



Minutes

Name of meeting	FULL COUNCIL
Date and Time	WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 5.00 PM
Venue	VIRTUAL (MS TEAMS)
Present	Cllrs G Cameron (Chairman), S Smart (Vice-Chairman), D Andre, A Axford, R Barry, P Bertie, M Beston, P Brading, G Brodie, C Chapman, V Churchman, R Downer, P Fuller, A Garratt, S Hastings, S Hendry, J Hobart, R Hollis, J Howe, S Hutchinson, J Jones-Evans, J Kilpatrick, M Lilley, K Love, J Medland, C Mosdell, M Murwill, J Nicholson, T Outlaw, G Peace, L Peacey-Wilcox, G Perks, M Price, C Quirk, I Stephens, D Stewart, B Tyndall, I Ward and W Whittle
Apologies	Cllr B Abraham

30. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 be approved.

31. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Lilley declared an interest in minute 35.1 as his wife was an employee of the Isle of Wight Council, he also declared an interest in minute 37.1 as he was the Chairman of the Voluntary Sector Forum.

Councillor Stewart declared an interest in minute 35.1 as he had a family member working at a school on the Island.

32. **Public Question Time**

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr G Wilks	What steps would the Isle of Wight Council take to ensure Island Roads adopted the Government's Local	The Cabinet Member provided a written response (PQ 10/21)

	Transport Note 120 and the Gear Change guidelines, to promote walking and cycling?	
Mr P Couselant	How many prospective partners remain involved in the Dinosaur Isle procurement process	The Cabinet Member provided a written response (PQ 11/21)
Mr B Blezzard	The upcoming local elections, would postal vote applications be sent out with council tax letters and what safety measures are proposed to protect the public and staff	The Cabinet Member provided a written response (PQ 12/21)

33. **Chairman's Official Announcements**

A written report had been circulated for information. The Chairman advised of an error contained within the report, he clarified that Island Roads had donated £73,000 in community grants.

34. **Leaders Update Report**

The Leader expressed his thanks to the Island community for their response to the pandemic.

A new Coastal community Strategy was being developed, this would encompass the Island's holiday tourism offer to enhance beach safety and using government funding to protect our coastal community from flooding. The procurement process for Dinosaur Isle was in the final stages.

Questions were raised regarding the ferry companies' operation, the Leader advised that government funding had been extended to include the ferry companies, dialogue was ongoing with these companies these conversations would continue.

The Leader advised that government had decided to change timetable for the fair funding review to 2023/24. It was acknowledged that there was a significant challenge in funding, reserves had helped in recent times, and keeping people safe had been a priority. A letter had been sent to government regarding the Island deal, the Island's MP had asked a question in the House of Commons, and a meeting would be arranged.

A question was asked if now was the time to provide more focus on new small businesses and focus regeneration rather than the larger schemes which could take longer periods of time to achieve. The Leader advised that small business funding grant money had been successfully distributed as quickly as possible and the investment made in Venture Quays had proved successful in recent months.

The Leader informed members that an update on the current reserves the authority had would be contained within the budget report due to be considered next month.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Leaders update report be noted.

35. **Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources**

35.1 **Pay Policy**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources presented the report to adopt the pay policy for the financial year 2021-2022 prior to its publication. A number of amendments since the previous pay policy had been agreed, these were outlined in the report and the policy attached.

Concern was raised during the debate regarding the difference in salary between the higher and lower paid staff within the authority and the duty to ensure people could achieve a reasonable way of life. The Cabinet Member suggested that if one went to any major business where the number of employees were such as the councils the spread would probably be the same and stated that the number of part time employees were not shown. A vote was taken and the result of which were as follows:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Pay Policy be adopted as drafted.

35.2 **Local Council Tax Support**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources presented the report on the Local Tax Support Scheme and outlined the proposed changes, 286 residents had responded to the consultation. There had been no increase in the amount of funding received by the authority. There was a hardship scheme available for residents to apply for.

The following amendment to the motion was presented by Cllr Garratt and duly seconded.

