



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, 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
Apologies	Cllrs Charles Chapman, Rodney Downer, Alan Hollands, Ian Ward, Wayne Whittle

11. [Election of Chair for the day](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Bob Blezzard be elected chairman for the day.

12. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [19 March 2014](#) be confirmed.

13. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor Jonathan Bacon declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 20, as his wife was a sessional employee of the council. He was not present during this item or the voting thereon.

Councillor Roger Whitby-Smith declared an interest in parking.

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans declared an interest in Minute 16, as she was the chairman of the Isle of Wight federation of small businesses.

Councillor Graham Perks declared an interest as he was a local businessman.

14. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Dave Miller of Cowes	Mr Miller was not in attendance.	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 18/14)
Mr Dan Gaches of Ryde	Why was there a proposal to have parking meters all year round in Puckpool Park? Supplementary – Had the council undertaken research into the level of use of car parks during the winter?	The Executive Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (PQ 19/14) The Executive Member advised information was available, although a consultation was currently underway regarding the parking charges proposals and all submissions would be taken into account prior to any final decision being made.
Mr Tony Gibbs of Brading	Asked a question regarding the council petition scheme, asking why the online petition containing 3000 signatures had not been adopted by the council.	The Chairman gave a commitment that the council petition scheme would be reviewed by the constitution working group.
Mr David Walters of Wellow	Asked a question in relation to the proposed parking charges at Moa Place, referencing to a petition containing 1500 signatures. Had research into any net increase in revenue been performed? Supplementary – Could the Executive Member indicate to residents the likely decision regarding charges?	The Executive Member stated that any concerns would be taken into account as part of the consultation and that he was happy to meet to accept the petition. The Executive Member reiterated that no decision would be made prior to the conclusion of the consultation, with a report expected to the Executive Committee in July 2014. Any change in charges would not be introduced until possibly late July or early August.

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr Mark Nagle of Freshwater	Why was there a need to further increase budget surpluses for car park maintenance, when this responsibility had passed to Island Roads through the Highway PFI. Supplementary – Asking why increases had not been proposed in certain areas.	The Executive Member agreed to provide a written response. The Executive Member confirmed the situation could alter depending on the outcome of the consultation.

15. **Chairman's Report**

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

Councillor Dave Stewart was afforded the opportunity to update members on the appointment of an independent member to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel.

16. **Cross Solent Ferry Services**

Members gave consideration to a recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee on the Cross Solent Ferry Services.

A proposal was put forward to ask the MP to petition Government to bring the ferry companies in line with other public transport providers. As the motion did not attract a seconder, it fell.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (32)

Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse

Against (0)

Abstentions (3)

Councillors Reg Barry, Julie Jones-Evans, Bob Seely

RESOLVED :

- (i) THAT it be recognised that services could only be operated on a cost effectiveness basis and this involved the need to attract additional traffic on routes with the prime stimulus being through economic growth particularly in tourism.
- (ii) THAT smaller businesses should be encouraged to work together, or through the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Island Business Forum, if they wished to negotiate reduced fares with operators.
- (iii) THAT the work being undertaken by all the operators to engage with users was very welcome and this needs to be built on and made a regular and continued feature of marketing activities and service provision.
- (iv) THAT the role of the Quality Transport Partnership should be reviewed to ascertain how this could be used more strategically to discuss key issues between transport operators and users.
- (v) THAT operators should be encouraged to maintain regular contact with the council through specifically nominated members and officers to ensure an effective and efficient co-ordinated structured approach to dealing with the continued development of ferry services.
- (vi) THAT the relevant Executive members with responsibility for planning and economic development, together with the relevant heads of service should consider the establishment of a mechanism so that the council could better assist developers coming forward with suitable applications for tourism related proposals particularly those offering quality accommodation and all the year round attraction and other commercial activities.
- (vii) THAT the Leader of the Council should raise with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership whether it could assist in creating a better understanding with the local harbour and port authorities on the implications that charges for use of facilities could have on ferry operators which could have social and economic implications for Island residents and businesses.
- (viii) THAT the implications of the Competition Act on cross Solent operator's ability to introduce a common fare structure for specific groups such as students and those attending mainland medical appointments should be highlighted through the media.

17. [Fire and Rescue Annual Report Incorporating the Integrated Risk Management Plan](#)

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (35)

Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, 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

RESOLVED :

THAT the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014 - 2020 and the annual assurance statement 2012 - 13 be approved.

