



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2017 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Lora Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Debbie Andre, Adrian Axford, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, Geoff Brodie, George Cameron, Charles Chapman, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Hobart, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Kilpatrick, Michael Lilley, John Medland, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Shirley Smart, Dave Stewart, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Karl Love, Bob Seely, Ian Stephens

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24. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [19 July 2017](#) be confirmed.

25. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Paul Fuller declared an interest in Minute 30 (a) and (b) Rights of Way, as he was the vice chairman of the Local Access Forum.

Councillor Julia Baker-Smith declared an interest in Minute 30 (d) as she worked with Isle of Wight Pride and would leave the chamber for that item of business

26. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Billy Hill, Ventnor	Questioned the £2,000 spent by senior managers on hospitality and entertainment.	The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Terry Connelly, Lake	Asked a question relating to the plans to re-direct traffic on cliff at Lake.	The Cabinet Member would provide a written response. He also offered to meet with Mr Connelly to better understand his concerns.
Cameron Palin, East Cowes	Asked if Councillor Ward continued to support the floating bridge as a critical part of the infrastructure.	The Cabinet Member recognised it was an essential part of the infrastructure.
	Supplementary - would the floating bridge requirements meet the scope of the invitation to tender and the statement of requirements including the increased number of crossings per day?	The Cabinet Member advised it was one of the things being considered as part of the review.

27. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

A written report had been circulated for information.

The chairman advised she had shaken hands, waved and put her thumbs up to every one of the scooters that took part in the ride out.

The chairman welcomed Charlie Button from the Youth Council to the meeting.

28. **Commercial Property as Investment - Final Decision**

Members were reminded this was the culmination of a process that was initiated by the last administration. At its meeting on 19 October 2016 council had approved the establishment of a £100 million commercial property acquisition fund. One of the key elements of the medium term financial strategy was the investment strategy.

Prudent investments could give a good revenue return for low risk and some capital appreciation; it should be possible to achieve a net return of £4m to £5m per annum when the £100m was invested. A report would be taken to the Audit Committee on a six monthly basis.

The programme was intended to exploit commercial opportunities and secure an income that would contribute to the council's future financial sustainability. It was noted that the investment fund was entirely separate from the capital funds available to deliver essential capital works, service improvement or investment of service related buildings.

The Council was empowered to buy and sell land pursuant to section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 provided a power to the Council to borrow for the purposes of any enactment.

In order to lawfully implement the investment strategy, each proposal (including the funding strategy for purchases) should be reviewed as part of a decision to purchase or sell, be tested for value for money, and regulatory compliance.

In accordance with procedure rule 16 (3.5) four members requested a named vote.

A named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (24)

Councillors Barry Abraham, Adrian Axford, Paul Bertie, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, George Cameron, Charles Chapman, Vanessa Churchman, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, John Kilpatrick, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Dave Stewart, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Against (7)

Councillors Reg Barry, Geoff Brodie, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Howe, Julie Jones-Evans, Michael Lilley

Abstention (5)

Councillors Debbie Andre, Julia Baker-Smith, Rodney Downer, John Medland, Shirley Smart

RESOLVED :

THAT the commercial property investment strategy as set out in Appendix A (attached to and forming part of these minutes) be approved and that all purchases of investment properties must comply with this strategy;

**29. Motions previously submitted and now considered by Cabinet**

The following two motions stood adjourned without discussion at the meeting of Full Council on Wednesday, 19 June 2017, Cabinet would consider them at its meeting on 14 September 2017 and consider whether it desired to report thereon back to the Full Council.

(i) [By Councillors Julie Jones-Evans and Karl Love](#)

That Full Council recommends to Cabinet that the Isle of Wight Council suspend, in light of the ongoing issues of the floating bridge, foot passenger charges for the foreseeable future and until such time that all the current issues have been fully resolved. This should be reviewed again after the recommendations of the public enquiry are submitted for reflection and discussion at full council.