That Full Council agree the following:

- A local scheme that is the same as the existing scheme currently in place for 2020/21 and to bridge the level of funding gap currently estimated at £3.23 million, which will need to be met from reducing other council services.
- To implement a local scheme that varies certain elements of the existing scheme so that the CTS scheme continues to bring the working age CTS scheme in line with housing benefit and the pensionable age CTS scheme changes proposed by central government.

And agrees that:

- The Local Council Tax Reduction (Support) Scheme for 2021/2022 be adopted as set out from a combination of changes contained as option two and six of the report and the LCTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 as follows:
 - (i) To retain a LCTS scheme for working age council taxpayers that is deemed affordable.
 - (ii) To maintain the current maximum support at 70 per cent.
 - (iii) To remove the blanket protection given to applicants with certain benefits and other forms of income and to treat these the same as other working age applicants while still ignoring these benefits but allowing for a £50 income disregard from the calculation.
 - (iv) To continue to ignore carer's allowance in the calculation for those looking after a person who is ill or disabled.
 - (v) To continue to provide the current level of earnings disregarded of £25.
 - (vi) To continue to provide the current non-dependant deduction rate of £2 for each non-dependant in a household.
 - (vii) Disregarding the housing element of Universal Credit to bring this in line with housing benefit cases which would treat both in the same way.
 - (viii) 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.
- That given the overall additional cost of circa £28,000, the recommendations be referred back to Cabinet to determine if savings of an equivalent sum can be made

Following debate, a vote was taken on the amendment the result of which was that the amendment fell.

Following debate on the substantive motion, a vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED:

THAT Council agreed to the following:

To implement a local scheme that varies certain elements of the existing scheme so that the CTS scheme continues to bring the working age CTS scheme in line with housing benefit and the pensionable age CTS scheme changes proposed by central government.

And agrees that:

The Local Council Tax Reduction (Support) Scheme for 2021/2022 be adopted as set out from a combination of changes contained as option one, two and six of the report and the LCTS scheme policy as set out in Appendix 4 as follows:

- (i) To retain a LCTS scheme for working age council taxpayers that is deemed affordable.
- (ii) To reduce the current maximum support from 70 per cent to 65 per cent.
- (iii) To remove the blanket protection given to applicants with certain benefits and other forms of income and to treat these the same as other working age applicants while still ignoring these benefits but allowing for a £50 income disregard from the calculation.
- (iv) To continue to ignore carer's allowance in the calculation for those looking after a person who is ill or disabled.
- (v) To continue to provide the current level of earnings disregarded of £25.
- (vi) To continue to provide the current non-dependant deduction rate of £2 for each non-dependant in a household.
- (vii) Disregarding the housing element of Universal Credit to bring this in line with housing benefit cases which would treat both in the same way.
- (viii) 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.

36. **Appointments to Committees**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources advised that a revision to Appendix A had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was to confirm and appoint members and substitutes to Committees.

The Monitoring Officer informed members that a Final Appendix A was also circulated replacing the revised version. Attached and forming part of these minutes.

It was felt important to have the right councillors with the right skills on the right committees and some concern was raised regarding the rules around allocating members especially to the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED:

- I. THAT those nominated by the respective political groups to their allocated seats as contained in Final Appendix A be confirmed and appointed.
- II. THAT any unallocated seats those named ungrouped councillors as contained in Final Appendix A be confirmed and appointed.
- III. THAT named substitutes as contained in Final Appendix A be confirmed and appointed.

37. **Motions Submitted under Part 4A, Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution**

37.1 **By Councillor Michael Lilley**

Cllr Lilley moved the following motion which was duly seconded:

“This Council recognises the huge commitment by residents Island-wide in volunteering to support the community and most vulnerable in 2020 during and through out Covid-19.

In recognition of this important community involvement the Council will work Islandwide with Town and Parish Councils, voluntary sector and the 26 IW Covid19 Community Response Hubs in establishing an IW 100 Citizens’ assembly to discuss the recovery and rebuilding of the Island post Covid19. This assembly to be truly representative of the diverse Island community representing age, gender, geography, diversity, disability and social-economic sections of our community.”

