



Minutes

Name of meeting **FULL COUNCIL**

Date and time **WEDNESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2011 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

Venue **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT**

Present Cllrs Ian Stephens (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, Ivan Bulwer, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Roger Dixcey, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Julie Jones-Evans, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, David Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Whittaker, David Williams

50. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 November 2010](#) be confirmed.

51. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Peter Bingham declared a personal interest in Minute 55(b) as one of the Independent Remuneration Panel members was a close personal friend.

52. **Public Question Time ([Recording 1](#) and [2](#))**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Stuart Dyer of Godshell	Why was 60% of the weighting regarding public toilets given over to three categories that Godshell could not meet? It is not a principal town, beach or park and yet it is the only main tourist village on the Island with half a million visitors per year.	The Cabinet Member had provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 01/11)

Name	Subject	Comment
	A supplementary - why there could not be another category that would highlight somewhere that was special, such as Godshill?	The Cabinet Member indicated the council was still in the consultation period.
Mr John Wortham of Brighstone	The council's revenue spending power for 2011/12 was £154.4m in 2011/12 £148.4m which comes to 6m, why was the council making £17m in cuts this financial year?	The Cabinet Member advised that revenue spending power figures as announced by the government did not take into account inflation, tax increases, NI and demographic pressures. In previous years the council had received uplift in grant towards meeting those particular pressures. The actual reduction in funding from the government for 2011/12 was £9.2m in previous years the council had received an additional £2.2m. In 2010/11 the council faced a £12m savings gap. Difference between the projected level of income next year and the projected level of expenditure was based on the continuation of existing service provision taking into account those particular pressures. The revenue spending power figures for next year suggest only a 3.88% reduction in the council spending power when in actual fact there had been a miscalculation in the concessionary fares impact, the figure should be 4.78% which put the council above the national average.
	A supplementary - would you not have had those expenditure figures regardless of any cuts, and it still did not explain why we have lost £30m in reserves.	The Cabinet Member indicated that the reserve figures as they stood at the moment were higher than they stood in 2000/01. There were still more than sufficient reserves.

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Bob Blezzard of Sandown	Mr Turner MP asked a question in the house (read from Hansard) and asked why the council didn't cut the chief executives pay by £50,000 to help save Sandown library.	The Cabinet Member advised he had read the question and response relating to Mr Turner's question. The Minister had not indicated he would intervene in what was a local matter. The Minister had highlighted ideas for budget savings, which the council was already working towards, however, the scale and speed of funding reductions faced by local government means that a balanced budget could not be achieved by those means alone and there would be an impact on front line services. The council was prepared to take difficult but necessary decision in order to deliver a balanced budget. Put forward a series of proposals that will ensure that the limited resources of the council will focus on its core responsibilities, such as care for the older and vulnerable residents. Parish Councils may wish to prioritise their own resources to meet any identified local demand to continue services, there is no expectation on parishes to do this.
Tanya Rebell	The proposed cuts target culture and environment hit the weak and vulnerable, is this in keeping with the Prime Ministers assertion that we are all in this together?	The Cabinet Member refuted the suggestion that it would hit the weak and vulnerable as the spend on adult social care had gone up significantly this financial year. One director and other senior management posts had already been lost. A policy commitment had been made that a saving of £7.25m in senior management with a four year effect of £6.7m in the next financial year.

Name	Subject	Comment
	A supplementary - regarding the closure of libraries, not maintaining cycle paths, not living up to eco island, less bus services. What is the council going to do to protect culture, the environment and the weak and vulnerable	The Cabinet Member advised that the government had recently announced a fund towards local sustainable transport which the council would bid for in relation to cycle paths. The funding to support local routes around the island had been ringfenced.

53. [Chairman's report, official announcements, communications and correspondence for the Council.](#)

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. He advised he was holding a fund raising event at Cowes Yacht Haven on 9 April 2011.

