

# Minutes

Name of meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date and time	<b>WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2008</b>
Venue	<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT</b>
Present	Cllrs Roger Mazillius (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Henry Adams, Wendy Arnold, Anne Bishop, George Brown, Ivan Bulwer, William Burt, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Mike Cunningham, John Effemey, Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond, Deborah Gardiner, Charles Hancock, John Hobart, Peter Humber, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Patrick Joyce, Gill Kennett, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Win McRobert, Muriel Miller, Brian Mosdell, Erica Oulton, Lady Pigot, Garry Price, David Pugh, Susan Scoccia, Andy Sutton, Melanie Swan, Arthur Taylor, Diana Tuson, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Alan Wells, Colin West, David Whittaker, David Williams, Jilly Wood
In attendance	Joe Duckworth, Davina Fiore, Chris Mathews, Amanda Thomas
Apologies	Cllrs George Cameron, Charles Chapman, Barbara Foster, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Ian Stephens

74. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [12 December 2007](#) be confirmed.

75. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Bishop, Churchman, Joyce and McRobert announced their resignation from the Conservative party and moved to the other side of the Council Chamber.

76. **Public Question Time**

Two written questions had been received:

Mr Chris Jarman of Totland (PQ 02/08) withdrew his question at this stage as a written response to the question at the December Council meeting had been provided.

Mr David Miller of Cowes (PQ 03/08) asked a question and a supplementary about school admission arrangements in the light of the education reorganisation options. The Cabinet Member provided a response. A written response regarding oversubscription for Community Middle Schools would be provided when available.

Oral questions were received from:

Mr Mike Starke of Chale about the link between the Schools Reorganisation and the Island Plan. The Leader provided a response.

Mrs Emma Collins of Newport, Roger Morgan of Totland, Christine Morgan of Totland, and Lawrence Kemp of Freshwater all put questions relating to Weston Manor. During this item declarations of personal interest were made by Cllrs Kennet and Pugh as they were members of the Board of Trustees for the Real World Trust. The Chairman invited the questioners to put their concerns in writing and a written response would be provided.

Mrs Ellen McVicar of Binstead asked about the School Reorganisation Options and the Leader provided a response.

77. **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been circulated and the Chairman also made a statement about the School Reorganisation Consultation.

78. **Outcome of Hearings Sub-Committee on 26 November 2007**

Council received a report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee on the outcome of the Hearings Sub-Committee held on 26 November 2007. A copy of the public notice of the outcome had also been circulated.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT Council note the outcome.

79. **Response to the Draft Recommendations of the Boundary Committee for the "Future Electoral Arrangements for the Isle of Wight"**

The Leader introduced the report setting out the proposed response by the Council to the draft recommendations of the Boundary Committee. Whilst broadly in support of the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations the proposed response argued against the proposal that there be a two member ward for Bembridge, St Helens and Brading.

Concern was raised about reference to the three Primary Schools in Bembridge, Brading and St Helens, which could close under all of the current School Reorganisation Options.

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the proposed submission, as attached at Appendix 1, be approved as the Council's response to the Draft Recommendations of the Boundary Committee.

80. **Constitutional Matters – Appointment Committees and Political Proportionality**

Council was invited to consider providing a mechanism for creating appointment panels for the Head of Service vacancies and to revise political proportionality following recent movement between political parties.

The Leader proposed that in view of the changes in the political groups, raised earlier in the meeting, that recommendation (a) in the report (dealing with the delegation of the process to establish Appointments Panels) be left unaltered but that recommendation (b) be replaced so as to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to approve a revised political proportionality scheme to reflect the political make up of the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) TO delegate to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, the establishment of an appointments panel of 5 Members (on a politically proportionate basis and to include at least one member of the Cabinet) to undertake the interviews and offer permanent appointments to the relevant Head of Service post. The Committees will also undertake such other duties as form an appropriate part of the selection process as advised by the Director of Customer Service or Head of Human Resources.
- (ii) THAT the Monitoring Officer be delegated to amend the political proportionality scheme across the Council's committees in consultation with Group Leaders and individual Members.

81. **Cabinet**

(a) **Recommendations From The Cabinet – Ethical Audit Action Plan**

- (i) THAT Cabinet adopt the action plan set out as Appendix 2 to the report and that Full Council also be recommended to adopt the action plan.

Members were advised that the report had recently been discussed by the Standards Committee. It was envisaged that the Action Plan would support an improved decision making process, and transparency of decisions. In addition, council was invited to consider a change to name for the Standards Committee to the 'Ethical Standards Committee'. It was proposed

and seconded that Council adopt the Ethical Audit Action Plan and change the name of the committee.

