

Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Lora Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Debbie Andre, Adrian Axford, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, Geoff Brodie, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Hobart, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Kilpatrick, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle and Graham Perks
Apologies	Cllrs Paul Bertie, Charles Chapman and Graham Perks

40. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [15 November 2017](#) be confirmed.

41. [Declarations of Interest](#)

There were no declarations received.

42. [Public Question Time](#)

There were no written or oral questions submitted.

43. [Chairman's Official Announcements](#)

A written report had been circulated to all members for information.

It was noted that the Leader invited members, officers and partners as well as the media and public at large to participate in the Isle of Wight '£ for lb.' workplace team weight-loss challenge, in aid of the 'KissyPuppy' - Sophie Rolf Trust who had joined forces with the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and the local NHS to help support and develop services on the Island for children and young people, and their families with life shortening conditions.

The Chair also wished to extend the chambers congratulations to Cllr Reg Barry on being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2018 New Year's Honors list in recognition for services to the community on the Isle of Wight.

44. **Independent Remuneration Panel report into members' allowances 2017/18**

The Chair of the Council presented the report of the Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), Mr Mike Anderson, on the recommendations of the IRP with regard to the Members' Allowance Scheme.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) for 2017/18 be as agreed as follows:

Position	Multiplier of the basic	Special Responsibility Allowance
Leader	2.00	£15,400
Deputy leader	1.25	£9,625
Cabinet member	1	£7,700
Scrutiny chair	1	£7,700
Adult Social Care and Health Policy and Scrutiny Committee chair	0.5	£3,850
Childrens Policy and Scrutiny Committee chair	0.5	£3,850
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee chair	0.5	£3,850
Audit chair	0.4	£3,080
Planning chair	0.8	£6,160
Planning vice chair	0.2	£1,540
Licensing chair	0.4	£3,080
Pension Fund chair	0.2	£1,540
Appeals chair	0.2	£1,540
Chairman of council	0.7	£5,390
Vice chairman of council	0.2	£1,540
Leaders of groups of ten or more	0.2	£1,540
Vice Scrutiny chair	0.2	£1,540
Hampshire Police and Crime Panel chair*	0.6	£4,620

**Not from the Isle of Wight Council budget.*

- (b) THAT the amended allowances are payable from the 1 April 2017.
- (c) THAT the process for the distribution of the on Island travel lump sum be left unchanged. This was currently based on the distribution of a lump sum divided between the members on the basis of a formula reflecting distance of County Hall from their homes and office they hold. However, the panel would continue to keep this under review in future reports.
- (d) THAT all other allowances (for example those for co-opted members and child allowance) remain unchanged.

45. **Local Council Tax Support Full Scheme Review 2018/19**

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented a report on the outcome of the public consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the council's Local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for working age claimants. Taking the outcome of the consultation into account as well as the financial pressures which the council faced, the report proposed that Full Council agreed a number of changes to the existing scheme to be implemented on 1 April 2018 as well as agree an associated exceptional hardship fund policy.

It was noted that the council was faced with taking the difficult decision of making such changes owing to central government passing on the responsibility to councils for local council tax support and then substantially reducing the funding it gave for such assistance.

Some members expressed concerns around the proposals and the effect it would have on those experiencing financial hardship at a time when residents were facing a possible rise in council tax bills.

Members were also reminded that prior to voting they must have read the stage 2 equality impact assessments as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (21)

Councillors Barry Abraham, Adrian Axford, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, John Hobart, Stuart Hutchinson, John Kilpatrick, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Dave Stewart, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse and Wayne Whittle

Against (14)

Councillors Debbie Andre, Julia Baker Smith, Reg Barry, Geoff Brodie, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Howe, Julie Jones Evans, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Shirley Smart and Ian Stephens,

RESOLVED

That Full Council considered:

1. The outcomes of the consultation process set out in this report and in Appendix 1 to this report;
2. The stage 2 equality impact assessments set out in Appendix 2 to this report; Full Council members must review this to have due regard to the changes and implications before making a decision;
3. The options set out in the report and their potential impact as set out in Appendix 3 to this report;
4. The draft local scheme and policies set out in Appendix 4 and 4a to this report;
 - (i) the final scheme to be implemented as per option C as set out in paragraph 75 of this report;
 - (ii) the scheme and policies as set out in Appendices 4 and 4a be agreed;

And agreed that:

5. The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018/19 be adopted as set out from a combination of changes contained in option C of the report and the CTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 as follows:
 - (i) To retain a CTS reduction scheme for working age council tax payers that is deemed affordable.
 - (ii) Agree to the maximum level of CTS being reduced from 80 per cent to 70 per cent of a person's council tax liability.
 - (iii) Agree to limit CTS to a maximum council tax band C charge.
 - (iv) Mirror the amendment to the Housing Benefit national scheme (bereavement benefit changes where payments are disregarded).
 - (v) Continue to provide an exceptional hardship fund that would require individual applications and take into account individual circumstances including the claimant's income and essential outgoings to assist those that are deemed to be in 'genuine hardship' and receive additional assistance based on need.

46. Motions Submitted under Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution

- (i) [From Councillor Geoff Brodie](#)

Following discussions with the Leader of the council prior to the meeting, Cllr Brodie agreed to defer his motion to the Annual Council meeting on the 16 May

2018 unless he was satisfied that the issue had been addressed within a report to that meeting.

(ii) [From Councillor Geoff Brodie](#)

This Council notes;

1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.
2. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK and that the 'Votes at 16 Coalition' consists of a wide range of youth and democracy organisations.