54. **Motions Submitted under procedure Rule 10 of the Council's constitution**

(a) [In accordance with Procedure Rule 10, the following motion was moved by Councillor Jonathan Bacon :](#)

In light of the current programme of proposed cuts, The Isle of Wight Council agrees to draw up and adopt a clear strategy for dealing with Parish and Town Councils, community groups and any others who may wish to or be seeking to put forward proposals to run or provide affected services and facilities or an acceptable alternative. This strategy should include the provision of detailed financial information about such services and facilities and require officers of the Isle of Wight Council to respond to requests for information as a matter of urgency in order to give the greatest possible assistance to bodies seeking to take on or otherwise provide services and to give the greatest possible chance for services and facilities to be maintained, where possible without any break in provision.

Cllr Bacon indicated he had attended a meeting of Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) who had seen a withdrawal of support from the Isle of Wight Council. He reminded members that the island was wholly emparished and the motion sought to repair the relationship between the Isle of Wight Council and that of Town and Parish Councils.

Councillor Pugh believed it was helpful that Councillor Bacon had highlighted the work that was being undertaken with Town and Parish Councils and indicated that he had also met with Town and Parish Councils. He then proposed an amendment to the motion as follows :

That the words "agrees to draw up and adopt a" in the second line be replaced with "continues with its".

Councillor Bacon advised that he did not accept the amendment to his motion.

A vote was then taken on the amendment which was carried. The amended motion then became the substantive motion to which the council gave consideration and following the vote it was :-

RESOLVED:

In light of the current programme of proposed cuts, The Isle of Wight Council continues with its clear strategy for dealing with Parish and Town Councils, community groups and any others who may wish to or be seeking to put forward proposals to run or provide affected services and facilities or an acceptable alternative. This strategy should include the provision of detailed financial information about such services and facilities and require officers of the Isle of Wight Council to respond to requests for information as a matter of urgency in order to give the greatest possible assistance to bodies seeking to take on or otherwise provide services and to give the greatest possible chance for services and facilities to be maintained, where possible without any break in provision.

- (b) [In accordance with Procedure Rule 10, the following motion was moved by Councillor David Pugh :](#)

[\(Recording 2\)](#)

- (i) The Council notes that the Coalition Government is committed to eliminating the national structural deficit by 2015 and has set out a strategy by which it intends to achieve this. It is accepted that significant reductions in funding to local government form part of this strategy.
- (ii) The Council notes that the difference between the likely level of funding to be received next year and the projected level of expenditure (based on the continuation of existing service provision, taking into account demographic factors) is anticipated to be £17.8m.
- (iii) The Council agrees that this required level of savings will only be achieved by radically reshaping the local authority, in line with the principles agreed by the Cabinet in December 2010.
- (iv) The Council recognises that agreeing a balanced budget for the 2011/12 financial year is required by law.
- (v) The Council expects balanced budget proposals to be tabled by all groups; determining expenditure priorities between social, cultural, leisure, environmental and economic services.

Councillor Bacon proposed an amendment to the motion as follows :

By the removal of the words “in line with the principles agreed by the Cabinet in December 2010” in paragraph (iii)

and the addition of a new paragraph

- (vi) Any proposals submitted in accordance with paragraph (v) will be given full consideration by the Council and Council will adopt those workable proposals submitted which best reflect the priorities of the residents of the Isle of Wight.

Councillor Pugh advised that he accepted the amendment to his motion.

Following the vote it was :

RESOLVED :

- (i) The Council notes that the Coalition Government is committed to eliminating the national structural deficit by 2015 and has set out a strategy by which it intends to achieve this. It is accepted that significant reductions in funding to local government form part of this strategy.
- (ii) The Council notes that the difference between the likely level of funding to be received next year and the projected level of expenditure (based on the continuation of existing service provision, taking into account demographic factors) is anticipated to be £17.8m.
- (iii) The Council agrees that this required level of savings will only be achieved by radically reshaping the local authority.
- (iv) The Council recognises that agreeing a balanced budget for the 2011/12 financial year is required by law.
- (v) The Council expects balanced budget proposals to be tabled by all groups; determining expenditure priorities between social, cultural, leisure, environmental and economic services.
- (vi) Any proposals submitted in accordance with paragraph (v) will be given full consideration by the Council and Council will adopt those workable proposals submitted which best reflect the priorities of the residents of the Isle of Wight.