18. **Reports of the Executive Members**

(i) [The Leader](#)

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

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Lumley	Would the Leader report to every full council progress against the £28m budget shortfall?	The Leader stated he was not in a position to do so at present, confirming progress and research was underway on various options.
Cllr Bertie	Noting the reference to the maritime economy, what provisions were in place to secure European funding to undertake urgent marine maintenance projects to retain maritime business on the Island?	The Leader confirmed a meeting was scheduled shortly with the chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership to discuss Island issues. Work was underway to secure land for industrial maritime use in place of residential development.
Cllr Barry	Would the Leader consider a mail drop to residents to inform them that highway	The Leader stated that the Council maintained overall control of the Highway

Name	Subject	Comment
	concerns should be directed to Island Roads?	contract and members should direct residents through the correct reporting channels.
Cllr Hollis	Would the Leader agree that previous administrations had been incorrect in granting planning permission for housing on maritime land?	The Leader stated that any previous decisions had been based on policies at the time and therefore he did not agree with Cllr Hollis.

(ii) **The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Community Wellbeing**

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

Oral questions were put to the Deputy Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	Would the Deputy Leader continue to engage with town and parish councils in regard to the transition of services?	The Deputy Leader confirmed he would.
Cllr Peacey-Wilcox	Would the Deputy Leader acknowledge the work undertaken to identify £680k of benefit fraud.	The Deputy Leader confirmed numerous officers were tasked with identifying savings for the council.
Cllr Pitcher	Asked if the Deputy Leader would highlight the positive work of the empty homes team?	The Deputy Leader was pleased to confirm the positive work of the team.
Cllr Jones-Evans	Could the Deputy Leader explain how the target relating to the number of benefit fraud sanctions was determined?	The Deputy Leader stated he would provide a written response.
Cllr Seely	Would the Deputy Leader accept his thanks for the work undertaken to enable Brighstone Library to convert into a community hub office.	The Deputy Leader stated he was happy to do so.

(iii) **Executive Member for Children's Services and Education**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
CLlr Lumley	Could members be updated on the progress of talks with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to support the ongoing work required relating to Cowes Enterprise College?	The Executive Member stated a comprehensive report had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and there had not been any significant developments to date.
CLlr Gauntlett	Would the Executive Member consider introducing a policy to provide chaperones on school transport?	The Executive Member stated that such a policy could be introduced, although any costs would need to be considered.
CLlr Whitehouse	Was a policy in place or would it be considered to control the nature of advertisements on school buses?	The Executive Member confirmed he would raise the matter through procurement to research the detail of the contract.
CLlr Stewart	Could the member provide timescales for a final decision in relation to Cowes Enterprise College	The Executive Member confirmed negotiations were continuing with the EFA to secure resources and once an outcome was determined, members would be informed.

(iv) **Executive Member for Corporate Governance, Planning and Regulatory Services**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
CLlr Whitehouse	Could the Executive Member provide an update on plans to introduce fees for pre application planning advice?	The Executive Member confirmed he was in discussions with the Head of Service on the matter.

(v) [Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Change and Exchequer Services](#)

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

(vi) [Executive Member for Fire and Rescue Services and Public Health/Safety](#)

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

(vii) [Executive Member for Economy and Tourism](#)

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

(viii) [Executive Member for Finance and PFI Contract](#)

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Price	Cllr Price asked four questions on behalf of Mr T Gibbs of Brading.	The Executive Member agreed to provide written responses.
Cllr Price	Could the Executive Member explain the justification for introducing parking charges at Medina Campus to subsidise Medina Leisure Centre, which was unfair on school staff and pupils?	The Executive Member agreed to provide a written response.
Cllr Whitby-Smith	Would the member confirm that the concerns of 3000 residents via petition would result in a full debate of the results of the parking charges consultation at the July Executive meeting?	The Executive Member assured that any concerns submitted during the consultation would be taken into account as part of the report to the Executive on 8 July 2014.
Cllr Jones-Evans	Asked a question in relation to the introduction of the facility for residents living 200m from a council car park to pay by monthly direct debit.	The Executive Member stated that this would require an upgrade to the current computer software. Work was underway to resolve this matter. Once in place the public would be informed

