



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

County Officer: Julie Hutchison
Tel 07759 193451
Email: countyofficer@iwalc.org

DRAFT minutes IWALC Executive Meeting 23rd July 2025 at The Riverside Centre,
Newport Isle of Wight commenced 7pm

Present;

Cllr Steve Cooper (Chair), Cllr Patricia Redpath (Deputy Chair), Cllr Susan Hardy (Treasurer), Julie Hutchison (County Officer)

Members,

Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde), Cllr Lynda Burroughs (Chale), Cllr Brin Martin (Niton and Whitwell), Cllr Paul Fuller (Cowes), Cllr Mark Jefferies (Ventnor), Cllr Linda Jefferies (Ventnor), Cllr Jonathan Hill (Shalfleet), Cllr Jane Timbrell (Shalfleet), Cllr Paul Garratt (Brading), Cllr Patrick Farrell (Yarmouth), Cllr Sarah Morris (Lake), Cllr Warren Whyte (Freshwater), Cllr Cheryl Fontana (Fishbourne), Cllr Vix Lowthion (Newport), Cllr Vivian Roberts (Arreton), Cllr Ian Boyd (Sandown), Cllr Penny Acton (Gurnard),

1. **Welcome.** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from; Cllr Natasha Osborne, Cllr Steph Toogood, Cllr John Roberts, Cllr Jon Ellis, Cllr Nick Stuart, Cllr Jess Higgins.
3. **Minutes;** to approve the minutes of the Executive meeting dated 27th March 2025. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Bob Blezzard to be correct record of the meeting that took place.
4. **Treasurers Report;** The Treasurer gave her Report. Suggestions were made by Cllr Bob Blezzard regarding charges, and Cllr Steve Cooper regarding a change to ethical banking. There were no questions from other members.
5. **Chair's Report.** The Chair raised the Civility and Respect Pledge as he is on the NALC Taskforce, the Chair was asking for responses so that he could report back. Responses were mixed; some councillors had no issues with behaviour on their respective councils and see the Pledge as unnecessary, with Newchurch having considered the Pledge twice. Others (two councils) had actually used the signed Pledge to remind councillors what they had signed up to as a corporate body and that the reminders had been effective in reigning in inappropriate behaviour, with the additional comment 'what harm can it do'. Comments were made regarding NALC spending on the project and the need for legislation, with councils having experienced inappropriate behaviours without any powers. **Cllr Paul Fuller made the proposal to contact our MPs to ask for their support in implementing legislation,** Cllr Bob Blezzard advised for information that it is NALC policy to seek a change in legislation. **Cllr Bob Blezzard proposed that IWALC notes the Chair's verbal report, and it is down to individual councils to sign the Pledge. The proposals were carried forward by a show of hands and that these will be carried forward to NALC.** The Chair raised that the **County Officer has handed in her notice.** Cllr Patricia Redpath expressed that the current job description is suffice for the role. The Chair requested steers regarding the job title, amount of hours and employment basis (self employed or employed). The Chair understands there are self employed County Officers around England. Discussion took place regarding Community Action or direct employment and if the newsletter is fit for purpose. Cllr Paul Fuller wished to formally thank the County Officer and suggested an exit interview. Cllr Ian Boyd asked that the

job description considers devolution and the changes that are about to take place for towns and parishes, and that IWALC ambitions are reflected in the job description.

6. **Protocol 16.** Cllr Diana Conyers explained that there are two different but related issues:

(i) Protocol 16 and (ii) IWALC representation on each of the Service Committees.

(i) **Protocol 16:** Cllr Conyers explained this was an appendix to the original IWC Constitution regarding the relationship between IWC and local councils. In 2022 IWALC agreed that the document needed to be revised to, among other things, remove references to HALC and emphasise that the relationship between IWC and local councils should be one of partnership. A revised draft was submitted to the IWC with the understanding that the next time the IWC Constitution was revised, the revised version would be included. However, in the new constitution, no changes have been made. In response to a question by Cllr Warren Whyte, Cllr Conyers explained that, in the new constitution, it is no longer referred to as Protocol 16 but simply as a Consultation Protocol. It was agreed that the wording of the revised version would need to be checked to ensure it is still relevant and, if necessary, any amendments made.

(ii) **Representation on service committees:** Cllr Conyers explained that previously IWALC was a voting member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee but this committee no longer exists. It had therefore been suggested that IWALC request IWC that we have a representative on each service committee. Cllr Fuller suggested that these representatives need not necessarily be members of the Executive; any local councillor could apply and selection would be based on their skills or experience.

Cllr Bob Blezzard proposed that an email be sent to IWC, requesting that, when the Constitution is next revised: (i) the revised version of the Consultative Protocol be included; and (ii) a local council representative, nominated by IWALC in consultation with all local councils, be included on each of the five service committees. This proposal was agreed by a show of hands.

7. **Community speeding** - Cllr Paul Garratt explained that there is little data on traffic accidents, however this is an issue for areas in Brading town. Cllr Garratt has looked into monitoring equipment and costs, ranging between £280 - £2200. Cllr Garratt has approached Community Speed Watch, who wear yellow jackets which slows the traffic down. Cllr Patricia Redpath suggested purchasing equipment, Cllr Paul Fuller endorsed working alongside Community Speed Watch and the Police, and to enquire as to whether they have the equipment that Cllr Garrett has suggested.

8. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy.** Cllr Penny Acton and Cllr Ian Bond presented maps on the projector showing and explaining how it works, from the Island Nature website, about the duties that the IWC have in enhancing biodiversity and preventing nature loss, and on councils that are obtaining grant funding to help.

9. **Report from May workshop.** Time to network, the suggestion was made to extend Topic meetings by a half hour to allow for networking time, to start these meetings at 6.30pm.

10. **Reports.** Cllr Vix Lowthion updated members on the new fleet of electric vehicles expected by Southern Vectis soon, Cllr Bob Blezzard gave updates from the NALC report.