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

(ii) [By Councillor Julia Baker-Smith](#)

Charging pedestrians on the floating bridge has had a significant impact upon many user groups but a particularly unfair impact on parents with children choosing healthy routes to school who are now being charged up to £3 per day in order to walk their children to school. This presents a potential and unnecessary barrier to low income families to maintaining school attendance. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to provide free travel for parents escorting their children to school where they live on the opposite side of the river to the school their child attends.

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

30. **Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution**

(a) [By Councillor Rodney Downer](#)

Full council recognises the benefits of the Rights of Way network on the Isle of Wight. The Rights of Way are a vital resource for the Island which both support the local economy, through their popularity with tourists, and also provide health benefits through residents being able to walk for pleasure as well as being able to walk to school or work, which can also have the effect of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

RESOLVED :

THAT Full council recognised the benefits of the Rights of Way network on the Isle of Wight. The Rights of Way were a vital resource for the Island which both support the local economy, through their popularity with tourists, and also provided health benefits through residents being able to walk for pleasure as well as being able to walk to school or work, which could also have the effect of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

(b) [By Councillor Rodney Downer](#)

To further support the Rights of Way network, Full Council requests that Cabinet reconsider the budget allocation being made to maintain and support Rights of Way and considers proposing an increase in financial support to enable the network to be at a standard necessary to provide the benefits to the local economy through tourists, and the health benefits to residents.

The Chairman, upon advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that Procedural Rule 10 would be applied as this item would

have the effect of materially increasing the expenditure upon a service. The motion would stand adjourned without discussion until the next ordinary meeting of the Council, and the Cabinet would consider whether it desired to report thereon back to the Full Council.

(b) [By Councillor Wayne Whittle](#)

The Isle of Wight Council is the landlord for Ryde Arena. In 2001 it agreed a 125 year lease for the use of the building which included a clause that required the tenant to, use its 'reasonable endeavours' to ensure the building is occupied and used at all times (save during periods of redevelopment) in accordance with current planning permission. The clear intent of that clause being to ensure a key landmark building at a main gateway to the Island presented a lively and warm welcome to the Island.

Ryde Arena closed to the public on 6 October 2016, following its acquisition by BNY Mellon Trust and Depositary (UK) Ltd. The property is managed by AEW. Despite the efforts of the local community and the Isle of Wight Council; AEW have not shown any urgency in reopening the building and simply offered it for sale at £3.5 million or rent at £140,000 per annum. It is apparent that these values are based on AEW's assessment of the potential for other uses of the site, other than for leisure activities. Any redevelopment of the site would, however, require the assistance of the council as the owner of all of the adjacent land to the arena.

Therefore; this council:

1. Confirms its intention, as landlord, that Ryde Arena should be in use at all times given its key position at a main gateway to the Island.
2. Deplores AEW's failure to keep Ryde Arena in use at all times and its lack of attention to or concern for the needs of the local community.
3. Agrees not to allow BNY Mellon Trust and Depositary (UK) Ltd, or any successor to its interest in the building, use of the council's adjacent land for any purposes (including redevelopment) until and unless Ryde Arena has been occupied and used at all times, in accordance with its current planning permission for a minimum of five years or some suitable agreement is reached as to how this can be achieved within a reasonable time frame.

RESOLVED :

THAT Council

- (i) Confirmed its intention, as landlord, that Ryde Arena should be in use at all times given its key position at a main gateway to the Island.
- (ii) Deplored AEW's failure to keep Ryde Arena in use at all times and its lack of attention to or concern for the needs of the local community.
- (iii) Agreed not to allow BNY Mellon Trust and Depositary (UK) Ltd, or any successor to its interest in the building, use of the council's adjacent land for any purposes (including redevelopment) until and unless Ryde Arena has been occupied and used at all times, in accordance with its current planning permission for a minimum of five years or some suitable agreement was reached as to how this could be achieved within a reasonable time frame.

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

At full Council in March 2016, members resolved:

"Council believes that mental health should be given equal priority with physical health, to Support 'Time to Change' - the mental health anti-stigma campaign and to request our Health and Wellbeing Board to explore the adoption of the 'Time to Change' pledge, better workplace practices, and encourage others to do so as well."

