

Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs George Cameron, (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Adrian Axford, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Geoff Brodie, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, Steven Hastings, Stephen Hendry, John Hobart, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle.
Apologies	Cllrs Debbie Andre, Paul Brading (other council business), Charles Chapman, Julie Jones-Evans, John Kilpatrick, Clare Mosdell (other council business), Brian Tyndall.

32. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 and 25 September 2019 be confirmed.

33. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received at this stage.

34. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Paul Coueslant of Sandown	Council's tender to develop the Dinosaur Isle Museum in Sandown.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 49/19)

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Nick Stuart of Brighstone	Traffic lights phasing at Coppins Bridge.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 50/19)
Ms Tanja Rebel of Cowes	Eco Island being replaced by Smart Island	The leader responded he was not aware of Eco Island being replaced by Smart Island which was an initiative by island residents to push forward the agenda on things like Electric Vehicles and more economic use of the environment and that the council was working towards these already.
	A supplemental question was asked regarding working towards an eco-island and a wise island.	The leader advised much of this was addressed within the council's Environmental Climate Action plan.
Ms Cheryl Shepard	Members of the council's own research into the harmful effects of 5g.	The leader looked to the room and around 6 councillors including himself had read. The chairman added that an email with several reports had been received by all members from Ms Rebel and it was for the members to respond individually if they chose.

35. **Petition – St Mary's Roundabout Works**

Cllr Andrew Garrett declared a personal interest as the petition sponsor was known to him and he had consulted with him regarding the wording.

The petition sponsor, Mr Michael Smith, presented the petition which related to the scheme of works at the St Marys Roundabout junction in Newport, highlighting communication and engagement with residents as a key issue.

Members discussed various aspects of the issues raised and following the debate a vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the council resolves to recognise the strength of opinion in the petition and commits to a more open, transparent and long-term approach to engaging with Islanders before major decisions are made.

36. [Chairman's Official Announcements](#)

A written report had been circulated for information. The Chairman also thanked those involved with the Field of Remembrance at Carisbrooke Castle and other remembrance services across the Island, highlighting the importance of remembering those who gave their lives. He also read a statement from former Councillor, Chris Whitehouse.

37. [Leaders Update report \(20 mins\)](#)

The leader made reference to the report which had been circulated to members privately due to the pre-election period. Attention was drawn to the floating bridge having carried out 99.5% of its scheduled services and the plans to reduce the charges for vehicles to use the bridge, the arrangements for gritting over the winter months remaining the same as in 2018 due to public feedback, the Leader's attendance at the Local Government Association Board for Stronger and Safer Communities and the Island Deal letter sent by the Island's MP.

38. [Local Council Tax Support](#) (Paper C)

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and outlined the proposed changes, including a recommendation to members for the 2020/21 scheme to introduce a new income banded grid scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1 April 2020 to reduce the administrative burden placed on the council by the introduction of Universal Credit. The Deputy Leader moved the recommendation which was duly seconded.

The following amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr Andrew Garrett and duly seconded.

To replace recommendation 4(i) as follows:

To implement a CTS reduction scheme to include a maximum level of liability of 75 per cent for working age council tax payers subject to the Cabinet adding the additional cost to their budget savings proposals to be considered by Full Council in February 2020 for the financial year 2020/21.

To replace recommendation 4(ii) as follows:

In accordance with recommendation 4(i) above, adopt the new council tax reduction scheme (CTR) as proposed as a grid model from April 2020 and implement option 2 as the preferred income grid scheme but with Bands 1, 2 and 3 attracting a maximum level of liability of 75%.

Following debate, a named vote was taken on the amendment the result of which

was as follows and the amendment fell.

For (12)

Cllrs Reg Barry, Geoff Brodie, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Howe, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens.

Against (19)

Cllrs George Cameron, Barry Abraham, Adrian Axford, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Vanessa Churchman, Steven Hastings, Stephen Hendry, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Dave Stewart, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle.

Abstain (0)

Following debate on the substantive recommendation, a vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED

THAT Council:

1. Agree a local scheme that is the same as the existing scheme currently in place for 2019/20 and to bridge the level of funding gap currently estimated at £3.24 million, which will need to be met from reducing other council services.
2. Implement an income grid scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1st April 2020 to reduce the administrative burden placed on the council by the introduction of Universal Credit as well as the constant changes to council tax payment plans to assist customers with budgeting.
3. Implement a local scheme that varies certain elements of the existing scheme so that the CTS scheme continues to bring the working age CTS scheme in line with housing benefit and the pensionable age CTS scheme changes proposed by central government.
4. Agree the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/2021 be adopted as set out from a combination of changes contained in Option B and C of the report and the CTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 as follows:
 - (i) To retain a CTS reduction scheme for working age council tax payers that is deemed affordable.
 - (ii) To adopt the new council tax reduction scheme (CTR) as proposed as a grid model from April 2020 and implement option 2 as the preferred income grid scheme.
 - (iii) Disregard Carer's Allowance which is currently taken into account as an income in the calculation.
 - (iv) Replacing the three current earnings disregards with a standard £25

disregard, irrespective of the person circumstances.

- (v) Replacing the five current non-dependant deduction rates with a standard deduction of £2 per week for each non-dependant in a household.
- (vi) Mirror the amendment to the housing benefit national scheme (Infected blood payments where payments are disregarded).
- (vii) 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.

39. **Appointment of Designated Independent Person**

The chairman introduced the report which advised that council is required to appoint at least one Designated Independent Person (DIP) who may be consulted by the Monitoring Officer and elected members in relation to the members code of conduct arrangements and moved the recommendation which was duly seconded. At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken, and it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT John Matthews is appointed as a Designated Independent Person for a period of four years.

CHAIRMAN