



Minutes

Name of meeting **FULL COUNCIL**

Date and time **WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

Venue **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT**

Present Cllrs David Williams (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Edward Giles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Roger Mazillius, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Pugh, Colin Richards, Susan Scoccia, Ian Stephens, David Stewart, Andy Sutton, Arthur Taylor, Gary Taylor, Ian Ward, Ivor Warlow, Margaret Webster, Chris Welsford, Jerry White, Wayne Whittle, David Whittaker

Apologies Cllrs Peter Bingham, George Brown, Roger Dixcey, Patrick Joyce

47. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [16 November 2011](#) be confirmed.

48. [Declarations of Interest](#)

Councillor David Knowles declared a personal interest in Minute 55 - Approval of Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference - as he was a care home proprietor.

Councillors Lora Peacey-Wilcox, David Stewart and David Knowles declared personal interests in Minute 54 - State of the Island Debate - as they were small business owners.

49. [Public Question Time](#)

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Ms Joni Rhodes on behalf of Ecoisland Community Interest Company.	Would the council allow David Green CEO and Founder of Ecoisland Community Interest Company an opportunity to	The Chairman provided a written response which was available on the following link (<u>PQ 01/12</u>)

Name	Subject	Comment
Tanja Rebel	<p>present to the full council the progress and ongoing projects that Ecoisland CIC was working on?</p> <p>What action was the council taking to make this island environmental?</p>	<p>The Leader indicated that a number of steps were being taken in relation to the eco agenda. In the Economic Development Delivery Action plan there was a proposal to invest in a Solent Ocean Energy Centre with the focus on tidal and marine energy. There were a number of other things the council were doing as a local authority.</p>
Adrian Nicholas	<p>Asked a question in relation to youth employment</p>	<p>The Leader advised that Connexions remained as a service. The 14 – 19 team were working closely with providers. There was also the continued work in reducing the number of NEETS.</p>
Robin Slvapalan of Ryde	<p>Asked what provision would the council be giving to help people make the transfer in relation to the cuts in housing benefit for 25 – 35 year olds</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member indicated that if the questioner e-mailed him directly he would provide a full response.</p>
Stuart Goodman	<p>Asked a question in relation the Highways PFI.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member advised that the £3.8m capital finding was part of the LTP settlement, not revenue money.</p>
Simon Haytack	<p>The latest unemployment figures showed the Island as an unemployment black spot, how would that change the Council's plans for budget cuts?</p>	<p>The Leader indicated that the proposed investments, which directly related to tackling unemployment, would not have been possible if difficult decisions had not been taken to make spending reductions within the local authority and release money for that type of initiative.</p>

Name	Subject	Comment
	A supplementary – That would help approximately 160 people what about the other 800?	The Leader indicated that those were the issues which many local authorities had to tackle. The Council was not in a position to tackle all the unemployment issues, it could only do what was within its discretionary powers and limited resources. Land was to be made available for industrial and employment use.

50. **Chairman’s Report**

A [written report](#) had been circulated for information. The Chairman drew attention to the proposals for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations that were to take place later in the year.

51. **Report from the Council’s Returning Officer**

The Council’s Returning Officer reported that the vacant West Wight seat of the Isle of Wight Council had been filled by Stuart Hutchinson, of the Conservative Party, following a by-election held on 17 November 2011. The turnout was 27.78%. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Stuart Hutchinson to his first Full Council meeting.

52. **Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

The Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Mr Peter Savory, presented the report. Consideration was given to the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel with regard to the Members’ Allowance Scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Members’ Allowance Scheme be amended to simplify the on Island travel allowance so that on 31 January 2012 the amount paid to each councillor be fixed at the rate currently being paid, until the end of their term of office, only to be altered if the member changed address or responsibility so that they would be entitled to a different amount in accordance with the two bands set out in the scheme. The rate to be fixed again after each election for the life of the administration, or unless altered following a recommendation by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- (ii) THAT the ability for Members to claim off Island subsistence be removed.

- (iii) THAT the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the new Cabinet Secretary post be a factor of 0.9, equating to £7,113 pa. That amount to be backdated to the date of appointment.
- (iv) THAT the SRA for the proposed new Chairman of Regulatory Committee be a factor of 1.5 equating to £11,854 pa and the SRA for the proposed new Vice Chairman of Regulatory Committee be a factor of 0.7 equating to £5,532 pa. Those SRA's to be reviewed in September 2012, assuming the committee had been created and role descriptions for the posts developed, so as to assess the appropriateness of those figures based on actual experience. On reviewing the SRA's, should the Panel find that their recommendation was significantly different to the recommendation, the new recommended SRA's to be backdated to the date of appointment.
- (v) THAT an annual review of the Scheme should take place in Autumn 2012 unless an amendment of the member structure necessitated an earlier review.

