



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Arthur Taylor (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Peter Bingham, George Brown, Ivan Bulwer, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Roger Dixcey, Rodney Downer, Stuart Dyer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Julie Jones-Evans, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia Ian Stephens, Andy Sutton, Ian Ward, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Adrian Whittaker, Wayne Whittle, David Williams, William Wyatt-Millington
Apologies	Cllrs George Cameron, Richard Hollis, Patrick Joyce, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Margaret Webster, David Whittaker

40. **Minutes**

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [25 November 2009](#) be confirmed.

41. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

42. **Public Question Time**

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr John Wortham	The main purpose of public toilets is they should be clean, tidy, have hot water and toilet roll, the eco loos in Ventnor cost £323,000 would you agree that in this present economic climate that was an inordinate sum of public funds.	The Cabinet Member advised that the eco loos had won awards; and indicated it may seem that a lot of money was being spent on some of the flagship facilities, but there was a need to

Name	Subject	Comment
		ensure a reasonable supply of public facilities around the island. Any future upgrades would need to be considered within the Council's overall priorities.
	A supplementary question was put indicating that the original sum for those toilets had been £285,000. An additional cost of £26,200 for the turbine alone which only produced between 100w and 150w, which would take about 82 years to get the money back, would you agree that there was no need to have more eco loos.	The Cabinet Member advised that he would find more information and provide a written response.
	Mr D Miller of Cowes regarding school admissions for 2011-12, the number of places available appeared to have increased by 291. Clarification was sought.	The Cabinet Member indicated he would provide a detailed written response. The proposals were for secondary schools which also included Christ the King.
	A supplementary question asking if the change in the Oakfield numbers, to 45, be explained in light of the council's policy of admission numbers of 30 or 60.	The Cabinet Member explained that Oakfield was in federation with Arreton Primary School and therefore the policy of one form entry for the Island was applied across those two schools.

43. Submission of a Petition in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution

Councillor John Howe presented a petition which called for public conveniences at Colwell Bay and Totland Bay to be refurbished and the Totland Bay recreation ground conveniences to be rebuilt.

The Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport told Members that he had met with Cllr Howe at Totland and would provide a written response.

44. Members' Allowance Scheme

Members' were reminded that at the Annual Council meeting held on 17 June 2009, the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was asked to undertake a review on all aspects of Members' allowances.

Mr Peter Savory, an Independent Remuneration Panel member, advised Council that the IRP had obtained data from a wide range of sources and a ranking exercise of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) had been

undertaken. The Panel had sought to protect the basic allowance and revise SRAs to provide an overall scheme as close to budget as possible.

The Leader thanked the Panel for all their work and reminded members of the decision of the Council in June to agree a scheme in line with the recommendations – this would have the effect of removing, as far as possible, the determination of the level of remuneration from Councillors. He reminded Councillors that roles had changed and as new positions had been created in June 2009 provisional SRAs had been applied. The IRP had now made recommendations on those new positions.

The following motion was moved and seconded:

- (i) THAT the Basic Allowance to remain at £7,903 and be regardless of ward size.
- (ii) THAT the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) to be as follows:

	SRA £	Factor of basic allowance
Leader	23,709	X 3.0
Cabinet Member	11,854	X 1.5
Council Chairman	5,532	X 0.7
Council Vice-Chairman	1,580	X 0.2
Planning Committee Chairman	7,903	X 1.0
Planning Committee Vice-Chairman	1,580	X 0.2
Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman	6,322	X 0.8
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman	5,532	X 0.7
Scrutiny Panel Chairman	5,532	X 0.7
Audit Committee Chairman	3,951	X 0.5
Group Leader	1,580	X 0.2

- (iii) THAT the proposed SRAs be back-dated to 17 June 2009.
- (iv) THAT in the current economic circumstances and the council's present budgetary position, all allowances be frozen for the year 2010/11.
- (v) THAT there be no SRA for the following roles:
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chairman
 - Cabinet Secretary
 - Investment and Pension Fund Committee Chairman
- (vi) THAT no change be made to the SRA for the Ethical Standards Committee Chairman (£3,573).
- (vii) THAT the existing lump sum Island Travel Allowance scheme continues.