The new administration wishes to re-affirm its commitment to this proposal by the following motion:

This council resolves:

To sign up to the local authorities' Mental Health challenge;

To appoint Councillor Clare Mosdell as the nominated elected member as mental health champion across the council;

To authorise Councillor Clare Mosdell to seek the practical support of other elected members who are experienced in this area to support her to implement the Mental Health Challenge and report back to this Council on the progress achieved in six months and one year's time.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT Council agrees

- (i) To sign up to the local authorities' Mental Health challenge;

- (ii) To appoint Councillor Clare Mosdell as the nominated elected member as mental health champion across the council;
- (iii) To authorise Councillor Clare Mosdell to seek the practical support of other elected members who are experienced in this area to support her to implement the Mental Health Challenge and report back to this Council on the progress achieved in six months and one year's time.

(d) [By Councillor Debbie André](#)

(Councillor Julia Baker-Smith left the room for this item of business).

This Council congratulates the organisers of the Pride Event which took place in Ryde in July this year and welcomes the support for the event shown by the Isle of Wight community.

The Isle of Wight Council pledges to support next year's Pride Event, due to take place on 21 July 2018, and to encourage support for Diversity on the Isle of Wight.

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

Replace the word pledges with re-affirm

The amendment was accepted.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Isle of Wight Council re-affirm to support next year's Pride Event, due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018, and to encourage support for Diversity on the Isle of Wight.

(Councillor Julia Baker-Smith re-entered the room).

(e) [By Councillor Debbie André](#)

The Isle of Wight benefits from many excellent beaches which attract visitors to the Island and are a major part of the Island's tourist economy. To maximise this benefit to all parts of the community this Council recommends to Cabinet that it undertakes a feasibility study to include costings of the practicable steps that could be taken to facilitate and improve disabled access to beaches wherever possible across the Isle of Wight and what would be required to secure this. Such steps may include the hire of wheelchairs suitable for use on beaches as well as improving access to beaches by ramps (including portable ramps) and slipways. This would enable the Isle of Wight to compete with other tourist destinations in the UK that already provide such facilities.

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

After the word 'recommends' (para 4) delete the words ' ... to Cabinet that it undertakes a feasibility study to establish the costings of the..' and replace them with the words with '...all Isle of Wight councillors be encouraged to engage with their local Town and Parish Councils to establish if there are any ..'

A vote was taken and the amendment was upheld.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion.

RESOLVED :

THAT "the Isle of Wight Council benefits from many excellent beaches which attract visitors to the Island and are a major part of the Island's tourist economy. To maximise the benefits to all parts of the community this council recommends all Isle of Wight Councillors be encouraged to engage with their local Town and Parish Councils to establish if there are any practical steps that could be taken to facilitate and improve disabled access to beaches wherever possible across the Isle of Wight and what would be required to secure this. Such steps may include the hire of wheelchairs suitable for use on beaches as well as improving access to beach ramps (including portable ramps) and slipways. This would enable the Isle of Wight to compete with other tourist destinations in the UK that already provide such facilities"

(f) [By Councillor Julia Baker-Smith](#)

This Council is concerned at the level of volatility in the organisation of Secondary Schools on the Isle of Wight. This concern is also present amongst students at those schools, parents of those children and amongst the wider Isle of Wight Community.

To ensure that such concerns can be properly aired and considered, and to further assist the process of improving educational standards on the Isle of Wight, this Council requests that a regular public information session is held at which the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and relevant Officers can provide an update to the public and receive and answer questions on issues of concern in relation to secondary education.

Prior to a vote being taken Councillor Stewart moved Procedure Rule 9 (3.2)(i) the motion be referred without discussion to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services. The Chairman approved the motion.

RESOLVED :

THAT in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 (3.2)(i) the motion be referred without discussion to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services.

(g) [By Councillor Julia Baker-Smith](#)

Councillor Baker Smith deferred her motion to the next ordinary meeting of council.

CHAIRMAN