



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Charles Chapman (Chairman), Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, 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, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Richard Hollis, Colin Richards, Shirley Smart

34. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [16 November 2016](#) be confirmed.

35. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Ray Bloomfield declared an interest in Minutes 41 and 43. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Roger Whitby-Smith declared an interest in Minutes 41 and 43, as he was a private landlord. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Conrad Gauntlett declared an interest in Minute 43. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Wayne Whittle declared an interest in Minutes 41 and 43. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Graham Perks declared an interest as he was a business man in Ventnor.

Councillor Phil Jordan declared an interest in Minute 41 and 45 (d).

36. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Jan Johnston of Ryde	Asked about the flood alleviation scheme for Monkton Mead Brook in Ryde.	The Executive member indicated he would like to see the funding in the capital programme when it was discussed.
Jim Moody of Ryde	Asked a question with regard to budgetary decision making.	The Chairman indicated a written response would be provided.
Steve Hastings of Newport	Asked a question relating to resident parking zones.	The Chairman indicated a written response would be provided.
David Walters of Shalfleet	Asked a question with regard to the legal situation after the leader and deputy leader of the council had resigned.	The Chief Executive indicated advice had been given to members.
Alison Griffiths, Isle of Wight Motor Neurone Disease Association	Would the Isle of Wight Council adopt the Motor Neurone Disease Association Charter?	The Executive Member indicated it was an agenda item for later in the meeting and members would give it due consideration.

37. **To elect the Leader of the Council who will also be the Chairman of the Council's Executive.**

The Monitoring Officer gave an outline of the process to be followed.

Councillor Dave Stewart was proposed by Councillor Stuart Hutchinson and seconded by Councillor Ian Ward.

Councillor Ian Stephens was proposed by Councillor Julia Baker-Smith and seconded by Councillor Luisa Hillard.

There were no further nominations. A named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For Councillor Stewart (19)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Jonathan Gilbey, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

For Councillor Stephens (15)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, Ivor Warlow, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens, Roger Whitby-Smith,

Abstention (1)

Councillor Steve Stubbings

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Dave Stewart be elected Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive for the ensuing year.

38. **To elect a Scrutiny Committee chairman**

Members were told that under law no member of the Executive could be a member of the Scrutiny Committee and therefore there was a vacancy as Councillor Stewart was the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee could not be a member of the majority group, but currently there was no political group with a majority.

The leader proposed that a new chair to the Scrutiny Committee not be appointed but the vice chair could chair, or in the event the vice chair could not act, the Scrutiny Committee would appoint a chair at each meeting.

There was a heated discussion around whether or not to appoint a chairman with several points of view being put forward.

A short adjournment was held to enable cross party discussions.

Upon reconvening the leader asked that a vote be taken on his proposal.

After further heated discussion the Chairman proposed and Councillor Chris Whitehouse seconded, that in accordance with procedure Rule 22 (4) Councillor Geoff Lumley not be heard further.

After a show of hands the motion was carried.

Councillor Lumley continued to disrupt the meeting. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Chris Whitehouse, that in accordance with procedure Rule 22 (5) Councillor Geoff Lumley leave the meeting.

After a show of hands the motion was carried.

A short adjournment was held to allow Councillor Lumley to leave the Council Chamber.

Upon reconvening a named vote was taken on the proposal that a new chair to the Scrutiny Committee not be appointed but the vice chair could chair, or in the event the vice chair could not act, the Scrutiny Committee would appoint a chair at each meeting.

For (18)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Against (12)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, John Howe, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith

Abstention (1)

Councillor Alan Hollands

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT a new chair to the Scrutiny Committee not be appointed;
- (ii) THAT the vice chair would chair or in the event the vice chair could not act, the Scrutiny Committee would appoint a chair at each meeting.

39. **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been circulated for information.

The Chairman offered congratulations to Councillor Ian Ward, who had been awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year Honours list.

40. **External audit arrangements after 2017/18**

Members were advised of the latest position in relation to the requirement in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for the council to appoint its own external auditor by 31 December 2017. The council could make its auditor appointment itself, in conjunction with other bodies, or it could take advantage of the national collective scheme that was being developed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA).

At its meeting of 26 September 2016 the Audit Committee agreed to opt-in to an approved collective procurement arrangement through PSAA to assist with the appointment of an external auditor for the 2018-19 and subsequent accounts.

