



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Susan Scoccia (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Ian Stephens, David Stewart, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Williams
Apologies	Cllrs Roger Dixcey, Patrick Joyce, David Knowles, Colin Richards, Andy Sutton, Margaret Webster, David Whittaker

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman called for a minute's silence in remembrance of the passing of past member, Buster Bartlett.

9. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [16 May 2012](#) be confirmed.

10. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans declared a personal interest in Minute 13 (a) - Motion by Councillor Pugh, as she was a member of Newport Business Association.

Councillor Wayne Whittle declared a personal interest in Minute 13 (a) - Motion by Councillor Pugh, as he was a member of Ryde Business Association.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minute 15 - Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report, as he knew Mr Richard Day and Ms Liz Mackenzie, who were members of the Ethical Standards Committee

Councillor Ian Stephens declared a personal interest in Minute 13 (a) - Motion by Councillor Pugh, as he owned a Beach Hut at Appley Park.

Councillor Barry Abraham declared a personal interest in Minute 13 (a) - Motion by Councillor Pugh, as he was a member of Wootton Business Association and the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor Roger Mazillius declared a personal interest in Minute 15 - Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report, as he knew members of the Ethical Standards Committee.

Councillor John Howe declared a personal interest in Minute 15 - Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report, as he was a member of the Ethical Standards Committee.

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans declared a personal interest in Minute 13 (a) - Motion by Councillor Pugh, as she was a member of the Federation of Island Small Business.

Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal interest in Minute 15 - Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report, as she was Chair of Friend of Northwood Cemetery of which Richard Day was a Volunteer.

11. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Adrian Nicholas of Newport	Asked about Bardon Vectis with regard to asphalt.	The Cabinet Member indicated he had no responsibility for Bardon Vectis or who they employed.

12. **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been circulated for information.

She advised that Buster Bartlett's funeral would take place on Friday, 22 June 2012 at the parish Church of St Lawrence.

Armed Forces Day was on Saturday, 23 June 2012 and the flag raising ceremony was to be held at 10.00 am in St Thomas' Square, Newport on Monday, 25 June 2012.

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

(a) [By Councillor David Pugh](#)

The following motion was moved and seconded:

THAT Council

1. Notes that the Audit Committee is due to receive a draft Statement of Accounts at its meeting on 28 June 2012, showing that an overall net saving of £2.290m was achieved during the 2011/12 financial year.
2. Welcomes this healthy financial position, as it ensures that the Council is well prepared for future budgetary challenges – whilst giving some scope for further one-off initiatives in support of the corporate objective of *Regeneration and the Economy*.
3. Recalls that Council agreed on 21 January 2012 that resources were to be allocated to the local authority's corporate priorities at the budget setting meeting on 29 February 2012, whilst allowing for the flexibility to make further investment during the course of the year as needs arose and resources allowed. Furthermore, it is noted that a commitment was given to look at the viability of ideas put forward in alternative budget proposals.
4. Agrees that a full budget review will be brought to Council on 19 September 2012, setting out the framework for the 2013/14 budget and beyond, in an updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This review will take into account the outcomes of the budget consultation exercise which is taking place in the near future.
5. Asks that a progress report on the various economic initiatives agreed by Council on 29 February 2012 is brought to Council on 19 September 2012 as part of this budget review.
6. Requests that, for the budget review on 19 September 2012, officers develop a series of further one-off initiatives (in line with the proposals set out in (a) and (b) below) in support of the corporate objective of *Regeneration and the Economy*, to complement existing commitments in this area. On 19 September 2012, Council will consider these costed plans alongside the outcomes of the budget consultation process.
 - (a) Further to the Council decision of 21 January 2012 to allocate £300,000 to a range of initiatives to help tackle youth unemployment and create new employment opportunities for young people, that the following additional initiative is developed:

- (i) Work with Job Centre Plus to facilitate and improve access for unemployed Islanders to identify suitable job opportunities, such as providing meeting space in libraries, children's centres and other public access points.
- (b) Further to the Cabinet decision of 3 April 2012 to establish a Destination Management Organisation (DMO) to develop the Island's visitor economy, that the following proposals for tourism-related investment are developed:
 - (i) Allocate capital investment for the supply of new beach huts in key locations, for a mixture of lease and rent;
 - (ii) Invite business associations to put forward ideas for enhancing the public realm in their areas, which may include improved signage, information, street furniture de-cluttering – with a particular focus on points of entry to the Island;
 - (iii) Maximise the benefits of the £4m government grant for Sustainable Transport Access to Tourism, particularly in terms of the upgrading of cycling and walking infrastructure and the provision of transport information to visitors;
 - (iv) Commission the development and promotion of a prospectus (with the possibility of seed funding available), to hold a community-led "Celebrate Isle of Wight" weekend in 2013, at which the extensive range of local food and drink is enjoyed Islandwide, and this is promoted as part of the Island's tourism offer through the Destination Management Organisation and supported by the Rural Community Council.

