



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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minutes IWALC Executive Meeting 30th October 2025 at The Riverside Centre,
Newport Isle of Wight commenced 7pm

Present;

Cllr Bob Blezzard (Chair), Cllr Susan Hardy (Treasurer), Brian Jennings (County Officer)

Members,

Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde), Cllr Paul Fuller (Cowes), 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 Jon Ellis (Brading), Cllr John Roberts (Wootton), Cllr Bill Freshwater (Yarmouth), Cllr Michael Smith (Newport) and Cllr Nick Stuart (Calbourne)

1. **Welcome.** The Chair and Vice Chair had both sent their apologies due to ill-health so the members duly elected Cllr Bob Blezzard to Chair the meeting. Cllr Blezzard thanked the members for attending and passed on a warm welcome to Brian Jennings who has recently taken over as the IWALC County Officer.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from: Cllr Steph Toogood, Cllr Jess Higgins, Cllr Patricia Redpath, Cllr Steve Cooper, Cllr Tony Barry, Cllr Penny Acton and Cllr Claire Critchison
3. **Minutes;** it was proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd July 2025 be accepted with the following corrections:
 - To include Cllr Bob Blezzard as an attendee at the meeting;
 - Update item 7 to reflect that Cllr Warren Whyte had mentioned that the PCC does have small pot of funding for Community Speed Watch schemes.
 - Update item 8 to correct the spelling of Cllr Ian Boyd's name.
4. **Treasurers Report;** The Treasurer gave her Reports - .both the bi-monthly receipts and payments report and a year to date financial summary. The Treasurer explained that they had investigated whether finding a free banking service for IWALC would be possible and so far has found that the current Lloyds Community account (£4.25 per month) is the best value (the interest payments more than offset the fee) .There were no further questions other members.
5. **Chair's Report.** N/A - the Chair sent their apologies due to ill-health.
6. **NALC AGM - 13th November 2025.** Cllr Bob Blezzard explained that the NALC AGM will be held on the 13th November and asked the members to consider three points:

6.1) To appoint three delegates to attend the NALC AGM. **It was agreed** that Cllrs Blezzard and Boyd would attend along with the County Officer.

6.2) To consider whether to support an increase in the NALC affiliation fee from 8.34p per elector to 8.6p per elector (capped at £2,216 for the largest councils) based on 3.6% CPI increase. **It was agreed** (by a majority of 9 votes to 1) to support the increase.

6.3) To consider motions to be considered by the NALC AGM – Lancashire Association of Local Councils have submitted the following motion:
“That NALC supports and advocates for urgent national action to ensure local knowledge is integrated through effective engagement with parish and town councils in the early stages of Net Zero energy development.” **It was agreed** to support the motion.

7. **Long Term Scheduling of IWALC AGM** – The Treasurer explained that this year’s schedule of meetings had been out of sync with previous years and that a pattern of Executive Committee meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November, along with the AGM being held in June would be the optimal schedule for next year. After a considered discussion, it was agreed by members that this would be ideal and Cllr Diana Conyers pointed out that by following the current constitution, this pattern is attainable next year and should return the schedule back to normal next year.

8. **Topic/Other Meetings.** Cllr Diana Conyers sought suggestions from the members for what they would like to see from future topic/other IWALC meetings. It was suggested that topic meetings with key individuals from the Isle of Wight Council present (so that IWALC members could raise relevant questions on behalf of their councils), IWALC networking sessions and perhaps an IWALC annual conference (or similar whole day event) could be considered.

9. **Joint Committee of Councils** . Cllr Ian Boyd had circulated a briefing paper that examined the potential for all 33 local councils on the Isle of Wight to form a Joint Committee of Councils (JCC). Cllr Boyd clarified that this was only meant to stimulate a discussion at this stage and was not a motion being presented to the meeting. A thoughtful and constructive discussion took place with several members sharing their experiences of local councils collaborating very effectively (although not in a formal JCC) and a few where collaboration has proved more difficult to establish. Cllr Bob Blezzard was able to share his experience of working with a JCC in Derbyshire and cautioned that the legal status of such an arrangement results in a considerable administrative burden that would be quite different to that experienced by IWALC at the moment. Overall it was agreed that promoting collaboration amongst IWALC members was to be encouraged and that (at Cllr Nick Stuart’s suggestion) potentially a topic meeting could be centred around stimulating collaboration amongst member councils. Cllr Warren Whyte pointed out that this emphasised the importance of IWALC having the opportunity to benefit from the Isle of Wight Council acting as a conduit to the new Mayoral authority that will be created as a result of devolution.

10. **Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).** Cllr Cheryl Fontana addressed the meeting on behalf of Fishbourne Parish Council (FPC) as they sought advice on getting a new TRO introduced on the grounds of pedestrian safety on Firestone Copse Road. FPC first raised a TRO request on safety grounds in June 2024 and despite chasing this up with Island Roads and the Isle of Wight Council, there is still no date for the request to be considered or even any assurance that it would be considered at any time. With utility works set to be carried out by Southern Water in the near future, it is anticipated that this may exacerbate the safety issue. The Chair invited the members present (who also serve on the Isle of Wight Council) to share their guidance. Cllrs Nick Stuart and Paul Fuller acknowledged that this was a common frustration amongst local councils and that engaging the Isle of Wight Councillor for that particular ward, to take up the request internally within the IOWC, is an essential step in keeping the TRO request under consideration. It was also advised that FPC consider liaising with Southern Water to request a temporary TRO for the duration of the works as these are often easier and faster to get in place and would demonstrate to

the public the benefits of the TRO being in place so there is even greater support for a permanent TRO in the future. Cllr Diana Conyers explained that she had spoken with Cllr Phil Jordan (Leader of the IOWC) about this and he would look into it. Cllr Fuller suggested that if a 'Meet the leader; session could be arranged with Cllr Jordan, TRO issues could be raised at it.

11. **Island Transport Plan 4** . Cllr Penny Acton (who sent apologies) had submitted a LAF report and off the back of it had asked members to consider a joint response to the consultation on the Island Transport Plan 4. During the following discussion there was a consensus that the plan lacked ambition and seemed to be limited in its scope due to the lack of funding that the IOWC is anticipating in implementing the plan. Cllr Michael Smith pointed out that it was not straight forward for organisations to respond to the consultation as it had been structured for individuals to complete. Cllr Warren Whyte encouraged all local councils to consider the plan and respond as they saw fit and that these responses could be shared amongst IWALC members. As member councils complete their responses they can forward them to the County Officer who will share them with the other members. **It was agreed** that IWALC would write to the IOWC and suggest that the plan needs to be more aspirational than its current state.

12. **Reports from Outside Bodies**. The Chair asked if there were any comments on the following reports that had been submitted:

- NALC Assembly - 7th October (Cllr Bob Blezzard)
- LAF - 9th October (Cllr Penny Acton)
- IWBRUG - 25th October (Cllr Diana Conyers)

The members were thanked for their submissions and there were no further comments.

With there being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.05pm.