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

For (31)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

RESOLVED:

THAT the council accepts Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited's invitation to "opt in" to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for the five financial years commencing 1 April 2018

and;

authorises the director of finance and section 151 officer to sign and return the notice of acceptance on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council.

41. **Local council tax support scheme 2017/18**

Councillors Ray Bloomfield, Roger Whitby-Smith and Wayne Whittle declared an interest in this item and left the room.

Prior to 1 April 2013 support to council tax payers on low incomes was provided by a national council tax benefit scheme that was fully funded by the government. The government in transferring the responsibility to individual councils, initially cut the funding by ten per cent and subsequently through the revenue support grant arrangements, had massively reduced the funding given. This had meant that the financial burden increasingly fell on local councils at the same time as other funding they received as being significantly reduced.

Because of the way that the government had passed responsibility to councils for local council tax support and then substantially reduced the funding it gave for such support, the council was placed in a very difficult position in that a scheme to offer the protection to low income households that was needed, was not affordable, and therefore the council was forced to consider decisions on a scheme that they would otherwise not make.

The following proposal was moved and seconded:

That the local Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2017/18 be adopted as set out in Option B of the report and the CTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 as follows:

- (i) Not to change the support of a maximum 80 per cent of council tax liability for working age claimants.
- (ii) Not to limit support to a maximum Band C charge.
- (iii) Not to set a minimum level of CTS at £2 per week.
- (iv) Mirror some amendments to the Housing Benefit and Pensionable Age CTS national schemes (Absence from GB; ESA work related activity component removed; limit number of dependents for new children born after 1 April 2017; remove Severe Disability Premium where another person is receiving Universal Credit Carers' Element).
- (v) Continue to provide an Exceptional Hardship Fund that would require individual applications and take into account individual circumstances including the claimant's income and essential outgoings to assist those that are deemed to be in 'genuine hardship' and receive additional assistance based on need.

Councillor Julia Baker-Smith proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Alan Hollands, whereby recommendation (iv) be removed. She believed this would cause unnecessary stress for those least able to afford it.

Members were advised the change would bring the Isle of Wight Council's scheme in line with that nationally. Once the council tax support scheme had been set it would be for the next financial year. It was noted there was a hardship fund which would help those most in need.

A named vote was taken on the removal of recommendation (iv), the result of which was as follows:

For (11)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens, Ivor Warlow

Against (16)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse

Abstention (1)

Councillor John Nicholson

The amendment fell.

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

For (21)

Councillors Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Chris Whitehouse

Against (0)

Abstention (7)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Luisa Hillard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens

RESOLVED:

THAT the local Council Tax Reduction (CTS) scheme for 2017/18 as set out in the report (attached to and forming part of these minutes) and the CTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 be adopted as follows:

- (i) Not to change the support of a maximum 80 per cent of council tax liability for working age claimants;
- (ii) Not to limit support to a maximum Band C charge;
- (iii) Not to set a minimum level of CTS at £2 per week;
- (iv) Mirror some amendments to the Housing Benefit and Pensionable Age CTS national schemes (Absence from GB; ESA work related activity component removed; Limit number of dependents for new children born after 1 April 2017; Remove Severe Disability Premium where another person is receiving Universal Credit Carers Element);
- (v) Continue to provide an Exceptional Hardship Fund that would require individual applications and take into account individual circumstances including the claimant's income and essential outgoings to assist those that are deemed to be in 'genuine hardship' and receive additional assistance based on need.

42. [Procedure Rule 26](#)

A proposal to extend the meeting by up to 30 minutes was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting be extended by up to 30 minutes.

43. Council tax discount options 2017/18

Councillors Ray Bloomfield, Conrad Gauntlett, Wayne Whittle and Roger Whitby-Smith declared an interest in this item and left the room.

Members were advised that the Local Government Finance Act 2012 allowed local authorities complete discretion over the level of council tax discount and the period of time that those discounts applied to empty property.

At its meeting on 16 January 2013 Full Council granted discounts relating to empty property from 1 April 2013 for the following:

Properties that were unoccupied and substantially unfurnished were eligible for 100 per cent discount for the first three months a property became empty and unfurnished. From the start of the fourth month the full 100 per cent council tax charge became payable. In that circumstance the property would be deemed a Class C prescribed dwelling in accordance with the regulations.