- (viii) THAT the Dependant Carer's Allowance remains unaltered (currently £4.93 per hour for a dependant child (i.e. Local Government Association rate) and £10.90 per hour for a dependant adult (i.e. the rate paid by Isle of Wight Council Adult Services Department under the Direct Payment Scheme)).
- (ix) THAT Members should not be eligible for the One Card staff leisure discount scheme.
- (x) THAT the paragraph in the Members Allowance Scheme regarding performance enhancement be removed as the star rating system no longer operated.
- (xi) THAT the Independent Remuneration Panel review the Scheme in a year's time in the light of the prevailing economic circumstances, taking account of any anomalies in the Scheme or any unintended consequences of the report.
- (xii) THAT the Constitution be revised as shown at Appendix 7 of the panel's report.

Councillor Bacon raised the issue of estoppel with regard to the repayment part of the proposal and the Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer advised Members that she did not consider it applied to this issue.

An amendment to the proposed scheme of Members' allowances was moved and seconded as follows:

1. That the SRA factors as listed in the IRP recommendations be amended to read:

	Factor of basic allowance
Leader	X 2.7
Cabinet Members	X 1.3
Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman	X 0.7

2. Further that no repayment in situations where SRAs had been paid at a higher rate than those now approved since June 2009.

Following the debate and the vote the amendment was lost.

The debate returned to the substantive motion and following the vote it was:

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

A written report had been circulated for information. The Chairman advised Council that the Citizenship Ceremony which had been due to take place on the 6 January 2010 was cancelled, but had subsequently taken place on 13 January 2010.

The Chairman's Valentine Ball was to be held on 12 February 2010 at Cowes Yacht Haven, with proceeds going to the Hospice and Haylands Farm.

46. **Motion Under Procedure Rule 10 Chairman's Report**

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

Council resolves that all written Cabinet Member reports to Full Council should be issued by email to all Elected Members at least 24 hours before the Full Council commences. Council also welcomes any subsequent verbal updates.

Members were reminded that it was not a Constitutional requirement for written reports to be provided. It was suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman's report would also be included for prior circulation.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT all Cabinet Member and the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman written reports to Full Council to be issued by email, to include the web link, to all Elected Members at least 24 hours before the Full Council commences.
- (ii) THAT any subsequent verbal updates also be welcomed at the meeting.

47. **Election of Chairmen**

(a) Overview and Scrutiny

The name of Councillor Jonathan Bacon was proposed and seconded, there being no further nominations and after a vote was taken it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor Jonathan Bacon be elected Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the ensuing year.

(b) Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Councillor David Williams was proposed and seconded as Chairman of the Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel. There being no further nominations and after a vote was taken it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Councillor David Williams be elected Chairman of the Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the ensuing Council year.

48. **Cabinet**

Reports of the Cabinet Members

(i) [The Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and School Improvement](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

A written question was put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Bacon (MQ 01/10)	Asking for reaffirmation of earlier statements made with regard to the sale of Bembridge Harbour.	The Leader gave a full response which included and indicated that he supported local ownership but that the Isle of Council was not in a position to make a financial contribution.
	A supplementary question was put with regard to possible consultation in relation to the Department of Transport in due course.	The Leader indicated if there was consultation he would indicate the preference for the harbour to be in local ownership.

Oral questions were submitted as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Fuller	Indicated that gratitude and appreciation should be extended to all staff who went beyond the call of duty during the inclement weather in the past 8 days.	The Leader indicated he was happy to endorse.
Councillor Lumley	Would alternative budgets be in the public domain prior to the budget setting meeting.	The Leader indicated that it would be better to see alternative proposals prior to the meeting as he would be keen to consider alternative suggestions.

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

A written report had been circulated for information and the Cabinet member gave an explanation of his views of points made in paragraph 6.35 of the final decision notice from the Adjudication Panel relating to a recent hearing.

