



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs David Williams (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, Ian Stephens, David Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Roger Dixcey, Edward Giles, Heather Humby, Patrick Joyce, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Chris Welsford, David Whittaker

65. [Motion submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution](#)

Members were advised that the Motion submitted under Procedure Rule 10, (item 5 on the agenda), had been withdrawn.

66. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [29 February 2012](#) be confirmed, subject to the following changes:

Minute 59, should read Councillor Pugh and Councillor Sutton declared a personal interest, not personal and prejudicial.

Minute 63, paragraph 3, should read by, not buy.

Minute 64 (iii) should read Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education.

Minute 64 (vii) should read Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety.

67. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Andy Sutton declared a personal interest in Minute 72, Pay Policy – as his wife was an employee of the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor David Pugh declared a personal interest in Minute 72, Pay Policy – as his wife was an employee of the Isle of Wight Council.

Councillor Colin Richards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 71, Adoption of the Island Plan Core Strategy. He was not present during the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minute 71, Adoption of the Island Plan Core Strategy – as he had written a letter of representation.

68. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Megan Moore an Island Resident	There had been a national debate about taxpayer funding of full-time union staff, despite the fact that union member subscriptions should be paying for union staff salaries. Can the Leader tell me whether the IW Council had any plans to review the current arrangements of using public money to fund union positions?	The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 08/12)
Jed Dwight, Calbourne	Would the Council be prepared to consider making the Economic Improvement Fund available to community groups and local organisations and with some more flexible criteria for how it could be invested?	The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 09/12)
Gill Kennett, Freshwater	Due to the fact that the motion had been withdrawn, Mrs Kennett withdrew the question submitted on behalf of IWALC and asked if there would be an opportunity to apply for any undistributed funds, providing matched funding was sought.	The Leader indicated he was happy to see how any remaining funds could be best utilised.

Name	Subject	Comment
An Island Resident	Asked about the four proposals submitted by Newport Parish Council.	The Leader advised he was unable to answer on behalf of the Parish Council.
Stephen Goodman, an Island Resident	Believed he had not had a response to one of his previously asked questions and asked a further question relating to the PFI.	The Leader indicated that an answer to the question would be made more widely available.

Due to a disturbance in the public gallery during public question time, the Chairman, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23 (1), ordered the removal of a member of the public from the gallery and adjourned the meeting to enable the person concerned to leave.

Upon reconvening the Chairman indicated he would allow a further five minutes for public question time.

Name	Subject	Comment
Simon Haytack an Island Resident	Asked a question in relation to the high level of youth unemployment.	The Leader advised that the Council had sought to focus on young people and reminded him of the £300,000 investment in young people.
Jackie Hawkins, Newport	Asked a question relating to the research and conclusions in relation to the Council's music service?	The Cabinet Member indicated that a report would be taken to Cabinet upon completion of the extensive consultation.
Anthony Marvin, Ventnor	Asked for an assurance that any thorns and debris would be cleared from cycle paths after any hedge cutting that was undertaken.	The Leader indicated he would provide a written response.

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

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

70. **Reports of the Deputy Director of Resources (Corporate Governance) and Monitoring Officer**

(a) **[Prayers at Council Meetings](#)**

Council considered a report from the Deputy Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer on the current legal position with regard to the tradition of holding prayers at commencement of Full Council meetings,

along with the options that were available to the Council and the risks associated with these.

The Leader moved that Christian prayers be held as part of formal Full Council meetings, led by the Chaplain to the Chairman to the Council, in line with existing arrangements, which was seconded by Councillor Whittle.

There was some discussion with regard to discriminating against those who were atheists, agnostics or of a non Christian belief, with a view being expressed by some members that it may be preferential to hold prayers informally prior to the start of Full Council meetings.

RESOLVED :

THAT Christian prayers be held as part of formal Full Council meetings, led by the Chaplain to the Chairman to the Council, in line with existing arrangements.

(b) [Approval of the Role Profile of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels](#)

There were two key elements relating to the review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements which required approval of full council.

The first related to a job specification for the role of the Chairmen of the committee and panels. It was believed it would greater clarity to the committee's and their work.

The second element was in relation to the call-in process which currently required the signatures of four members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There was some discussion in relation to a higher number of signatures being required although not necessarily by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was believed the current threshold was too high and the Scrutiny Panel Chairmen had made the decision that the numbers requesting a call-in should be reduced to three.

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT the role profile for the chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the chairmen of the scrutiny panels as attached to the report be approved
- (ii) THAT the call-in arrangements be amended so that this can be instigated by two members of the Overview and Scrutiny and one other member of the council.

71. **Adoption of the Island Plan Core Strategy**

Cllr Colin Richards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.

Members were advised there was some concern with regard to appeal process to the Planning Inspectorate. The Local Government Association had stated its intention to speak with the planning service with a view to protecting the judgement of local democratically elected representatives members were asked to endorse their position on appeals.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Island Plan Core Strategy as attached to the report be adopted.

72. **Pay Policy Statement**

Councillor Arthur Taylor declared a personal interest in this item as his daughter was an employee of the Isle of Wight Council.

