



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Ian Ward (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, 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, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Bob Seely, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllr Gordon Kendall

13. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [15 May 2013](#) be confirmed, subject to the correct spelling of Councillor Julia Baker-Smith and Revd Feak's names.

14. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillors Bob Blezzard, Alan Hollands, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Richard Priest, Shirley Smart, Ivor Warlow and Wayne Whittle declared a personal interest in Minute 21, as they were either in receipt of or paid into the council pension.

Councillors Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Paul Fuller, Phil Jordan, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Daryll Pitcher and Ian Stephens declared a personal interest in Minute 19 (b), as it related to them personally.

Councillor Bob Blezzard declared a personal interest in Minute 18 (b), as he is the treasurer of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.

Councillor John Medland declared a personal interest in Minute 18 (b), as he was a member of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Paul Fuller, Julie Jones-Evans, John Nicholson, Dave Stewart and Chris Whitehouse declared a personal interest in Minute 17, as they had either had relatives working within the education system or children attending island schools.

Councillor Paul Bertie declared a personal interest in Minute 17, as his wife was a teacher.

Councillor Rodney Downer declared a personal interest in Minute 17, as his wife was a pre-school supervisor.

Councillors Daryll Pitcher and Dave Stewart declared a personal interest in Minute 17, as they were school governors.

It was noted the Monitoring Officer had exercised her delegated power given at annual Council in May 2013, to grant a dispensation allowing all members to participate in any debate, speak and vote on members' allowances, payments, indemnities and pensions. This dispensation has been given under the Localism Act 2011 because if the dispensation is not given so many members would not be able to take part in the decision that the Council would not be able to make a decision, and lasts for four years until the next local elections.

15. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Matthew Martin of Cowes	Would the Council review CCTV provisions in St Thomas Square?	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 12/13)
Ms Tanja Rebel of Cowes	Asked if public question time could be changed to give 15 minutes each to written and oral questions, with perhaps another 5 minute at the end of the meeting.	The Chairman indicated it could be considered.

16. **Chairman's Report**

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

17. [Children's Services - Strategic Partnership with Hampshire County Council](#)

Members were reminded that the Children's Safeguarding function was inspected by Ofsted between 26 November and 5 December 2012. The inspection found that the overall effectiveness of the arrangements to protect children on the Isle of Wight was judged to be inadequate.

Following a meeting of Cabinet in February 2013 it became clear from the Department for Education that a Ministerial Direction would be made that would include not just Children's Safeguarding but education as well and would require the Council to enter into a strategic partnership with Hampshire County Council to deliver the necessary improvements.

The Ministerial Direction was issued in June 2013 which clearly set out the Secretary of State's view that the Council was failing to perform to an adequate standard its Children's Services functions.

The Strategic Partnership would include the appointment of John Coughlan as Director of Children's. Hampshire County Council would deliver, on behalf of the Isle of Wight, all of its Children's Services functions for a period of five years, with a review after three years. It was noted that if there was significant evidence that the Partnership was not working or was no longer sustainable for either or both Councils then the Partnership could be terminated at any time by giving three months' notice and with the approval of the Minister.

Members were made aware of the cost to the Council and were advised that it would cover Hampshire County Council staff deployed in the leadership, management and delivery of Children's Services plus any related overhead costs and support functions.

RESOLVED :

- (a) THAT the report be noted;
- (b) THAT John Coughlan be appointed as Director of Children's Services for the Isle of Wight Council as from 1 July 2013;
- (c) THAT Council recommend to Cabinet:
 - (i) THAT the agreement be agreed on the basis as set out in the report attached to and forming part of these minutes;
 - (ii) THAT the overall costs be agreed, as set out in the report attached to and forming part of these minutes, to be met as a result of the Partnership Agreement;

- (iii) THAT the precise wording of the agreement be delegated to the Strategic Director of Resources and Acting Head of paid Service the authority, in consultation with the Leader and the Lead Member for Children's Services, provided it remained within the broad terms as set out in the report attached to and forming part of these minutes.