55. Appointments and Constitutional Issues

(a) [Changes to scrutiny arrangements](#)

Members were advised that the current structure for the council's scrutiny function was adopted by full council on 17 June 2009.

Consideration was given to amending the current structure as a number of changes had been introduced by the coalition government which had impacted on the scrutiny function. Further changes were expected in the future.

Council was reminded that at present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a membership of twelve with four panels of five members each. It was suggested that if the number of panels were reduced then their membership should be increased to seven. If changes were made to the number of panels then consideration would need to be given to the appointment of chairmen where necessary.

There was some discussion around the option of a main overview and scrutiny committee consisting of ten members, supported by three panels, each of seven members. Following consideration on the vote it was:

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT a main Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported by three panels on the following basis :

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel;
Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel;
Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel

with membership numbers as set out in the revised Article 5 of the Constitution in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed with immediate effect.

- (ii) THAT Councillor George Cameron be elected as Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the ensuing year.
- (iii) THAT Councillor Margaret Webster be elected Chairman of the Health and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the ensuing year.
- (iv) THAT Councillor Ian Ward be elected Chairman of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the ensuing year.

(b) [Elect a Chairman for the Audit Committee](#)

The name of Councillor Julie Jones-Evans was proposed and seconded, there being no further nominations and after a vote was taken it was :

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Julie Jones-Evans be elected Chairman of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the ensuing year.

56. **Members' Allowance Scheme**

Consideration was given to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to the Members' Allowance Scheme.

There was some discussion as to the need to pay £138.00 to councillors who were unable to receive an orange signal at their home address, as it was believed they should be able to use a landline whilst at home. It was proposed and seconded:

- (i) THAT no changes were currently required to the Members' Allowance Scheme be agreed;
- (ii) THAT an annual review of the scheme should take place in 2011 in time for the 2012/13 budget unless an amendment of the member structure necessitated an earlier review be agreed.

Following a vote the proposal was lost.:

It was then proposed and seconded that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted. Following a vote it was:

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT no changes were currently required to the Members' Allowance Scheme be agreed;
- (ii) THAT Members who were unable to receive an Orange signal at their home should be given the option to take a one-off annual payment (subject to tax and NI as appropriate) equivalent to the average cost of providing a basic mobile phone (currently £138.00 for a non-cabinet member) be agreed;
- (iii) THAT an annual review of the scheme should take place in 2011 in time for the 2012/13 budget unless an amendment of the member structure necessitated an earlier review be agreed.

57. **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 and an oral update relating to the current financial situation was given.

A written question was put as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Vanessa Churchman	Asked a question relating to plans being put forward for the new Haylands Primary school on the Swanmore playing fields site?	The Cabinet Member had provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/11)

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor John Howe	Information to parents in relation to school re-organisation?	The Leader indicated that he had spoken more on school re-organisation than any other subject. It was also discussed at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.
Councillor Geoff Lumley	Did the leader share the concerns regarding the way the coalition government were treating local authorities in the current comprehensive spending review, in particular in relation to the front loading of those cuts in year one of the four years? A supplementary – how much front loading would be worth to this authority if the cuts were brought in equitably over the four years?	The Leader indicated that he fully shared those concerns. The Leader indicated he would provide a written response.

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

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

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

Councillor Arthur Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the question relating to Westminster House, Newport, as a close family member worked there and left the room during the question on this item.

Councillor Andy Sutton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the question relating to the Gouldings, Freshwater, as a close family member worked there and left the room during the question on this item.

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor John Howe	Could an update on the consultation in regard to Westminster House and the Gouldings be given?	The Cabinet Member indicated that the results of the consultation would be published in the near future.

Councillor Arthur Taylor re-entered the room.