Properties that were classified by the council in need of, or undergoing major structural repair were eligible for a 75 per cent discount for a period not exceeding twelve months from the date that the criteria was first met. The property must be empty to be eligible. Therefore council tax charges at 25 per cent would apply. From the start of the thirteenth month the full 100 per cent charge would be payable. In that circumstance the property would be deemed a Class D prescribed dwelling in accordance with the regulations.

Members were reminded that the Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 15 December 2016 set out the council's revenue support grant position. That indicated for 2017/18 the council would have a reduction in revenue support grant of 36.8 per cent or £6.65 million.

A proposal that from 1 April 2017 options B and E in combination be approved resulting in there being no council tax discounts for empty property for any period or empty properties undergoing major structural repair for up to one year. The additional revenue raised is estimated to be £0.828 million of which the council's share is £0.715 million.

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

For (27)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Chris Whitehouse

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

RESOLVED :

THAT from 1 April 2017 options B and E in combination be approved resulting in there being no council tax discounts for empty property for any period or empty properties undergoing major structural repair for up to one year. The additional revenue raised is estimated to be £0.828 million of which the council's share is £0.715 million.

Councillors Ray Bloomfield, Conrad Gauntlett, Wayne Whittle and Roger Whitby-Smith re-entered the room.

44. **[Reports of the Executive Members](#)**

RESOLVED :

THAT the reports be noted.

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

RESOLVED :

THAT the report be noted.

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

(a) **[By Councillor Richard Priest](#)**

'This Council ask the Executive to consider adopting the MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Charter as this has been supported by mainland authorities, and is considered a model of best practice'.

'Adoption of the Charter would demonstrate the whole Council's commitment to equality, and encourage other agencies and organisations to follow our example'.

RESOLVED:

THAT this Council ask the Executive to consider adopting the MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Charter as this has been supported by mainland authorities, and is considered a model of best practice'.

'Adoption of the Charter would demonstrate the whole Council's commitment to equality, and encourage other agencies and organisations to follow our example'.

(b) [By Councillor Julie Jones-Evans](#)

This Council recommends that the Executive Member with responsibility for parking, recommences the work on the pilot study based in Newport for Residents Parking Zones which will give information necessary for the development of an Island wide policy for Residents Parking Zones. Currently no policy exists and there is a huge demand from across the Island for Resident's Parking Zones.

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

For (26)

Councillors Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Medland, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Against (2)

Councillors Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry

Abstention (3)

Councillors Paul Bertie, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens

RESOLVED:

THAT This Council recommends that the Executive Member with responsibility for parking, recommences the work on the pilot study based in Newport for Residents Parking Zones which will give information necessary for the development of an Island wide policy for Residents Parking Zones. Currently no policy exists and there is a huge demand from across the Island for Resident's Parking Zones.

(c) [By Councillor Dave Stewart](#)

Full Council re affirms its commitment to community engagement and community safety by ensuring continual engagement with Town and Parish Councils to support them through the forthcoming budget setting process and supporting member engagement to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Constabulary in delivery of the new Police and Crime Plan for 2016 – 2021 to keep communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safer

and

full council recommends to the Executive that it publicly expresses its commitment to these key areas of service provision which will help install a greater level of public confidence in this council.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be referred to the Executive.

(d) By Councillor John Nicholson

That the Isle of Wight Council Executive considers adopting a fit for purpose Scaffolding Policy to adequately regulate scaffolding erected on the Public Highway, and with immediate effect. At present, this Council has no Scaffolding Policy, and it would benefit the council to have a robust and clear Policy fit for current purposes to ensure the public and the council are protected. Hampshire County Council have an exemplary Scaffolding Policy, which they say they are happy for us to use, and I urge that this (or similar) is considered for our adoption.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be referred to the Executive.

(e) By Councillor John Nicholson

This Council deplores the damage that the Utility Services are doing to our newly resurfaced roads, and condemns the loss that it causes. We urge the Isle of Wight Council Executive to consider implementing what regulatory and enforcement standards it can to minimise and control these instances, taking example of best practice from other Local Authorities.

RESOLVED:

THAT the item be referred to the Executive.

CHAIRMAN