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

(a) [By Councillor Geoff Lumley](#)

That Council, in recognition of the diversity of religious beliefs and no beliefs in the community we represent, resolves to end the practice of offering Christian prayers at the commencement of Full Council meetings.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded as follows:

That prayers be taken prior to meetings of Full Council.

Following debate the amendment to the motion was put to the vote and was lost.

The original motion was seconded. Following debate the motion was put to the vote and was lost.

(b) [By Councillor Geoff Lumley](#)

That Council agrees to invite the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) to nominate annually one of their members to represent them on the Isle of Wight Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a non-voting member.

An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded as follows:

That Council agrees to invite the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) to nominate annually one of their members to represent them on the Isle of Wight Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a voting member and that Deputy Director of Resources (Corporate Governance) and Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to prepare and publish the required scheme under the Local authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 to bring this into effect.

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

A further amendment was proposed and seconded as follows:

That the motion be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

A further amendment was then proposed and seconded that the words 'as a non-voting member' be removed.

After further debate Cllr Lumley asked that the motion, as printed on the agenda be withdrawn. The seconder agreed and following a vote the motion was withdrawn.

(c) [By Councillor Alan Hollands](#)

That Council resolves to re-open as many of the public toilets as possible closed by the last administration, in recognition that this is a tourist Island with inclusive needs by both visitors and residents.

The motion was seconded. Following debate the motion was put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Council resolved to re-open as many of the public toilets as possible closed by the last administration, in recognition that this was a tourist Island with inclusive needs by both visitors and residents.

(d) [By Councillor Geoff Lumley](#)

This Council believes that the impact of the Government cuts upon ordinary people has simply not been fair. Whilst we recognise that many of these impacts have been due to the actions of Government in cutting grants to local authorities like the Isle of Wight Council, we believe this Council should have done more since 2010 to speak up for alternative policy options to the austerity approach prescribed by Westminster.

With national unemployment at 2.5 million, economic growth stagnant across the country, and frontline public services strapped for resources, we believe this Council should take a formal stand on this issue – and the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT, aka *Robin Hood Tax*) is an important way of doing this.

An FTT would raise up to £20bn a year in the UK. It would see the financial sector help clear up the mess it caused, rather than ordinary people paying with their jobs, frozen or lower wages, and declining public services. Local government has felt the cuts more than most, and should be at the forefront of the fight back against these centrally imposed measures.

This Council calls on the Government to introduce an FTT. In doing so, we would be making a real and popular policy suggestion that would help combat austerity both within our own local area and beyond.

Councillor Lumley asked that in view of the late hour and the other business to be conducted the motion be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council. This was agreed.

19. **Constitutional Updates**

(a) **Appointment to Committees**

Members gave consideration to allocating Councillor Barry a seat on the Planning Committee as he was not a member of any formal political group.

Under the legislation relating to political proportionality council had to ensure, as far as was practicable, that the number of seats allocated to each committee reflected the political proportionality of the council. Councillor Barry was entitled to have seats on two committees, he had been appointed as Chairman of the Audit Committee at the meeting of full council in May 2013 and he was therefore entitled to one other seat. It was suggested that he be appointed to the Planning Committee which could be achieved by reducing the number of seats held by the Island Independents by one.

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Barry be appointed to the planning committee;

(b) **Special Responsibility Allowance**

Members were advised that as a consequence of the Localism Act 2011, the previous code of conduct arrangements which gave an automatic dispensation to allow members to speak was removed.

The Council's Monitoring Officer, in consultation with one of the Council's Designated Independent Persons, had exercised her delegated powers to grant dispensation which allowed members to participate in any debate, speak and vote on members' allowances, payments, indemnities and pensions. The dispensation was given under the Localism Act 2011 as many members would not be able to take part in the discussion and the Council would be unable to make a decision. The dispensation would be in place for four years or until the next local elections.

At its last meeting Council decided to defer the level of interim SRA's to be paid to councillors. It was noted that the proposals would produce a saving of £1,708.96 on the previous SRA budget.

