



# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
Date and time	<b>13 SEPTEMBER 2007, 6.00 PM</b>
Venue	<b>COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Vanessa Churchman (Vice Chairman in the Chair), Anne Bishop, Ivan Bulwer, William Burt, Barbara Foster, Heather Humby, Geoff Lumley, Garry Price, Diana Tuson
Co-opted Members (voting)	Mrs Sue Poston, Mr Charles Rogers
Co-opted Member (non voting)	Mr Bob Blezzard
Parent Governor Members (voting)	Mrs Sara Sheath, Mr Adrian Smith
Officers Present	Miss Andrea Lisseter, Mr Stuart Love, Mr John Metcalfe, Mr Paul Thistlewood
Other Members Present	Cllrs Brian Mosdell, David Pugh, Ian Ward, Alan Wells
Apologies	Lady Pigot, Margaret Webster
34.	<b>Minutes</b>  It was noted that the position of Chairman of the Committee was still to be resolved. The Vice Chairman agreed to raise the issue at the Full Council meeting the following week.  <u>RESOLVED</u> :  THAT the minutes of the meeting held on <a href="#">2 August 2007</a> be confirmed.
35.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Mr Bob Blezzard declared a personal interest in Minute 36 – 41 as he was a Member of Sandown Town Council.

Cllr Heather Humby declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 37 as she sat on the Committee for the South Wight Youth Theatre which could have been financially affected by a decision regarding the future of Shanklin Theatre.

Cllr Diana Tuson declared a personal interest in Minute 37 as her husband performed at the theatre.

36. **Public Question Time**

A written question had been received from Mr Tony Rayner regarding financial arrangements for Shanklin Theatre. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Communications provided a response (PQ 20/07)

A written question had been received from Mrs Stephanie Welch regarding financial arrangements for Shanklin Theatre. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Communications provided a response (PQ 21/07)

Mr Anthony Wright asked a question relating to the level of consultation undertaken with theatre users. The Cabinet Member provided a response stating that this form of consultation was the next stage and the Cabinet Member welcomed people coming forward.

37. **Call-In of Delegated Decision 28/07 – Next Steps for Shanklin Theatre**

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest at the start of the meeting in this item Cllr Humby left the room.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Communications and the Assistant Director of Community Services attended for this item.

The Committee had called-in the decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Communications on 23 August 2007 on the Next Steps for Shanklin Theatre due to inadequate consultation prior to considering options and insufficient information regarding safeguards for the continuation of the theatre.

Members asked questions relating to the financial information produced, the type of manager being recruited and whether partnership options had been explored. Concerns were also raised regarding the skills needed for a theatre manager, the level of consultation undertaken so far and the resignation of the Theatre Director

The Cabinet Member explained that this decision was about the transition arrangements and future options would be looked at over the coming months. The decision would enable a business plan to be produced.

The Cabinet Member then clarified that the money being put into Shanklin Theatre was to address health and safety requirements. He felt that it was important to demonstrate the potential of the theatre so to attract interested parties. The Manager would receive and manage bookings for the venue. Other management of the Theatre would be undertaken by the Cultural Services Team. The Council would look into grants and would explore future options for Shanklin Theatre over the coming months. The Cabinet Member wanted someone to take it forward as a hire venue and secure an income stream and secure bookings to keep the Theatre going while future options were being explored.

The Cabinet Member explained that community groups had come forward with an interest in using the theatre. He also provided an update on the figures in the report. It was predicted that the income from private hire would be £78,000.

Advice had been received from the Monitoring Officer which stated that the decision was legal and was within the policy framework of the Council.

The Chief Financial Officer had indicated that the decision had an estimated additional cost through an increased subsidy of £48,569 which would be met through central reserves or any under spending elsewhere within the budget. The option proposed was the least cost option.

The Committee nominated Mrs Sue Poston as an expert witness to assist with moving things forward. Mrs Poston agreed to assist until the end of September 2007.

The Committee agreed to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Cabinet Member be requested not to implement the delegated decision and seek the assistance of Mrs Sue Poston as an expert witness, to assist in reviewing the options available, by the end of September and a report on the outcome of this be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

(Cllr Humby returned to the meeting)

**38. Car Park Enquiry – Response to Recommendations**

Members received a response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to each of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the car park enquiry. The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Fire Modernisation attended on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.

The Cabinet Member explained the reasons for rejecting some of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee requested that the Cabinet Member revisit recommendation 6 in the report regarding obtaining information on engine size to assist in any future consideration of a charging structure based on engine size for environmental reasons.

It was noted that there was free parking for environmentally friendly vehicles although the number of these on the Island were not known.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the report be noted and that the Cabinet Member be requested to revisit recommendation 6.

39. **Anti-Social Behaviour Enquiry SC02/07**

Cllr Heather Humby introduced the scoping document on the anti-social behaviour enquiry as the Lead Member.

The enquiry would investigate the collection and use of information by the Council and its partners on anti-social behaviour. This was to ensure that consistent and relevant information was being collected in order for it to be used effectively in the implementation of policies and strategies.

**RESOLVED:**

That the scoping document be agreed.

40. **Progress Report on Other Current Enquiries**

Waste Management and Recycling - meetings had been held with the lead AONB Officer and the Footprint Trust. Meetings were due to be held with the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Industry and the private company LA Recycling.

Revenue Budget – The task group had met with the Interim Director of Finance and had considered a report on the Council's financial position for the first quarter of 2007/08. Further information was being sought from the Director. The Cabinet Member for Resources and the Interim Director would be invited to the Scrutiny Committee meeting in December.

The issue of external Scrutiny was raised and the timescale for when the Committee could start to scrutinise external bodies. This was likely to take place in 2008.

41.

**Forward Plan**

Members reviewed the Forward Plan for the period September – January 2008. The new forward plan for October would be published the following day.

It was noted that the report on the pre-planning application had not yet been finalised.

The Committee requested that updates on the Strategic Transformational Partnership Gateway Review and Next Steps and the Tourism Review be obtained from the relevant Cabinet Members.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

CHAIRMAN