



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

County Officer

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 28th November 2024 at the RIVERSIDE CENTRE NEWPORT

Present: Councillors Anne Bamford (Chair and Freshwater TC Member), Sue Hardy (Treasurer), Julie Hutchison (County Officer) Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde and Fishbourne), Cllr Simon Cooke (Ryde TC), Cllr Steve Cowley (Yarmouth PC), Cllr John Graney, Andrew Garratt, Nick Stuart, Paul Fuller, Thomas Cowley, Bob Blezzard, Cllr Warren Whyte (Freshwater PC)

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chair welcomed and thanked all attendees. Apologies had been received from; Cllr Penny Acton (Gurnard PC), Cllr Liz White (Bembridge PC), Cllr Steve Cooper (Ventnor TC), Cllr Vivian Roberts (Arreton PC), Cllr Chris Beane (Shalfleet PC), Cllr Jane Timbrell (Shalfleet PC), Cllr Sally Chaucer (Calbourne PC), Cllr Pete Whiteman (Chillerton and Gatcombe)

2. Minutes from the previous meeting: No amendments were called for from the previous meeting, Cllr Bob Blezzard proposed accepting the minutes, Cllr Diana Conyers seconded to accept the minutes from the previous meeting dated 26th September 2024

3. Chair: The Chair gave her report, thanking Steve Cooper for stepping in for the last several weeks. A positive response was given to the IWALC Cabinet meeting held on Thursday 14th December where the discussion was about the cost of social housing.

4. County Officer's Report. The County Officer gave her report on the NALC website updates and training scheduled for next year and the latest consultation by IWC by Stantec.

5. Finance: Report from the Treasurer: Cllr Sue Hardy, gave the Finance Report. The balance of NALC is now paid up for the year. The Lloyds account is now charging £4.25p per month as they have changed the account to a Community Account. Members raised no objections to these charges.

6. Ryde Town Council. Cllr Simon Cook advised of the increase of charges from IWC for beach cleaning, environment officer and planning enforcement having increased in the last year by 37% with no reasonable explanation. Councillors are concerned that the relationship with IWC has gone backwards, in that Ryde are being charged proportionately more the same services that other larger councils are. Ryde would like a clearer picture of why charges have increased so much, responses from IWC are vague when asked specific questions. Members have requested that Sharon Betts from IWC is emailed, cc'ing Cllr Paul Fuller. Cllr Fuller has asked to be cc'ed into correspondence if IWC Officers aren't responding to questions.

7. Open Day / Network Events. Items 7 and 8 were merged Encouraging new people to stand, regarding the work of Town and Parish Councillors. Members feel the Public aren't aware of the role of councillors in serving our respective communities. Cllr Conyers suggested a press conference to talk about the forthcoming elections. NALC were raised regarding resources and their Youtube videos, the County Officer is to send a list of resources to councils. The number of seats was raised and a consideration of a Parish review, a comparison was made between the sizes of the parishes and the numbers of councillors serving. Cllr Graney suggested targeting a wider diversity. Cllr T Cowley suggested a better quality of social media from NALC. Parish magazines were suggested to write articles in to reach a wider audience.

8. Elections 2025 (merged into Item 7)

9. Map of full Council dates. The map was created in response to the Landslip that happened in Ventnor: Leeson Road being closed then created a knock-on effect to traffic coming through Wroxall. Comments made reflected Town and Parish councillors and IWC councilors serving on more than one council and that meeting dates clashed. It was confirmed that many councils don't have meeting dates stipulated in Standing Orders. Many T&PCs have 2 meetings a month – Cllr Paul Fuller gave the example of Gurnard having increasing frequency of meetings due to the increasing workload.

Confirmation was made by the County Officer that training is being scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month

10. Reports; John Graney discussed the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, inviting for councils to have smoke free policies. The County Officer raised the Anti Poverty Strategy in Ian Lloyd's request for a new representative from IWALC to serve on an anti poverty working group. Cllr Paul Fuller recommended for some on the role to come from Ian Lloyd and to get this sent to Executives as soon as possible.

NOTE: These minutes were amended on Tuesday 25th February 2025 to show Peter Whiteman as being a councillor for Chillerton and Gatcombe instead of Brading as incorrectly stated in previous minutes. This was confirmed with Cllr Steve Cooper to make this amendment since it does not interfere with the meeting itself, it is a corrected error.