



## ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Hunnyhill Room, Riverside Centre, Newport, at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Councillors Diana Conyers (IWALC Chair and Fishbourne PC Member), Anne Bamford (Vice-Chair and Freshwater PC Member), Sue Hardy (Treasurer and Lake PC Member), Emma Cox (Freshwater PC), Paul Fuller (Northwood PC), Michael Smith (Newport and Carisbrooke CC), Simon Cooke (Ryde TC), Emily Brothers (Sandown TC), Julie Hutchinson (Ventnor TC), Steve Cooper (Ventnor TC), Helena Hewston (Shalfleet PC), Trish Redpath (Nettlestone and Seaview PC), Bob Blezzard (Newchurch PC), Sherlie Burrige (Niton & Whitwell PC), John Hobart (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC), Penny Acton (Gurnard PC), Michael Paler (Cowes TC), Heather Rowell (County Officer), Jill Webster (Communications Officer).

#### 1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and thanked Cllr Bamford for standing in and Chairing the last meeting.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Giles Aldred (Shorwell PC), Adrian Whittaker (Lake PC), June Davison (Newchurch PC), John Graney (Brading PC), Liz White (Bembridge PC), and Vivian Roberts (Arreton PC),

#### 3. **To Approve the Minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (circulated to members)**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record unanimously (PF/EB).

#### 4. **Finance: To receive reports from Treasurer, Cllr Hardy, and to note some changes in membership.**

The reports were received and approved. Changes in membership were noted and it was agreed to review the Constitution in respect of the time frame for annual subscriptions from member councils.

#### 5. **Training:**

- The following reports were received and approved: Meetings of Training Group held on Friday 3 March and Friday 24 March (both circulated to members). Two new courses are being planned: Media Training and a Councillor Skills Update Course, where participants will be invited to request issues to be covered.

- To formally thank Sue Chilton for all the training she has provided for IWALC over the years. It was agreed to write and thank Sue Chilton for all the work she has done for IWALC and local town and parish councils.

**6. Communications – To receive a verbal report on communications.**

Members were reminded that the deadline for the Bulletin is the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr Cooke reported that the website is nearly completed.

**7. Royal Garden Parties: To note that Maxine Warr has been nominated by IWALC to attend a Royal Garden Party on 3 May 2023.**

Members were informed that Maxine Warr has received her invitation and is looking forward to attending. Maxine thanks IWALC for the nomination and will be sending photos and tales of her experience.

**8. Relationship between IW Council and Local Councils:**

- **To note that IWALC’s draft revision of Protocol 16, the annex to the IW Council Constitution that determines the relationship between the IW Council and local councils, will be added to the list of constitutional amendments to be considered.** It was noted that this will be on the agenda for the IWC’s Constitutional Review.
- **To discuss members’ reaction to the IW Council’s draft Planning Enforcement Strategy.** Members were encouraged to submit comments to the consultation by 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The draft strategy is presented to Cabinet in May.
- **To agree that IWALC’s April Topic Meeting take the form of an internal workshop on issues related to the division of responsibility for services and assets between the IW Council and local councils, in preparation for a workshop with the IW Council at a later date.** It was agreed to hold the workshop, asking member councils to bring information about the assets they have taken responsibility for from IWC and their experience of taking on these assets. It was felt of particular importance to invite Clerks to this workshop.

**9. Meeting of mayors and chairs: To decide whether to have a meeting of mayors and chairs immediately prior to the AGM, as last year.**

It was agreed to hold an informal meeting of mayors and chairs prior to the AGM in June 2023.

**10. Village halls: To discuss a request from Arreton Parish Council to share experience on the management of village halls.**

Unfortunately, the member from Arreton PC had sent apologies. It was agreed to ask Arreton PC to put something in the Bulletin, inviting other councils to share their experiences. It was agreed to undertake some research with ACRE, NALC and Community Action Isle of Wight about support available to town and parish councils for managing village halls.

**11. Threshold for calling bye-elections and parish polls: To discuss the motion from Newchurch Parish Council (circulated to members).**

Cllr Blezzard proposed the motion which following discussion was amended to: “The Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) is of the view that the threshold of ten electors to call a bye-election or parish poll is far too low resulting in polls being called where there is very low public demand (evidenced by the low levels of participation when the poll takes place). In addition the cost of such polls is disproportionately expensive, particularly to smaller councils where a single poll can cost in excess of 10% of a council’s annual precept. IWALC

therefore calls on NALC to lobby HM Government for a change in the law to increase the threshold of electors required to call a bye-election or parish poll.” The motion as amended was carried.

A second motion was proposed by Cllr Fuller “ The Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils would like to make NALC aware that smaller parish councils are disadvantaged financially when calling bye-elections and would like government to consider additional financial support for those councils with an electorate fewer than 2,500.” This motion was carried.

Both motions will be submitted to the NALC Policy Committee.

## 12. Reports from representatives and delegates to other organisations:

- **To discuss IWALC’s inability to send an alternative representative to IW Corporate Scrutiny Committee.** It was agreed to write to the IWC Leader about co-opted members not being able to send a deputy.
- The following reports were received:
  - IW Planning Committee – Cllr E Cox
  - HIOWLGA – Cllr B Blezzard
  - Rights of Way – Cllr J Hobart
  - IWBRUG – Cllrs D Conyers and E Brothers
  - Voluntary Sector Forum – Cllr D Conyers
  - Community Led Housing – Cllr H Hewston

## 13. Dates of Next Meetings

- Thursday 27 April 2023 (Topic Meeting)
- Thursday 25 May 2023 (Executive Meeting)