Consideration was given to the Pay Policy Statement as recommended by the Employment Committee at its meeting on the 5 March 2012.

RESOLVED :

THAT the Employment Committee recommendation for the adoption of the Pay Policy be accepted.

73. **Reports of the Cabinet Members**

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

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Leader gave a brief synopsis on the key elements from the chancellor's budget.

A written question was put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Wayne Whittle	Could the cabinet member give an assurance that any strategy around the setting of the new NNDR benchmark in 2014 (that was set over the commercial rates income received over the next two years) would not conflict with our current economic growth strategy in Retail and Tourism that we were investing 1.8 million in. i.e.	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 08/12)

Name	Subject	Comment
	Would the cabinet member agree we need to monitor our strategies to balance our long term needs against our much needed short term growth and incentives.	

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Reg Barry	Asked who was responsible for complaints in relation to cold calling?	The Leader informed him it came within the remit of the Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment.
Cllr Geoff Lumley	Indicated that the Equality Objectives consultation only had 12 days to the deadline, how committed a consultation was that.	The Leader advised it did follow a delegated decision he had made but he would make more details available to all members.
Cllr Rodney Downer	Asked how much money was left in the contingency fund after the extra cost of removing asbestos from County Hall?	The Leader indicated the contingency fund was for the entirety of the project and would provide a more detailed response.

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

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Reg Barry	Did the Council need to give town and parish councils £250,000 given the cuts being made within the Council?	The Cabinet Member indicated he believed it was helping to support the local economy.
Cllr Rodney Downer	Asked if representations had been made to DEFRA in regard to the Schmollenberg Virus? A supplementary - would enforcement be more effective with regard to dog fouling	The Cabinet Member advised he would provide a written response. The Cabinet Member indicated that dog fouling was becoming an issue on the Island; the Council now had more people able to issue notices.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Dave Stewart	Asked a question with regard to the sale of Chale school.	The Cabinet Member advised there was a clear process of dealing with the disposal of assets.
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Now the Westridge Centre was up and running could we be supplied with relevant data showing the past and present income.	The Cabinet Member advised he would provide a written response.

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

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

A written question was put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Asked a question in relation to the Waste Contract Procurement.	The Leader on behalf of the Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 09/12)

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Ian Stephens	Asked if the Council had a waste strategy and could he have a copy?	The Leader indicated we did and he would provide a copy.
Cllr Andy Sutton	Would there be a focussed look on the cost of collecting and disposal dog excrement?	The Leader advised that he would ask Cllr Giles to provide a response
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	What was the proposed length of the waste contract?	The Leader indicated a written response would be provided.

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

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Geoff Lumley	There was a worrying figure of 21% relating to abandoned calls for the contact centre.	The Cabinet Member advised that it was an exception due to the new waste contract; calls were now starting to drop off.

Name	Subject	Comment
	Asked for the abandoned call rate to be published on a monthly basis.	The Cabinet Member indicated he was happy to do that.
Cllr John Howe	Youth and Community Service – West Wight was still awaiting for the implementation to start.	The Cabinet Member was aware that appointments were currently being made and things should be moving swiftly along now.
Cllr Reg Barry	Asked who was responsible for dealing with cold calling complaints?	The Cabinet Member advised that it came under the portfolio of Cllr Brown.
Cllr Wayne Whittle	Asked that thanks be extended to the Fire Service with regard to their action at Ryde Castle. Could the Council ensure there were rules in place for private firework displays?	The Cabinet Member would extend the committee's thanks. The Fire Service also held concerns relating to the use of domestic firework displays.
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	Asked about the meeting that was to be arranged with community libraries	The Cabinet Member advised that it was still to take place although a firm date had not yet been set, he would advise members when that date had been set.

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

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Dawn Cousins	Did the Chairman commend the Scrutiny Panel, as being the first in the country, to get the secondary school providers at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel meeting?	The Chairman indicated he was very pleased

(vi) [Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety](#)

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Geoff Lumley	Of the 74 affordable homes handed over at Pan Meadows, only 45 were occupied with another seven being in shared ownership was here a problem in allocating to people?	The Cabinet Member advised it was not a matter for the Council although he was sure the appropriate officer would check it.
Cllr Jonathan Bacon	To what extent was the provision of homes tailored to meet the precise need.	The Cabinet Member advised it was an operational matter. A large amount of evidence was taken for the housing register. He indicated he would provide a written response if Cllr Bacon was to e-mail him.
Cllr Ian Stephens	The report on Domestic Violence was it the decision of the Council or the Forum and was the author of the report given notice of the decision?	The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.
	Success of returning empty properties to use.	The Cabinet Member indicated this was one of the most successful authorities in the south.

(vii) [Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education](#)

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Ian Stephens	Congratulated the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on discussing the issues of the music service and asked of the Cabinet	The Cabinet Member indicated she would.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr John Howe	Member would try to get more funding from the Government.	The Cabinet Member indicated the consultation would be wide ranging.
Cllr John Howe	Asked if the questionnaire in relation to the music service would be sent to Governing Bodies of primary schools?	The Cabinet Member indicated the consultation would be wide ranging.

CHAIRMAN