There was some discussion with regard to a recommendation to the Independent Remuneration Panel as they were an independent body. It was noted that Council may or may not take their recommendations into account as they saw fit.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the interim Special Responsibility Allowance's (SRA's) and meeting bands as set out in Appendix A, attached to and forming part of these minutes, be agreed subject to the consideration by the council of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the final SRA's;
- (ii) THAT the Independent Remuneration Panel be requested to ensure that their final recommendations do not exceed the existing budget provision for member allowances;

(c) Membership of the Employment Committee

The constitution currently required that the Leader and the Cabinet Member responsible for Human Resources both be members of the Employment Committee. The Leader had suggested that both of those seats be offered to groups to enable them to appoint as they saw fit.

RESOLVED :

THAT the requirement that the Leader and cabinet member responsible for human resources are both members of the Employment Committee be removed from the constitution;

(d) Register of Interests

A new version of register of interests, which covered membership of various external bodies and charities, such as the Freemasons, trade unions and social clubs, was considered. It was noted that would then become a matter of public record and be open to public inspection.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Register of Interests be amended, as set out at Appendix B, attached to and forming part of these minutes.

20. **Suspension of Procedure Rule 26**

A proposal to suspend Council Procedure Rule 26 was proposed and seconded, which would extend the meeting by up to one hour. Following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting be extended by up to one hour.

21. [Approval of the Appointment for the Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer](#)

(Mr Dave Burbage, Strategic Director of Resources left the room for the following item of business)

At its meeting on 3 June 2013 the Employment Committee recommended that the Strategic Director of Resources became a permanent employee as Director of Resources and statutory s151 (Chief Finance) Officer and be appointed as Head of Paid Service until 1 April 2014. The Head of Paid Service role was renamed to that of Managing Director. As the s151 officer could not also be in the statutory role of Head of Paid Service, it was recommended that the Head of Financial Management continue in the acting capacity as Section 151 Officer for the same period.

RESOLVED :

THAT the recommendation of Employment Committee that the Strategic Director of Resources be appointed as Head of Paid Service (to be renamed Managing Director) until 1 April 2014 together with the Head of Financial Management continuing in the acting capacity as Section 151 Officer for the same period be endorsed.

(Mr Dave Burbage, Strategic Director of Resources re-entered the room)

22. [Councillor Pensions](#)

The Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee considered a report on the government consultation on Councillor Pensions. The Committee agreed not to make any response to the consultation as there was no impact on the Pension Fund. They did, however, agree that it was a matter for Full Council to consider as the employer cost of councillor pensions was borne by the Council.

It was moved and seconded that access to the taxpayer-funded Local Government Pension Scheme remained for all councillors and elected local office holders on the same basis as present.

This then became the substantive motion to which the council gave consideration and following the vote it was

RESOLVED :

THAT this Councils view is that access to the taxpayer-funded Local Government Pension Scheme remained for all councillors and elected local office holders on the same basis as present.

23. **Cabinet**

Reports of the Cabinet Members

Owing to the late hour, there was a proposal that the Cabinet Members reports be taken as read.

There was a further suggestion that the Cabinet Reports be accepted en bloc with the ability to ask questions. The original proposal was then withdrawn and agreement that Cabinet reports be accepted on bloc was agreed.

Oral questions were put as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	Asked if the Leader agreed that the cross chamber engagement had was a benefit to the council in terms of services?	The Leader believed all members would work well together.
	Supplementary – as shown with Cllrs Priest and Whitehouse working well together with regard to education would that now be rolled out across the council?	The Leader advised he was prepared to work with all members, stakeholders and the voluntary sector.
Cllr Gauntlett	Would the Leader engage the relevant officers in relation to the community bus scheme contracts between the Isle of Wight Council and Southern Vectis?	The Leader indicated he would assist in whatever need there was to move it forward.
Cllr Pitcher	Welcomed the news with regard to the next generation broadband and asked if due consideration would be given to rolling free out WiFi to businesses?	The Cabinet Member advised she would provide a written response.