



## ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Hunnyhill Room, Riverside Centre, Newport, at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors Diana Conyers (Chair and Fishbourne PC Member), Anne Bamford (Vice Chair and Freshwater PC member), Sue Hardy (Treasurer and Lake PC member), Mick Lyons (Havenstreet and Ashley PC), John Graney (Brading PC), Emma Cox (Freshwater PC), Helena Hewston (Shalfleet PC), Bob Blezzard (Newchurch PC), June Davison (Newchurch PC), Sherlie Burridge (Niton and Whitwell PC), Paul Fuller (Cowes TC), Michael Smith (Newport and Carisbrooke CC), Simon Cooke (Ryde TC), Penny Acton (Gurnard PC), Emily Brothers (Sandown TC), Giles Alldred (Shorwell PC), Nick Stuart (Brighstone PC), John Hobart (Chillerton and Gatcombe PC), Heather Rowell (County Officer), Jill Webster (Communications Officer).

**1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Councillors Steve Cooper (Ventnor TC), Peter Whiteman (Chillerton and Gatcombe PC), Liz White (Bembridge PC), Trish Redpath (Nettlestone and Seaview PC), Adrian Whittaker (Lake PC), Michael Paler (Cowes TC), Cameron Palin (East Cowes TC), John Cirrone (Brighstone PC).

**3. To Approve the Minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (circulated to members)**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record unanimously (BB/NS).

**4. Finance – to receive a report from the Treasurer– Cllr Hardy**

The report was received, and Cllr Hardy thanked.

**5. Training – to receive a report of meeting of the County Training Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.**

Although the Group had hoped to hold some budget training this year, this will now not be possible due to the unavailability of the trainer. There will be a Chairmanship Course early next year.

**6. Communications – To receive report of meeting of the Communications Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

Councillor Cooke recommended transferring the domain to an officer and will liaise with the County Officer. The website will be transferred to a host company and the cost of this will be about £5.00 a month. It was also agreed to obtain a professionally hosted email account.

Concern was raised about the low turnout at the last meeting with the IWC Cabinet. It was also requested that these meetings are recorded. Cllr Fuller will take this back to the Cabinet.

**7. IWALC Open Day: To receive feedback on Open Day held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

17 councils were represented, with 35 people signing the attendance list. It was agreed by those in attendance that it had been a valuable networking and learning opportunity. There was consensus to hold similar events in the future, possibly regional and linking in with the health localities on the Island.

**8. Meeting of Mayors and Chairs: To receive feedback on meeting held in July and consider whether to have future such meetings.**

The feedback from attendees was that it was useful and valuable. It was agreed to do something similar next year, possibly inviting Clerks just before subscriptions are due.

**9. NALC Civility and Respect Project: To receive verbal briefing from Cllr Blezzard and agree IWALC's response**

It was agreed to publicise the project in the Bulletin and make councils aware of it in the light of their Code of Conduct, should they wish to sign up to the pledge. It was also agreed to write to Bob Seely MP about amending the law to strengthen sanctions within local government.

**10. NALC AGM 25<sup>th</sup> October: To receive verbal briefing from Cllr Blezzard, nominate three people to attend online meeting and agree IWALC's position on NALC voting system.**

It was agreed to support the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) voting system for NALC elections and the proposal to increase subscriptions by 3% next year. The following members were chosen to attend the NALC AGM: Councillors Bob Blezzard, John Graney and Anne Bamford. The County Officer will support the registering process.

**11. Future of SERCAF: To discuss report by Cllr Blezzard and establish IWALC's position.**

It was reported that Trevor Leggo is resigning from his leadership of SERCAF, and as yet his successor has not been appointed. It was agreed to continue membership of SERCAF with the preference of face-to face meetings where possible with flexibility if circumstances necessitate. The Chair will write to Trevor Leggo and thank him for his work and support of IWALC.

**12. Protocol 16 of IWC Constitution (Relations between IWC and Local Councils): To agree whether to accept the IWC's invitation to local councils to propose amendments to Protocol 16 and if so, how to do this.**

It was agreed that a small working group would meet to work on a revised document. The following members agreed to participate: Councillors Nick Stuart, Diana Conyers, Simon Cooke, Anne Bamford and John Graney. A draft would be brought to the Executive for approval.

**13. Financial support for Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector: To discuss members response to IWC's request to local councils to provide financial support to VCSE sector in next financial year.**

The following message has been received:

"The Isle of Wight Council acknowledge the tremendous work and support that the islands Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) network provide to our islands residents, and indeed that our islands VCSE organisations need support to be sustainable and effective delivering the services which are embedded within our islands community.

The current VCSE community support contract ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and unfortunately the funding envelope for the future VCSE community support cannot remain at its current level, It has been agreed by our leadership team that a saving of £28,000 per annum must be made on this commissioned service.

The Isle of Wight Council is reaching out to the islands Town and Parish Councils to see if they are able to support via any funding which may be available to ensure that the level of support available remains at its current level.

I would welcome your thoughts and indeed any questions in regards to how you as a Town and Parish Council may be able to support the future of the VCSE support service via funding from your respective Council." Alaster Sims | Commissioning Officer | Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships Team | Adult Social Care |.

It was agreed to try and find out more information. The County Officer will contact Alaster Sims and report back to members.

**14. IWALC Meetings 2022/23: To agree revised list of meetings.**

The revised list was agreed.

**15. 2022 Climate and Ecology Bill: To consider proposal by Cllr Acton that IWALC support the Bill.**

It was agreed to write to Bob Seely MP in support of the Bill and to raise awareness through the Bulletin.

**16. Planning: To receive verbal report from Cllr Aldred, IWALC's representative on the IWC Planning Committee.**

Following the IWC Peer Review of the planning service Cllr Aldred has been invited to be part of the working group to review procedures. This includes how the planning department interact with town and parish councils. If members have any thoughts on this, please email Cllr Aldred.

Cllr Aldred raised a concern in respect of a loophole in planning law relating to Lawful Development Certificates. It was agreed to write to Bob Seely MP in respect of changing the law to include the prohibition of this loophole within the Lawful Development Certificate. Cllr Aldred had agreed to draft a letter.

**17. To receive any reports from delegates and representatives to outside bodies**

The following reports were received (having been circulated)

- IWC Corporate Scrutiny – Cllr Palin
- NALC – Cllr Graney
- Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group (IWBRUG) – Cllr Conyers
- HLOWGA – Cllr Blezzard
- Rights of Way – Cllr Hobart

**18. Dates of Future Meetings were agreed -**

- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Topic Meeting on Road Safety**
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Executive Meeting**

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