

Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2009
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Arthur Taylor (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Henry Adams, Anne Bishop, George Brown, Ivan Bulwer, William Burt, George Cameron, Charles Chapman, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Mike Cunningham, John Effemey, Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond, Charles Hancock, John Hobart, Peter Humber, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Muriel Miller, Erica Oulton, Lady Pigot, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, Ian Stephens, Andy Sutton, Diana Tuson, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Alan Wells, Colin West, David Whittaker, David Williams, Jilly Wood
Officers in attendance	Steve Beynon, Dave Burbage, Davina Fiore, Chris Mathews, Sarah Mitchell, Amanda Thomas, Keith Woods
Apologies	Cllrs Wendy Arnold, John Bowker, Roger Dixcey, Barbara Foster, Deborah Gardiner, Patrick Joyce, Gill Kennett, David Knowles, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Garry Price,

68. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT subject to an amendment to Minute 67 (xi), to change the Appendix number to 5 and to append a copy of Appendix 5 with the minutes, the minutes of the meeting held on [25 February 2009](#) be confirmed.

69. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

70. **Public Question Time**

Two written questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Reference Number
Mr Christopher	Costs incurred at Blackhouse Quay, Newport	PQ 12/09

Dodd of
Newport

Mrs Valerie Resources and training for Children's Services. PQ/ 13/09
Hards of
Whippingham

71. **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been circulated to attendees for information.

The Chairman proposed that Item 6 on the agenda, the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Review of Allowances Paid to the Independent Members of the Ethical Standards Committee, be discussed before Item 5 on the agenda, the motion submitted under Council's Procedure Rule 10, to facilitate a contribution from a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Item 6 on the agenda be discussed before Item 5 to facilitate a contribution from a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

72. **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the Review of Allowances Paid to the Independent Members of the Ethical Standards Committee**

Council was addressed by Mr Brian Herbert of the independent Remuneration Panel who advised that in view of the additional responsibilities imposed on the Ethical Standards Committee, following the change in legislation in May 2008, the Independent Remuneration Panel had recommended that an additional allowance be paid to some members of the Ethical Standards committee, as well as a further change to correct the anomalies in the amount paid to individual members.

The Leader endorsed the report and proposed the recommendation, which was duly seconded.

During the debate concerns were raised about the affordability of backdating the allowance to April 2008. However, Members were advised that these costs would be considered in the light of the recently approved budget.

RESOLVED:

- (a) THAT the existing allowances paid to the Chairman and the Independent Members of the Ethical Standards Committee remain as they are (£3,573 and £301 a year respectively).
- (b) THAT the Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to include the following:
 - i. That the representatives of the Town and Parish Councils on the Ethical Standards Committee be entitled to receive the £301 a year allowance that is available to Independent Members.
 - ii. That Independent Members (except the Chair) and Town and Parish Council representatives be able to claim £30 per case that they consider (and by "case"

this means every time a matter is considered at each of the four stages detailed in paragraph 30 of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel).

(c) THAT, the above changes be backdated to 1 April 2008.

73. **Motion Under Procedure Rule 10**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 10, the following motion was moved by Cllr Lumley:

Council congratulates the Island's MP on his success in mobilising a community campaign that achieved an Office of Fair Trading investigation into the cross-Solent ferry companies.

Council also agrees that it expects a minimum level of service from the cross-Solent ferry companies, based on what the Island needs for commerce and general day to day life

Council, therefore, resolves:

- (i) to seek an acknowledgment from the ferry companies, and in particular Wightlink as owners of a previously public service, that they have a public service obligation;
- (ii) to seek from the ferry companies clarification as to which of their current services are deemed to satisfy any public service obligation that they do acknowledge;
- (iii) to enquire of the ferry companies if they have any plans for further service reductions.

