | Authority. It was up to the owner to bring the site up to standard.   |
| Mr Simon Haytack of Whitwell | Did the council realise that its education reforms were failing the islands young people?                                | The Cabinet Member indicated she was happy to meet with Mr Haytack.   |
|                              | GCSE results were down by 20% at some island schools, what was the council going to do to ensure it didn't happen again? | The Cabinet Member advised an item was to be on the Children and Young People Scrutiny agenda at its November 2012 meeting. |

37. **Chairman's Report**

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

38. **Motion submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution**

By Councillor David Pugh

Cllr Pugh moved:

That Council agrees to:

- (i) Sign up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant (as attached in [appendix A](#)), and fully commits to the principles set out within it.
- (ii) Seek support for the Covenant from other public sector partners on the Island, along with the business, voluntary and community sectors.
- (iii) In doing so, makes a commitment to support the Armed Forces Community working and residing on the Isle of Wight and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community.
- (iv) Continue to support existing activities that recognise the contribution of the Armed Forces, such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day commemorations.

A small working party would be established in order to develop a policy with regard to the implementation of the Covenant.

The motion was seconded. During the debate mention was made of the role of the Merchant Navy and it was requested that the work to support the Covenant included the Merchant Navy as well as the three other services. It was accepted that the working party would include the Merchant Navy within its work. Following further debate the motion was put to the vote and it was

**RESOLVED :**

THAT Council :

- (i) Sign up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant (as attached in [appendix A](#)), and fully commits to the principles set out within it.
- (ii) Seek support for the Covenant from other public sector partners on the Island, along with the business, voluntary and community sectors.
- (iii) In doing so, makes a commitment to support the Armed Forces Community working and residing on the Isle of Wight and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community.
- (iv) Continue to support existing activities that recognise the contribution of the Armed Forces, such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day commemorations.

39. **Corporate Parenting Board – Annual Report**

Members were advised that the Annual Report set out the progress of the Corporate Parenting Board in holding to account council staff and partners for the outcomes relating to children in care.

**RESOLVED :**

THAT the contents of the report be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the council and its partners' endeavours over the last 12 months to improve the experience and life chances of children in care.

40. **Cabinet**

**Reports of the Cabinet Members**

(i) **The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources**

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

Council tax freeze - the Leader stated that the Government had offered additional funding to all local authorities.

The Government had indicated the autumn statement would be made on 5 December 2012. The Local Government Finance Settlement would not be received until two weeks after that, therefore the Cabinet meeting has been moved to 8 January 2013.

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>   |
|-------------|--|--|
| Cllr Lumley | Council tax freeze - would the leader brief elected members on the financial implications?                 | The Leader indicated he would be happy to provide members with those financial implications. |
|             | Supplementary – how long did it take the Contact Centre to answer a call?                                  | The Leader would provide that information.   |
| Cllr Barry  | Land was to be made available for beach huts in two key locations on the island, where were the locations? | The Leader would provide a written response.   |

(ii) [The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and Regulatory Services](#)

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>   |
|---------------|---|--|
| Cllr Welsford | Could an explanation be given as to why the Isle of Wight Council had done so little to consult with communities, town and parish councils or promote the Community Right to Bid and the Community Right to Challenge as set out in the Localism Act?   | The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <u><a href="#">MQ 16/12</a></u> ) |
|               | A supplementary - How did the Cabinet Member reconcile the requirements of the Act with the Isle of Wight Council's failure to consult on the properties for disposal list and specifically on his and the Leader's refusal to meet with representatives of Ventnor Town Council on their plans to create an Enterprise Hub for Ventnor |  |

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
|             | in the Council owned Coastal Centre at Salisbury Gardens, a plan that would have created up to 35 jobs and turned a Council owned property into a much needed commercial centre for Ventnor? |                |

(iii) **Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Education**

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>  |
|---------------|--|---|
| Cllr Welsford | Did the Cabinet Member agree that immediate action needed to be taken to address the overcrowding and issues of scale, created by schools reorganisation, or did she dismiss size as contributing to our problems, a factor that was considered to be crucial by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Human Scale Education, who were both working with large schools in other local authority areas to create systems that could reduce the impact of size on attainment? | The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 17/12</a> ) |
|               | Would the Cabinet Member support the Free School Project?  | The Cabinet Member indicated the project had always been supported and discussions were ongoing.                      |

(iv) **Cabinet Member for Procurement, Fire, Highways and Transport**

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>  |
|---------------|---|---|
| Cllr Welsford | Could the Cabinet Member please explain how he justified bringing the decision regarding PFI Highways contract to VINCI Concessions and Ringway to Full Council before any risks to public health and the environment had been made clear to members or the public? | The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link ( <a href="#">MQ 18/12</a> ) |
|               | Without the asphalt plant the contractors may not be able to start work.  | The Cabinet Member advised it would be up to the contractors as to where they sourced the asphalt from.               |

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

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>  |
|-------------|--|---|
| Cllr Bacon  | The Isle of Wight Council withdrew invoices relating to toilet cleaning charges sent to town and parish councils. Why did it take so long for town and parish councils to be notified of the increase in costs | The Cabinet Member advised that the previous contractor had gone into administration; therefore a new contractor had been engaged to take over the contract for the remainder of the financial year. A decision was then taken that town and parish councils would pay at the previous rate, not the new higher rate. |

(v) **Cabinet Member for Public Health, Community Safety and Local Services**

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

The Cabinet Member reminded Council of the Police and Crime Commissioners elections due to be held on 15 November 2012.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>   |
|------------------|--|--|
| Cllr Jones-Evans | With regard to the heritage review and accessibility. Carisbrooke Castle Museum was accessible to paying visitors, but could be made more accessible to non-paying visitors. | The Cabinet Member advised he had held meetings in relation to that. |

(vi) **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.

The Cabinet Member advised he had attended the opening of the Independent Living Centre.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Comment</b>   |
|---------------|--|--|
| Cllr Lumley   | Personal budget underspend, what was the audit process used.                                   | The Cabinet Member advised a report would be produced that fully showed the audit process. |
| Cllr Welsford | If someone was turned down for a personalised budget was a record, with reasons, kept of that. | The Cabinet Member believed there was, however he would confirm that.                      |