The Chairman of the Standards Committee was invited to address Members and advised that he fully supported the proposal including the change to the committee name. It was envisaged that the Action Plan would raise ethical standards for the Island.

Members were asked to forward individual representations to the Leader, the Cabinet Member or the Chairman of the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. THAT Council adopt the Ethical Audit Action Plan.
- ii. THAT the name of the Standards Committee be changed to the 'Ethical Standards Committee'.

**(b) Reports Of The Cabinet Members**

**(i) The Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure and Governance**

A written question had been submitted by Cllr Miller (MQ 01/08) regarding the number of Policy Commission Blue Papers submitted since May 2005 and the total recommendations accepted. The Leader provided a response. Details would be circulated to all Members.

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Price asked about the Council's policy for maintaining the Outlook electronic mail system given the recent problems experienced by Members. The Leader invited the Cabinet Member to comment, who advised that an investigation was on-going. A supplementary question was put regarding officer response times to Member queries and the Leader advised that this was currently under discussion with Directors and the Cabinet Member.

Cllr Lumley asked why housing issues had not been included in the Leader's update report. The Leader advised that housing was one of the top priorities for the Council and update reports would be included as necessary.

**(ii) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Planning and Property**

A written update report had been circulated and the Cabinet Member also advised Council of the tourism

results for the third quarter of 2007, which had been better than expected.

Cllr Churchman asked a question about the impact of the Music Festival and the Bestival on the tourism figures. The Cabinet Member advised that although some impact had been experienced, it was the longer term holidays that were showing improvement.

Cllr Price asked when the Island Plan would be published and the Cabinet Member advised that it was currently scheduled for May 2008.

(iii) **Cabinet Member for Residents and Resources**

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Price asked how many additional staff had been employed since May 2005. The Cabinet Member advised that a written response would be provided and copied to all Members. A supplementary question was put regarding the total cost of special temporary advisors appointed since May 2005, and how many were self-employed. Cllr Price was invited to attend a meeting with the Cabinet Member and an officer to discuss the extent of his query.

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

A written question had been received from Cllr Miller (MQ 02/08) about the number of Medivac incidents attended by the Fire Brigade, the associated cost and whether this reflected the level of service at St Mary's hospital. The Cabinet Member advised that 35 incidents had been attended with no additional costs incurred. Only emergency patients were transferred to the mainland, but discussions were taking place with the Health Authority.

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Mosdell asked if a meeting could be arranged to discuss a number of serious incidents in his ward. The Cabinet Member agreed to speak with Cllr Mosdell.

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

The Chairman declared a personal interest in this item as his son was a currently under contract with the Council.

A written question had been received from Cllr Swan (mq 03/08) about publication of the SEN provision report undertaken by Arclan during 2007. The Cabinet Member advised that the report was published on the Council's website towards the end of 2007.

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Webster asked a question about the impact on primary schools following the revised capital programme. The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had a duty of care to maintain schools.

Cllr Price asked when the proposed primary school closure list had first been available. The Cabinet Member advised that all Members were informed on Monday, 14 January 2008.

Cllr Gardiner asked what specific guidance had been given to the Isle of Wight Council by DCSF regarding its Primary Capital Programme bid. The Cabinet Member advised that general Government guidance had been received on 6 December 2007 around a number of changes.

Cllr Hancock requested a copy of the report confirming the reduction in grant funding. The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

Cllr Arnold asked about the impact on Pre-school provision given the planned Primary School closures. The Cabinet Member advised that this would be investigated after the decision was made.

Cllr Pugh asked how many Members had made representations about the reduction in grant funding. The Cabinet Member advised that none had been received.

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

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Hancock asked if the proposed visit to the Gasification Plant at Forest Road could be undertaken during operation. The Cabinet Member advised that the Plant would be too hot to visit during operation.

Cllr Churchman asked for an update on the delay at Ryde Interchange and the current condition of the buildings in the area. The Cabinet Member advised that updates would be included in future Cabinet Reports to Council and a site meeting had been arranged to discuss the condition of the area.

Cllr Knowles asked about the suspension of officers involved with Ryde Interchange. The Cabinet Member advised that he was unable to comment on staff matters.

Cllr Miller asked what could be done for the listed buildings within Ryde Esplanade. The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

Cllr Whittaker asked about the Council policy for One Island projects noting that the toilets in Cross Street, Cowes remained closed. The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

(vii) **Chair of Scrutiny**

A written update report had been circulated.

Cllr Mosdell asked whether other Members could attend the CorVu development sessions. The Chairman of Scrutiny advised that any Member would be welcomed.

(viii) **Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Supporting People**

A written report had been circulated and Council was also advised that the Supporting People Inspection had been completed, but the results were embargoed until 24 January 2008.

CHAIRMAN