The motion was seconded and during the debate an amendment was moved, seconded and accepted by Cllr Lumley. A further discussion took place on the amended motion when Members raised concerns about the recent reductions in ferry and bus service levels and the comparative high cost of fares. Following the vote it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) THAT Council congratulates the Island's MP on his success in mobilising a community campaign that achieved an Office of Fair Trading market study into the cross-Solent ferry companies.
- (b) THAT in addition, Council welcomes the decision of the Office of Fair Trading to conduct a market study into the supply of local bus services, and in particular welcomes the notification received from the OFT that the study will cover the Island. Council is concerned that bus fares in areas where there is little or no competition (such as the Isle of Wight) may be considerably higher than in areas where greater competition exists.
- (c) THAT Council welcomes this unprecedented opportunity to look at the two forms of public transport that play such an important role in the life of the Island and its economy, and agrees to assist with both market studies.

- (d) THAT in the event that the OFT decides to initiate full investigations into cross-Solent ferry travel and Island buses, the Council will be pleased to provide information to assist in this process, in order to arrive at an outcome that could benefit Island residents, businesses and the Island economy as a whole.
- (e) THAT Council agrees that it expects service frequency and reliability from the cross-Solent ferry companies and Southern Vectis at fair prices for all users.
- (f) THAT Council therefore also resolves:
 - (i) to seek an acknowledgment from the ferry companies and Southern Vectis that they have a public service obligation;
 - (ii) to seek clarification from the ferry companies and Southern Vectis as to which of their current services are deemed to satisfy any public service obligation that they do acknowledge;
 - (iii) to enquire of the ferry companies and Southern Vectis if they have any plans for further service reductions.

74. Co-opted and Independent Membership on Council Committees

Council was advised that the current co-opted member appointments were due to expire in May 2009. However, due to the change in the date for the elections, it was proposed that the term of office for co-opted members be extended to ensure that Council was compliant with statutory requirements.

RESOLVED:

THAT the term of office of the two voting co-opted members on the Scrutiny Committee and the seven independent members of the Ethical Standards Committee, be extended until 31 October 2009.

75. Cabinet

Reports Of The Cabinet Members

(i) [The Leader](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

An oral question was put to the Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Colin Richards	The standard of Council Services.	The Leader responded.

(ii) [The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure, Planning and Property](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Ian Stephens	The condition of Ryde Esplanade.	The Cabinet Member responded.
Cllr Charles Hancock	The condition of the footpath at Folly Lane.	The Cabinet Member responded.

(iii) **Cabinet Member for Safer Communities**

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question had been submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Reference Number
Cllr Ian Stephens	The new Government legislation on Alcohol Disorder Zones.	MQ 04/09

(iv) **Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question had been submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Reference Number
Cllr Ian Stephens	The recruitment for Child Social Care Works and resources for Serious Case Reviews.	MQ 05/09

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

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Charles Hancock	Arranging visits to youth clubs provided by the Third Sector.	The Cabinet Member responded.

(v) **Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question had been submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Reference Number
Cllr Ian Stephens	The bus service in the Ryde South West Ward.	MQ 05/09

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Heather Humby	The pollarding of trees in Sandown.	The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.
Cllr Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond	An update on the proposed meeting between the Minister for Transport and another Member.	The Cabinet Member responded.
Cllr Charles Hancock	The width of the companionway on the temporary launch service between Cowes and East Cowes.	The Cabinet Member responded.

(vi) **[Chair of Scrutiny](#)**

A written report had been circulated for information.

An oral question was put to the Chairman as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Geoff Lumley	Clarification of the Chairman's written report.	The Chairman responded.

(vii) **[Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Community Wellbeing](#)**

A written report had been circulated for information. The Cabinet Member also recorded the Council's thanks to Sarah Mitchell, the Director of Community Services, who was attending her last Council meeting.

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Muriel Miller	The loss of the benefit office in East Cowes.	The Cabinet Member and Cllr

Abraham would investigate and provide a written response.

Cllr Geoff Lumley

The establishment of a Local Involvement Network Group for the Island.

The Cabinet Member and Cllr Oulton provided a response.

(viii) **Cabinet Member for Residents, Resources and the Fire Service**

A written report had been circulated for information and the Cabinet Member also advised Council of the recent Equals Event, dealing with access to public services, which had been well attended.

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

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Colin Richards	Clarification of Council owned properties.	The Cabinet Member and Cllr Brown provided a response.

CHAIRMAN