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

By Councillor David Pugh

That Council:

1. Notes that an overall net saving of £1.8m is likely to be achieved in the 2011/12 financial year, as set out in the report to Cabinet on 13 December 2011.
2. Agrees that it is not prudent or sensible to use this saving to fund activities or costs that are recurring, but there is some scope to fund one-off initiatives – particularly in relation to the corporate priority of *Regeneration and the Economy*.
3. Further agrees that a particular area of focus should be to support initiatives that help tackle youth unemployment and create new employment opportunities for young people, and that funding should be brought forward as quickly as possible to enable such investment to take place as an urgent priority.
4. Therefore agrees to £300,000 being allocated by virement from the net overall revenue budget savings due to be achieved in 2011/12, to support the delivery of the plans detailed in paragraph 9.3 of the delegated decision paper Economic Development Delivery Action Plan 2011/12-2013/14, to enable these initiatives to be implemented with immediate effect. This allocation is in addition to the £250k being carried forward to support the establishment of the Economic Improvement Fund, as agreed by Cabinet on 13 December 2011.
5. And also agrees that further initiatives in support of the corporate priority of *Regeneration and the Economy* should be included in the budget proposals for 2012/13, taking into account the other options set

out in paragraph 9 of the Economic Development Delivery Action Plan 2011/12-2013/14 report.

The motion was seconded and then following debate was put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Council

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54. [State of the Island Debate](#)

Councillor Ian Stephens had called for a State of the Island Debate in accordance with Procedural Rule 15 of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Stephens made reference to a public meeting had been held at the Riverside Centre, Newport on Saturday, 21 January 2012, the notes of which had been circulated to all members. Councillor Stephens then proposed that Council:

- (i) Reviewed the impact of recent decisions and financial constraints on support, employment, travel, health, social care and other areas affecting Island residents and Island businesses;
- (ii) Identified those areas where there were concerns and which required action or could be addressed by the Isle of Wight Council and/or their stakeholders and partners; and
- (iii) Made appropriate action in areas so identified a priority within this year's budget making process.

Members discussed the key issues relating to this topic, highlighting the following points :

- ❖ Ongoing process of consultation and deliberation;
- ❖ Public engagement;
- ❖ Opportunity to allow public debate;
- ❖ Pull in the widest pool of information and draw the best results from that;
- ❖ Need to focus on resolutions;
- ❖ Public made genuine comments, but many were misguided and misinformed;
- ❖ Opportunity for public to air their views, don't stifle debate;
- ❖ Need to support self sustainability;
- ❖ Get overall picture and learn from each other.

Councillor Stephens did not believe there was a need to vote on his proposal.

The following alternative resolution was proposed by Councillor David Pugh.

That Council :

- (i) Agreed that we were all fortunate to live on the Isle of Wight and there were many aspects of Island life which should be welcomed and celebrated.
- (ii) At the same time, noted that the Island continued to face a number of social and economic challenges, as set out in the most recent versions of the *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment* and the *Local Economic Assessment*.
- (iii) Agreed that addressing those challenges sat not only with the Council, but also with a range of other public sector bodies, voluntary groups and the private sector, along with individuals and families themselves.
- (iv) Agreed that the Council should continue to foster effective partnership arrangements to address those issues, such as through the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board and any future economic forum arrangements (as referred to in the delegated decision paper *Economic Development Delivery Action Plan*).

- (v) Further agreed that the Council should continue to do all it could to address directly those challenges which fall within its own areas of statutory responsibilities and discretionary powers.
- (vi) Agreed that the Council's work should continue to be shaped not just through consideration of the assessments set out in (ii) above, but also through the democratic process – including the consideration of representations made by residents, both directly and through consultation exercises. It further agreed that the Council's work should principally be shaped through residents' participation in the electoral process, by giving a democratic mandate to councillors to represent their views.
- (vii) Therefore agreed that the Council's *Corporate Plan 2011-13*, took into account all of the above and allowed for the continuing development of initiatives to address the Island's changing needs.
- (viii) Finally, it resolved that budget proposals should be brought before Council on 29th February 2012 which allocated resources to the local authority's corporate priorities (as set out in the *Corporate Plan 2011-13*), whilst allowing for the flexibility to make further investment during the course of the year as needs arose and resources allowed.

