



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

County Officer

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 26th September 2024 at the RIVERSIDE CENTRE NEWPORT

Present: Councillors Anne Bamford (Chair and Freshwater TC Member), Sue Hardy (Treasurer), Julie Hutchison (County Officer), Cllr Vivian Roberts (Arreton PC), Cllr Andy Snart (Godshill PC), Cllr Leigh Jackman (Godshill PC), Cllr Nick Stuart (Brighstone PC), Cllr Bob Blezzard (Newchurch PC), Cllr Diana Conyers (Fishbourne and Ryde), Cllr John Graney (Brading TC), Cllr Mick Lyons (Havenstreet PC), Cllr Penny Acton (Gurnard PC), Cllr Thomas Cowley (Shalfleet PC), Cllr Ali Logan (Niton and Whitwell PC), Cllr Giles Alldred (Shorwell PC)

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. **Apologies had been received from;** Cllr Steve Cooper and Cllr Steph Toogood (Ventnor TC), Cllr Simon Cooke (Ryde TC), Cllr Pete Whiteman (Brading PC), Cllr Sally Chaucer (Calbourne PC), Cllr Liz White (Bembridge PC), Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox (message of thanks passed to IWALC Councillors)

2. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations were made

3. **Minutes from the previous meeting:** One amendment was made re apologies. Cllr Bob Blezzard proposed accepting the minutes, Nick Stuart seconded. **With a show of hands it was decided to accept the minutes of the previous meeting dated 30th May 2024.**

4. **Chair:** The Chair gave her report

5. **Finance: Report from the Treasurer:** Cllr Sue Hardy, gave the Finance Report.

6. **Tree Warden**

Grant funding has not yet been found to pay for this position. Cllr Thomas Cowley gave an update to work being carried out regarding the position of a Tree Warden Coordinator for the Island. The volunteer group, who meet at County Hall, are a sub group of the Wight Squirrels group who meet once a year.

Advice obtained by the County Officer from The Tree Council in advance is that Tree Warden Co-ordinator positions are normally accredited to Local Authorities. The County Officer explained that an email had been sent to Cllr Lora Peacey Wilcox detailing the types of role that normally carry out the role within Local Authorities. As there is no allocation of funds from the Isle of Wight Council, the suggestion made to the Volunteer group that IWALC could be the recipient of grant funds, and that those payments would then go to pay the coordinator. There is a fee of £250 payable to The Tree Council to register a Tree Warden Co-ordinator, which gives access to the resources website and a logo to be used. The £250 fee was discussed. Action to the County Officer to establish if any other County Associations have registered with the Tree Warden scheme. **As no funding has yet been achieved, no proposal was brought forward at this time therefore no decision made.**

7. **Pipeline proposal.** An update was given by Cllr Nick Stuart.

8. **Anti Poverty Strategy.**

Cllr Diana Conyers gave an update on the Ryde help centre and confirmed no action is required. Ryde library is an important help centre hub, Ryde TC has been funding the member of staff for the last year. Ryde are overwhelmed with people needing assistance. Ryde are looking to employ two members of staff over the next 6 months, changes to the

Winter fuel payments and the DWP are moving a lot of people onto Universal Credit. Ian Loyd has agreed for some funding via the Community Resilience Fund. Ryde are applying for some Lottery funding to continue the funding beyond the 6 months. It has been noted that services given from Ryde are helping 10 towns and parishes in the East Wight area and possible that Ryde may need assistance from those areas if they are unable to secure funding.

- 9 **Open Day / Networking events.** Cllr Simon Cook was not present and so this item will go onto the agenda on the next Executives Meeting.