Oral questions were submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Barry	Asked if, in relation to the update, it meant the minority of the cabinet thought otherwise.	The Cabinet Member provided a response.
Councillor Churchman	The withdrawal of the 3 rd draft of the Islandplan and asked for a copy of the total cost so far.	The Cabinet Member advised that the original goal posts had been moved but positive dialogue had been held with GOSE. The core strategy that was to be submitted would contain significantly more information than the original document. He would provide her with the cost.

(iii) [Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

(iv) [Cabinet Member for Children, Social Care, Health and Housing](#)

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Richards	Appointments being made with families prior to a visit.	The Cabinet Member indicated she would provide a written response.
Councillor Lumley	The Pan development and the Kick Start scheme.	The Cabinet Member indicated she would provide a written response.
Councillor Dixcey	Congratulated those who had opened up Newport Youth Centre to the homeless in the recent severe weather.	The Cabinet Member provided a response.

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

A written report had been circulated for information and congratulations were offered to highways staff for their work during the severe weather conditions.

Oral questions were submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Whittle	Would a wash-up report on the outcomes of the recent severe weather conditions would be made available.	The Cabinet Member indicated that a wash-up meeting would be held and if any changes were needed a report would be brought to the committee.
Councillor Jones-Evans	Was it possible for residents to have access to salt and grit during severe weather conditions so they could help clear paths.	The Cabinet Member indicated it may be looked into he did not believe it would be feasible.
Councillor Knowles	What had parking enforcement officers been doing over the last 8 days.	The Cabinet Member provided a response.
Councillor Williams	Had any parking meters had been broken into since Smartwater had been deployed.	The Cabinet Member indicated he would forward the figures on.
Councillor Churchman	How the deterioration of road surfaces would be dealt with as the snow melted.	The Cabinet Member indicated it was a real problem that would be looked at over the coming weeks.
Councillor Richards	Were the new salting vehicles four wheel drive.	The Cabinet Member indicated that the vehicles belonged to the contractors, but he would try and find out.
Councillor Downer	Would it be possible to put grit bins in rural areas during the winter months.	The Cabinet Member advised it was something that would be looked at.

(vi) **Cabinet Member for Major Projects, Customer Service and Communications**

A written report had been circulated for information. The Cabinet member updated Council on the communications and call centre activities over the recent adverse weather conditions.

(vii) **Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety**

A written report had been circulated for information. An update on the work of Emergency Planning and Bereavement Services was given.

Oral questions were submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Humby	Could organisations be issued with a list of requirements needed if they were going to put an event on.	The Cabinet Member advised that lists were available, although the onus was on the organisations themselves to ensure they had the necessary permits.
Councillor Knowles	Would it be possible for staff to clear snow from the paths and the road outside the crematorium.	The Cabinet Member indicated that staff at the Crematorium had done admirably. He would ask if highways could send a salt wagon but could not promise as it may set a precedence.
Councillor Fuller	What would happen to the outcomes of a door to door resident's survey undertaken by the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership in Cowes recently? Was there an action plan and extra funding in place to ensure that the most priorities outlined by residents came to fruition.	The Cabinet Member indicated that what the Council could do within its budget would be done, but there were no specific sums of money to carry out anything that was out of the ordinary.
Councillor Ward	Could a consolidated list be put on the Isle of Wight Council's web site indicating what each department required when applying for licences etc.	The Cabinet Member advised that such a list was already in place.
Councillor Barry	The true situation at the crematorium.	The Cabinet Member indicated that he believed staff at the Crematorium had done as much as they possibly could in the adverse weather conditions.

(viii) **Cabinet Member for Resources**

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were submitted as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Councillor Churchman	Staff capacity of ICT, were the staff temporary from outside the Council, or from within the Council.	The Cabinet Member advised that there was a short term problem and currently specialist staff from outside were being used.
Councillor Lumley	If no reply was received from households with regard to the Register of Electors, would they be revisited.	The Cabinet Member advised that if no reply was received, it was followed up with a visit.

CHAIRMAN