The proposal was seconded and then following debate was put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED :

THAT Council :

- (i) Agreed that we were all fortunate to live on the Isle of Wight and there were many aspects of Island life which should be welcomed and celebrated.
- (ii) At the same time, noted that the Island continued to face a number of social and economic challenges, as set out in the most recent versions of the *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment* and the *Local Economic Assessment*.
- (iii) Agreed that addressing those challenges sat not only with the Council, but also with a range of other public sector bodies, voluntary groups and the private sector, along with individuals and families themselves.
- (iv) Agreed that the Council should continue to foster effective partnership arrangements to address those issues, such as through the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board and any future economic forum arrangements (as referred to in the delegated decision paper *Economic Development Delivery Action Plan*).

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- (viii) Finally, it resolved that budget proposals should be brought before Council on 29th February 2012 which allocated resources to the local authority's corporate priorities (as set out in the *Corporate Plan 2011-13*), whilst allowing for the flexibility to make further investment during the course of the year as needs arose and resources allowed.

55. Council Procedure Rule 26

The Chairman drew Council's attention to the time and proposed an extension to the meeting of up to one hour, which was duly seconded. Following the vote it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting be extended for up to one hour.

56. [Approval of Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference.](#)

Members were reminded that the Health and Social Care Bill was currently progressing through Parliament. This provided for local authorities to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board for their area. A shadow Board had been established on the Island and at its last meeting the Terms of Reference were considered and adopted. It now fell to each of the respective Bodies on the Board to have the Terms of Reference formally agreed.

RESOLVED :

That the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board be adopted and inserted into the council's Constitution.

57. Cabinet

Reports of the Cabinet Members

(i) [The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources](#)

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

A written question was put as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Humby	Now that the Localism Bill has received Royal Assent would the Leader please advise me as to what plans he has for the Council to look at adopting the committee system.	The Leader provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 02/12)

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Lumley	Asked if Cabinet Member reports could be moved further up the agenda and any feedback be reported at the meeting.	The Leader advised he would discuss moving the Cabinet Member reports further up the agenda at the Group Leaders meeting. He would be happy to feed back on any items with the possibility of reviewing items from the previous months report.
Cllr Knowles	Asked a question relating to the costs associated with the proposed Diamond Jubilee events.	The Leader indicated he would provide a written response. The Council had provided the location for the event and there would be no cost in relation to street closures.

(ii) [The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Environment](#)

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Whittle	Attended a meeting in Ryde with regard to tourism, was it possible to make the Panel	The Leader indicated it would need to be discussed further.

Name	Subject	Comment
	more accessible to small local businesses without having to pay £10,000?	
Cllr Stephens	Asked why was the Council paying a mainland company to market the Island?	The Leader advised that the Island had been involved with mainland companies for a number of years with regard to marketing the Island.
Cllr Knowles	Asked how much the Chamber of Commerce were contributing?	The Leader advised that the Chamber of Commerce played a key role in marketing the Island.
Cllr Peacey-Wilcox	Asked which restaurant had failed food hygiene inspections on 10 separate occasions?	The Leader advised it related to a restaurant in Shanklin.
Cllr Welsford	Asked what policies were in place for procuring from the Island?	The Leader advised the new procurement section was looking at that carefully.

(iii) **[Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety](#)**

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

Written questions were put as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stephens	Asked for an update with regard to the present position of the “Standing Together” Survey on the Isle of Wight and what impact had been made?	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 04/12)

(iv) **Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education**

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

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Peacey-Wilcox	Asked if the Children's Centre in Cowes was to be closed?	The Cabinet Member indicated there was no intention of either closing or moving it.

(v) **Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

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

Written questions were put as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Warlow	I understand £250k is outstanding in car park penalty charges, of which £100k is in the hands of bailiffs with the remainder, subject to appeals. How much of those receipts can the authority expect to obtain and within what time scale, this financial year or next? How many actual cases were involved? What was the split between island residents and notices served on mainland addresses?	The Cabinet Member provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 03/12)

Oral questions were put to the Cabinet Member as follows :

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Barry	Could you tell me how many objections to Traffic Regulation Orders you receive by telephone?	The Cabinet Member indicated he was not aware how many were received by phone, he would ascertain how many and provide a written response..

Name	Subject	Comment
	A supplementary - Should you get an objection by telephone, bearing in mind the advice that was published on the Order itself 'if you wish to object to the proposal contained in this notice you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing'. Could you tell me, if you did receive an objection by telephone, what advice you would give to those people?	The Cabinet Member indicated he would advise them to put it in writing.
Cllr Churchman	How was the Council addressing the problem of dying High Streets on the Island?	The Cabinet Member indicated the Council had not increased parking charges since 2008 and had not increased the VAT in line with the recent rise.

Owing to the late hour, the Chairman requested that the report for the Cabinet Members for Fire, Culture and Residents' Services and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be taken as circulated and any questions thereon be forwarded to the relevant member for a response.

CHAIRMAN