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	<p>Details were sought regarding the strategic review of parking charges, including progress made, terms of reference and responsible officers. Would the implementation of any charges be delayed until such a review had concluded?</p> <p>Supplementary – Would other members have the ability to engage in the parking review and strategy?</p>	<p>The Executive Member stated the parking strategy would contain various elements other than parking and the results of the consultation would form the basis of any strategy.</p> <p>The Executive Member confirmed all members were welcome to contribute with ideas or concerns.</p>
Cllr Hobart	<p>Highlighting the impact on users of the Carisbrooke nursery school should charges be introduced?</p>	<p>The Executive Member referred to their previous response in regard to the consultation.</p>
Cllr Lumley	<p>Could the member commit to the introduction of the direct debit facility as soon as possible to avoid any impact on low income families?</p> <p>Supplementary – Would Executive member give a commitment not impose the £150 charge relating to residents living within 200 metres of a car park until the system was in place?</p>	<p>The Executive Member gave the assurance that the system would be implemented as soon as possible but referred to the current budget constraints of the council.</p>
Cllr Gauntlett	<p>Highlighted concerns with the introduction of charges at the Medina and Heights Leisure Centres, with two hours free for one card owners and not for users of the Waterside Pool, impacting on users.</p>	
Cllr Seeley	<p>Could the Executive Member explain why the council was undertaking a small consultation prior to a strategic review?</p>	<p>The Executive Member stated there was no parking strategy currently in place and that the consultation results and all comments received would form the foundation of the formulation of an overall strategy.</p>

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Bloomfield	Highlighted the concerns of businesses and users of Shanklin Theatre, would these be taken into account?	The Executive Member confirmed they would.
Cllr Pitcher	Highlighted the impact of the introduction of charges in Wootton on users of the medical centre.	The Executive Member confirmed he would listen to any concerns raised during the consultation.
Cllr Stubbings	Asked a question relating to members' input into the consultation	The Executive Member confirmed the views of any political group were welcomed
Cllr Bacon	Asked if the development of the parking policy and strategy could form part of the Executive Advisory Panel's work?	
Cllr Barry	Asked that those residents without access to a car also be represented.	The Executive Member accepted the importance of considering that group, highlighting that parking income supported the concessionary fares scheme.

(ix) **Executive Member for Sustainability**

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

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones-Evans	Asked for details of where savings would be made in grounds maintenance and did this include principal parks?	The Executive Member stated that they were working on a long term vision for the management of council land including with town and parish councils. They would provide a written response.
	Supplementary – Could you assure principal parks would be retained by the council?	In reply the Executive Member stated there was no such plan at this time.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Lumley	Would you confirm that changes to the grounds maintenance contract were a consequence of budget reductions?	The Executive Member confirmed that all services were under pressure owing to previous budgetary decisions and the current budget reductions.
Cllr Bacon	Would St Helens Green be treated in a similar way as other principal parks?	The Executive Member agreed to provide a written reply.

(x) **Chairman of Scrutiny Committee**

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

Oral questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	Would the chairman agree that the principal role of the opposition was to provide effective scrutiny of decision making and not to set policy?	The Chairman stated he did not agree with that statement.
Cllr Jones-Evans	Could the chairman provide details of the number of task and finish groups established within scrutiny and the topics covered?	The Chairman highlighted that five groups had been established and provided details of the areas of focus.

19. **Motion submitted under Procedure Rule 16 of the Council's Constitution**

Members gave consideration to rescinding a previous decision made at a meeting of council held on 19 March 2014.

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

For (22)

Cllrs Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Bob Blezzard, Paul Fuller, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Howe, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Medland, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Richard Priest, Colin Richards, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith

Abstentions (10)

Cllrs Paul Bertie, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, Conrad Gauntlett, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, John Nicholson, Matthew Price, Bob Seely, Dave Stewart

RESOLVED :

- i) THAT the following decision taken at annual Council on 14 March 2014 be rescinded.

Minute 7 – Constitution, Committee Structure and Appointments

Appendix 1 – Article 7 – EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES
(Page B-15)

The executive advisory committees shall comprise 7 members of the council appointed on a politically proportionate basis and shall include the relevant executive members as part of part 7.

- ii) THAT the wording in Article 7 – EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES now read:

The executive advisory committees shall comprise 6 members of the council appointed on a politically proportionate basis.

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

Councillor Jonathan Bacon left the room for this item and did not participate in the debate.

By Councillor Daryll Pitcher

The following amended motion was circulated to members prior to the start of the meeting:

- (a) Every person who works for the Isle of Wight Council on either a zero hours or non-contract basis, upon completion of twelve months service, should be entitled to ask for a guaranteed hours' contract.

The hours offered should be equivalent to their average weekly hours for the previous three months (unless negotiated otherwise).

- (b) A clause be put in all future contracts drawn up by the Isle of Wight Council that when procuring services anybody working on a Council contract should be given the same entitlement by their employer.

The Monitoring officer advised members that under procedure Rule 11, there was a need to adjourn the matter to the next meeting due to a significant increase in expenditure.

RESOLVED:

THAT the motion stand adjourned to the next meeting of Full Council.

CHAIRMAN