Please note there will be minimal if any financial implications as there is existing funding through a community resilience network with a network of community resilience coordinators at Community Action IW (CAIW).

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

RESOLVED:

THAT the motion fell.

38. Member Question Time of the Leader

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Gary Peace	Were the works carried out at St Mary’s described as a complete success and what were the next steps?	There had been a number of positive feedback regarding the new junction and St George’s was the next step and discussions were already taking place. A presentation to Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council would be made.
Cllr Ian Stephens	Will town and Parish Councils affected by the beach safety measures be awarded more money?	Discussions had taken place with local Town and Parish Councils regarding beach safety and costs were being looked at.
Cllr Ian Stephens	Coastal management and soil erosion what plans for the future	The Leader advised that he would get officers to provide the information
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans	New proposals for permitted development were very worrying. Schools, colleges,	The Leader advised he would provide a written response.

	prisons and hospitals could increase in size by 25% this could be a problem on the Island.	
Cllr Reg Barry	How long before a major road (St Mary's roundabout) is upgraded is it deemed a success or not?	Comments received have indicated residents were satisfied with the improvements.
Cllr Michael Lilley	With the new algorithm taking effect, when will we know the number of housing numbers for the Island?	The Leader advised that the right houses in the right places were needed and would like to see every Islander with their own homes, this was work in progress.

CHAIRMAN

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Public Question time

To view any public questions that were put to this committee, they will be listed as an additional PDF document below the public question time section within the online minutes, an example is displayed below:

32. [Public Question Time](#) PDF 87 KB

Questions must be delivered in writing
later than 5pm on Friday, 15 January 20

Additional documents:

- [PQ 11-21](#)  PDF 85 KB
- [PQ 12-21](#)  PDF 90 KB

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FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2021

Written question from Mr Michael Wilks of Newport

Given the importance of walking and cycling for Island residents' health and wellbeing during the pandemic, and the Council's commitment to addressing the Climate Crisis, what steps will IWC take to ensure that it and Island Roads adopt the Government's Local Transport Note 120 and the Gear Change guidelines, issued by the Government to promote walking and cycling?

Response

The Council supports the Government's policy (Gear Change) and the aspirations for cycling and walking set out within the document. The council acknowledges the benefits of walking and cycling and aspires to utilise this document and its design principles to draw down relevant funding as an when funding becomes available and to support the Climate Change agenda.

We are currently developing plans to enhance cycling and walking routes using allocated Government funding.

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FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2021

Written question from Mr Paul Coueslant of Sandown

Following the reply to my question PQ 49/19 to the Leader of the Council about the Dinosaur Isle procurement process, please can he explain how many prospective partners remain involved and the latest status of the Council's dialogue with them?

Response

Following the publication of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) the Council has been in dialogue as part of its procurement process. This is currently with one potential consortia and it is hoped that the dialogue will shortly lead to a timetable being agreed for its conclusion.

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FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2021

Written question from Mr Bob Blezzard of Sandown

Given the current situation with the pandemic which is forecast to get worse before it gets better will you agree to send out postal vote application forms with council tax demands in order to encourage members of the public to engage with the democratic process by voting by post rather than in person in order to protect the public and the Returning Officer's staff, and what other safety measures are you proposing to put in place?"

Response

The planned polls for the elections in May 2021 will inevitably provide particular challenges for the returning officer and her team as a result of the pandemic situation. Planning and delivery of the election processes will be following the Electoral Commission published guidelines, learning gained from the recent elections held in Scotland and their advice sought from public health bodies so that those who choose to exercise their democratic right to vote in person can do so in a Covid secure manner. Venues in use for election purposes will be subject to a detailed risk assessment and appropriate safety measures put in place to protect both voters and staff.

Whilst every effort will be made to encourage people to register for postal voting as an alternative to voting in person through a variety of channels of public communications and campaigns, this will not include the distribution of applications with the council tax bills. This is due to the complexity of administration required and potential for confusion by residents in the receipt of blanket communications.

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