An amendment to paragraph 6(b)(ii) was proposed and seconded as follows :

Invite business associations or local organisations with an economic brief to put forward ideas for enhancing the public realm in their areas, which may include improved signage, information, street furniture de-cluttering – with a particular focus on points of entry to the Island;

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

A further amendment was proposed

- (i) Remove paragraph 2
- (ii) Amend Paragraph 6

Amend to remove the words 'further one-off' to read:

Requests that, for the budget review on 19 September 2012, officers develop a series of initiatives (in line with the proposals set out in (a) and (b) below) in support of the corporate objective of *Regeneration and the Economy*, to complement existing commitments in this area. On 19 September 2012, Council will consider these costed plans alongside the outcomes of the budget consultation process.

- (iii) Remove existing sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) and replace with:
- (a) (i) Reintroduction of an affordable residents car parking permit
 - (ii) Additional funding to regenerate the Library Service
 - (iii) Reinvestment in Youth Services to increase provision including reintroducing provision to those aged 11 – 13.
 - (iv) Increasing support for the unemployed and providing support and services to assist in creating and securing employment, particularly for school leavers and those aged over 50.
- (b) Develop the following proposals in respect of the Island's visitor economy:
- (i) Establishing and re-opening tourist information centres at key visitor entry points and tourism centres on the Island.
 - (ii) A Cyclepath and Footpath improvement scheme
 - (iii) A fully funded lifeguard service for major seaside resort beaches
 - (iv) Increased measures to deal with dog fouling, littering prevention and enforcement of measures in these regards.
 - (v) Toilet expansion scheme

Maximise the benefits the £4m government grant for Sustainable Transport Access to Tourism by ensuring that important Tourist Destinations such as Ventnor are included as Transport Interchange Hubs, Ventnor being the main gateway to the West Wight Wight Coastal area from the East. This will help to address the severe economic decline experienced by Ventnor since the axing of the railways in the 1960's.

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

The amended motion then became the substantive motion to which the council gave consideration and following the vote it was :-

RESOLVED:

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4. Agrees that a full budget review will be brought to Council on 19 September 2012, setting out the framework for the 2013/14 budget and beyond, in an updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This review will take into account the outcomes of the budget consultation exercise which is taking place in the near future.
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 - (iv) Commission the development and promotion of a prospectus (with the possibility of seed funding available), to hold a community-led "Celebrate Isle of Wight" weekend in 2013, at which the extensive range of local food and drink is enjoyed Islandwide, and this is promoted as part of the Island's tourism offer through the Destination Management Organisation and supported by the Rural Community Council.
- (b) [By Councillor David Pugh](#)

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11 Councillor Pugh had submitted the following motion:

THAT Council agrees that the vacant seat on the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel is exchanged with one of the Conservative seats on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, so that the former becomes a Conservative seat and the latter becomes a vacant seat. The resulting allocation of seats on these panels will be:

- Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel:
Conservatives 5; Liberal Democrats 1; Independents 1;
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel:
Conservatives 4; Liberal Democrats 1; Independents 1; Vacant 1.

The motion was withdrawn prior to any discussion taking place.

(c) [By Councillor Lumley](#)

The following motion was moved:

In the light of the continuing and longstanding economic problems of the Island, including 3,000 plus unemployed of which 1,200 are young people,

Council resolves to do everything that it can within the agreed budget and policy framework (and involving all interested parties) to secure 'Assisted Area Status', or similar, for the Isle of Wight.

The motion was seconded and then following debate was put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Council resolves to do everything that it can within the agreed budget and policy framework (and involving all interested parties) to secure 'Assisted Area Status', or similar, for the Isle of Wight.

14. [To agree the replacement Ethical Standards arrangements for the Isle of Wight Council](#)

Members were given an update with regard to disclosable pecuniary interests. A new declaration of Interests form was currently being drafted, which would take its wording from the regulations. It was noted that councillors would also be asked to include interests of which they were aware relating to their spouse/partner or someone they lived with.