(iii) **[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 :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Wayne Whittle	Asked a question in relation to the reduction of the Lifeguard budget.	The Cabinet Member had provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 01/11)
	A supplementary – was there any way in which money could be found for each of the towns.	The Cabinet Member advised that the budget process was to be formally agreed in February and was capable of being adjusted in any way the council decided. If a modest sum was provided for this then a modest sum would have to be removed from elsewhere.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Heather Humby	indicated she had a 2,028 signature petition from Sandown residents and asked if Councillor Brown would be happy to receive it after the meeting.	
Councillor Heather Humby	If Town and Parish Council undertook to take over the running of libraries, would the Isle of Wight Council pay for CRB checks for volunteers?	The Cabinet Member indicated he did not know the cost of a CRB check and could not give an undertaking that they would be paid for by the Isle of Wight Council.

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Chris Welsford	Closure of toilets, removing of funding for lifeguards and proposals for libraries. Would you reconsider the proposals both in respect of the library but also in terms of funding the lifeguard service?	The Cabinet Member advised that he understood the position in Ventnor. With regard to libraries the document that was out for consultation was a proposal which was designed to meet the aspirations for savings in the library service. We have already received a number of inputs. The money previously intended to be made available for the lifeguard service was not one of the items available for consultation.
Councillor David Knowles	A petition has been received from the Waterside Pool. A meeting is to be held to look at a business plan, figures etc to see if the project can be taken forward. Where there is a short time span between now and budget time, the pool hope to end up as Trust. Could I have your assurance for an extension of time to enable the pool to stay open whilst the idea of a Trust is investigated?	The Cabinet Member indicated he was pleased to received the petition and advised that if negotiations were well advanced he would do his best not to take actions to jeopardise that whilst you are seeking a solution to retain the Waterside Pool.

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

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Reg Barry	With regard to the yellow lines in Nettlestone, you had indicated that the Order would be passed to the Leader to deal with as you had a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, could you advise if this has been passed on?	The Cabinet Member indicated he had passed the item to Councillor Pugh to deal with.

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Heather Humby	Was there any substance to the rumour that household rubbish was to change to a fortnightly collection?	The Cabinet Member advised there was no substance in the rumour as the current contract did not come to an end until 2015.
Councillor David Knowles	Road conditions earlier in the morning had been particularly bad, were there arrangements in place to have Smallbrook Lane and Firestone Copse treated due to the number of accidents that had occurred?	The Cabinet Member advised that only the strategic road network was gritted when needed, the roads mentioned were not part of that network.
Councillor Colin Richards	It was understood that there was an intention to dispose of Wightbus, was there any plans to provide a replacement?	The Cabinet Member advised that money was to be retained in the budget for subsidised services which would be put out to tender in the near future.
Councillor Stuart Dyer	There were no lines around potholes in the road, was this part of a cost cutting exercise?	The Cabinet Member indicated that highways inspected roads on a regular basis.
Councillor Rodney Downer	How would the seasonal swell of visitors to Godshill be catered for if the public toilets were closed and has the impact on businesses been considered? A supplementary – would the toilets be demolished and who would pay for that?	The Cabinet Member indicated there were a number of factors to consider, he noted that some parts of the island had no public conveniences. The Cabinet Member advised the budget proposals have to take account of the fact of the savings in the first year being different from subsequent years.
Councillor Jonathan Bacon	Spoke of other criteria being used in regard to public toilets, do you have concerns with regard to that criteria. If consultation demonstrates that the criteria lead to daft results would the proposals be given a serious rethink?	The Cabinet Member advised that he understood the point being made and that was a point to take account of when considering the result of the consultation.
Councillor John Howe	Changes to refuse collections on a bank holiday	The Cabinet Member provided a response.

(v) [Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety](#)

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

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

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

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

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Reg Barry	Were told in November that the council had been awarded £364m for the PFI, since heard has been cut by 25% could you tell what affect that would have on the island roads?	The Cabinet Member advised there would be a reduction in funding but had not had confirmation what that reduction would be, he believed a figure should be available soon.

(vii) [Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

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

(viii) [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 :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Reg Barry	You indicated at a previous meeting that you would arrange an education seminar with regard to the morning after pill.	The Cabinet Member indicated that she understood the seminar was being arranged by the Health Authority.

CHAIRMAN