This Council believes;

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen;
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future;
3. People, who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.
4. That there are a range of issues surrounding voting in the UK including the fact that 7.5 million citizens entitled to vote have not registered to do so, that there are inequalities in registration and turnout among several demographic groups and accepts that as recommended by the cross party Committee on Political and Constitutional reform a review of voting processes and procedures should be fully considered by parliament, including the possibility of reducing the voting age.

This Council resolves;

1. This council resolves to support consideration by parliament of reducing the voting age.
2. To write to the Island's MP to inform him of this decision and ask him to support it.

After debate, the following was:

RESOLVED:

- I. THAT council resolves to support consideration by parliament of reducing the voting age.

- II. THAT the Island's MP is written to, to inform him of this decision and ask him to support it.

(iii) [From Cllr Julia Baker-Smith](#)

Since it was necessary for the bus shelter to move from Council land at Seaclose earlier this year the charity have been unable to secure land for a new base. The bus shelter provides innovative temporary accommodation and additional services for the Island's homeless who are unable to access other services due to eligibility or capacity.

The Isle of Wight Council understands and acknowledges that homelessness cannot be tackled by a "one size fits all" approach and as such pledges to :

1. Work with the full range of services and voluntary organisations supporting the Island's homeless.
2. Assist the Bus shelter to find a permanent base.
3. Provide leadership and coordinate services to ensure a joined up approach to helping the Island's homeless.

An amendment was moved and seconded as follows:

To replace points 1, 2 and 3 with the following:

1. Continue to work with the full range of services and voluntary organisations supporting the Island's rough sleepers by a more person centred system approach.
2. To explore a more sustainable and appropriate approach to rough sleepers and homelessness.
3. Continue to provide leadership and coordinate services to ensure a joined up approach to helping the Island's rough sleepers.

The amendment was accepted

Following further debate, a further amendment was proposed and seconded as follows:

To add the following words

4. To assist the Bus shelter to find a permanent base.

The amendment was accepted.

A further amendment was proposed and seconded as follows:

To add the word 'suitable' before the word permanent

The amendment was accepted.

After debate the following was:

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Continues to work with the full range of services and voluntary organisations supporting the Island's rough sleepers by a more person centred system approach.
2. To explore a more sustainable and appropriate approach to rough sleepers and homelessness.
3. Continue to provide leadership and coordinate services to ensure a joined up approach to helping the Island's rough sleepers.
4. To assist the Bus shelter to find a suitable permanent base.

(iv) [From Councillor Christopher Quirk](#)

That this council confirms their position to support the goal of a sustainable and modern rail link being provided and maintained between Ryde and Shanklin with improved rolling stock and supporting infrastructure that is fit for purpose:

- a) Re affirming the view reached in March 2016 that Island line should remain an integral part of the new franchise
- b) Welcoming the recent consultation exercise by the new franchisee, South Western Railway (SWR), in setting out proposals for a better railway for the Isle of Wight which also recognises the Isle of Wight Council as a key stakeholder in taking this forward
- c) Supporting the position that current options under consideration should include both heavy rail and light rail

And in the light of the Government's recent announcement in respect of the possible re-opening of previously closed branch lines:

- d) Encourages our Island MP, Bob Seely, to make representations to the Secretary of State for Transport for consideration of the possible extension of rail services to Newport and Ventnor and make funding available for a feasibility study for these possible extensions
- e) Includes consideration of an option that could allow for future connectivity with the Isle of Wight Steam Railway (IWSR) allowing for possible future connectivity and interoperability between both existing routes that could enable an extension from Havenstreet to St Johns Station, Ryde, and an extension from Wootton to Newport Harbour - potentially allowing for public heritage steam trains and / or passenger trains to operate between these major Island towns.

- f) Agrees that the inclusion of a terminus rail station at Newport Harbour should therefore also be considered as part of the future regeneration proposals for this location.

Finally, that council should play a full part in the coming months to work with other key stakeholders to support the preparation of a final preferred option / proposal required to be submitted by SWR to the Secretary of State for Transport by 31 May 2018.

After debate, the following was:

RESOLVED:

THAT the above motion submitted by Cllr Quirk, be agreed.

(v) [From Councillor Michael Lilley](#)

The IW has a serious issue of plastic pollution on our beaches (especially plastic bottles) and within the seas surrounding the Island. A national newspaper highlighted the high level of plastic pollution on Compton Beach. However, other coastline areas are effectively tackling this issue. Penzance has recently become the first coastline area which has plastic free status. This motion is brought to recognise the problem of plastic marine pollution on the Isle of Wight and make the commitment to effectively develop strategies to tackle this issue and work towards achieving Plastic free coastline status.

- a. The Isle of Wight Council resolves to continue its commitment to a 'Plastic Free Island', for the whole county, not just the coastline, to ensure the continued reduction of plastic contamination in our environment and our recycling process.
- b. The Isle of Wight Council secondly resolves to request the Cabinet Member for Waste to continue communications with local and national organisations, including charities and the leading supermarkets/retailers to discuss the viability of developing an Island Deposit (plastic bottles) Return Scheme.

After debate, the following was:

RESOLVED:

- I. THAT the Isle of Wight Council resolves to continue its commitment to a 'Plastic Free Island', for the whole county, not just the coastline, to ensure the continued reduction of plastic contamination in our environment and our recycling process.
- II. THAT the Isle of Wight Council secondly resolves to request the Cabinet Member for Waste to continue communications with local and national organisations, including charities and the leading supermarkets/retailers to discuss the viability of developing an Island Deposit (plastic bottles) Return Scheme.

(vi) [From Councillor Michael Lilley](#)

Cllr Lilley withdrew his Motion and advised that he could bring the motion back before members.

CHAIRMAN