RESOLVED:

- THAT the new Register of Interest as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved;
- THAT the new Code of Conduct as attached at Appendix B to the report be approved;
- THAT the adoption by the parish/town councils on the Island of the same Code of Conduct be welcomed, and encourage more to do the same;

- (d) THAT a new procedure rule stating that members must declare their interests if they arise during a meeting that they are attending and that if the interest is a disclosable one that they leave the room during its consideration, but that they can stay to speak as a member of the public (where a member of the public is permitted to speak) but must leave the room as soon as they have finished speaking as a member of the public be approved;
- (e) THAT the procedure for dealing with complaints of alleged breaches of the above code of conduct as attached at Appendix C to the report be approved;
- (f) THAT the responsibility to consider any complaints against members (of either the Isle of Wight Council or parish/town councils on the Island) where the investigating officer (in the circumstances that a complaint was referred for investigation) has concluded that a breach of the code of conduct has occurred be delegated to the Appeals Committee. For Isle of Wight Councillors only to determine the appropriate sanction(s) from the following:
 - (1) Censure;
 - (2) Referral to the relevant group leader for action;
 - (3) Publication of findings;
 - (4) Local resolution.
- (g) THAT the appointment (subject to the detailed regulations on process to be followed and any interim arrangements) of five Designated independent Persons and delegate to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with group leaders, the authority to appoint the initial Designated Independent Persons for up to one year and that those appointed receive an initial allowance of £301 per annum, this to be subject to the forthcoming review by the Independent Remuneration Panel and the stipulations set out in paragraph 18 of the report approved;
- (h) THAT the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils be invited to appoint four parish/town councillors with whom the Monitoring Officer or Appeals Committee can consult when considering complaints against parish/town councillors;
- (i) THAT the responsibility for dealing with requests for dispensations to enable members with interests to speak and vote on a matter be delegated to the Appeals Committee;
- (j) THAT the Ethical Standards Committee be formally disbanded as from midnight on Friday 29 June and record the Council's thanks to the present and past members of that Committee for their work over the last 15 years;
- (k) THAT the above be implemented (subject to the detailed regulations) as from 1 July 2012 (other than j) which will apply from 29 June);

- (l) THAT the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with group leaders, be delegated authority to make any further minor amendments to the proposed Code of Conduct, Register of Interests and the proposed procedure once the detailed regulations have been published.

15. **Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report 2011-2012**

The Chairman of the Ethical Standards Committee introduced the 2011 – 2012 Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Ethical Standards Committee Annual Report 2011-2012 be noted.

16. **Cabinet**

Reports of the Cabinet Members

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

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr John Howe	Was there a policy to offer Wi-Fi, which was available in County Hall, to members?	The Leader advised that machines provided by the Council could be used. He would provide a written response.
	A supplementary – if Blackberry's could receive a Wi-Fi signal why couldn't that be used.	The Leader indicated they were looking to enable use of Wightnet.
Cllr Reg Barry	In April the English Schools Football Association held its 25 th Annual Football Festival on the Island this year, why was it ignored by this Council?	The Leader advised that the invitations had been sent out very late. He would ensure sufficient notice in future.

(ii) **The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment**

A written report had been circulated for information.

He gave the latest figures in relation to unemployment and Job Seekers Allowance. There had been a small improvement on the Island's position.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	The Salters Road, Ryde recreation ground was now redundant to educational needs. What responsibility did the Council take for the land?	The Cabinet Member indicated he would provide a written response.
	There was some concern over the survey which had been undertaken at Sandown Leisure Centre, which had failed to spot the leaking roof. What was the additional cost?	The Cabinet Member problem with the roof at the Leisure Centre came to light during the works. He would provide a full written response.

(iii) **Cabinet Member for Fire, Culture and Residents' Services**

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

(iv) **Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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

(v) **Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety**

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

(vi) **Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education**

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

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

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Asked a question relating to Haylands Primary School.	The Cabinet Member suggested the question be asked of the schools Governing Body.

(vii) **Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Reg Barry	In PFI terms what was the difference between hierarchy 4 and hierarchy 1?	The Cabinet Member advised that hierarchy 1 had over 10,000 vehicle movements per day and hierarchy 4 had fewer than 2,000.
Cllr Rodney Downer	Asked a question relating to road repairs in his area.	The Cabinet Member advised it was a ward matter not one of policy.
Cllr John Howe	Asked if there was anything the Isle of Wight Council could do with regard to the increased ferry fares during high profile events.	The Cabinet Member indicated that although ferry fares were more at peak times they were considerably less at others.
	Asked if the Isle of Wight Council could approach the ferry companies to arrange a fixed tariff for Islanders.	The Cabinet Member indicated that would be for Council to resolve.

17. **Council meetings**

It was noted that, following comments from the last council meeting with regard to the frequency of Full Council meetings, that in future, and in non-election years, Full Council will be asked to hold meetings in the following months thus ensuring a maximum of 2 months between meetings :

May (Annual Council) June, July, September, October, November, January, February, April.

In election years the April meeting will be arranged for the end of March.

Members were advised there was to be an addition meeting of full council in August to sign off the PFI Scheme.

CHAIRMAN