



## ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

County Officer

Julie Hutchison

Tel: 07759 193451

Email: [countyofficer@iwalc.org](mailto:countyofficer@iwalc.org)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT VERSION**

**HELD AT 7PM ON THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the RIVERSIDE CENTRE NEWPORT**

**Present:** Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde), Cllr Steve Jewell (Newchurch), Cllr Steph Toogood (Ventnor), Cllr PJ Whiteman (Chillerton and Gatcombe), Cllr Nick Stuart (Brighstone), Cllr John Graney (Brading), Cllr Trish Redpath (Nettlestone), Cllr Andrew Garratt (Newport and Carisbrooke), Cllr Penny Acton (Gurnard), Cllr Steve Cowley (Yarmouth), Cllr Thomas Cowley (Yarmouth), Cllr Vivian Roberts (Arreton), Cllr Peter Spink and guest (Yarmouth), Cllr Steve Cooper (Acting Chair, Ventnor), Cllr Sue Hardy (Treasurer, Lake)

Julie Hutchison (County Officer)

#### 1. **Welcome and apologies.**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. **Apologies had been received from;** Cllr Bob Blezzard (Newchurch), Cllr Liz White (Bembridge), Cllr Warren Whyte (Freshwater), Cllr Paul Fuller (Gurnard), Cllr Simon Cooke (Ryde), Cllr John Hobart (Chillerton and Gatcombe), Cllr Mick Lyons (Havenstreet)

#### 2. **Minutes from the previous meeting:** Members were happy with the accuracy of the minutes, the minutes were approved.

#### 3. **Report from the Chair:** Cllr Cooper gave his sincere thanks to the previous Chair Cllr Anne Bamford, Freshwater, for her time on IWALC and wishes her well. A brief request for an update on Devolution / reorganisation was requested from Cllr Nick Stuart. Cllr Cooper expressed his wishes for IWALC to become a strong association by way of the work that IWALC does.

#### 4. **Report from the Treasurer:** Cllr Sue Hardy, gave the Finance Report and was thanked. Cllr Steve Cowley proposing the vote to accept the budget and charges for the forthcoming year, and Cllr Diana Conyers seconded. **Members raised their hands to approve the budget and charges for the forthcoming year.**

#### 5. **Discussion of the move from Cabinet to Committee structure at IWC.**

Cllr Andrew Garratt gave the group a recap to the current structure and update to work being carried out which is due to be implemented in May 2025.

Cllr Garratt confirmed that the Constitution has been drafted and that adoption will be in May at the Council's AGM, with the draft being received to Full Council in March 2025. Council officers are compiling information for prospective councillors so that anyone wishing to stand for election are clear about the new structure.

Pertaining to IWALC, the 3 mentions in the original constitution are repeated in the draft constitution; Planning committee will retain, subject to Council's agreement, the IWALC voting and non voting representative. The draft constitution is a public document, links will be forwarded to Member Councils.

Questions raised by councillors included, from Cllr Diana Conyers: IWALC drafted a new protocol in 2022, has this been included into consideration? This would be a good opportunity to have this accepted. This will be sent to Cllr Garratt for further enquiry. Cllr T Cowley asked if it will affect the oversight of town, parish and community councils by the Monitoring Officer. This was changed and omissions made when the Isle of Wight Council became a Unitary Authority. Cllr T Cowley asked if this would be changed. Cllr Garratt will take this back and look into this. The Chair thanked Cllr Garratt for answering questions.

#### 6. **Update on NALC's Civility and Respect Taskforce.** Cllr Steve Cooper gave an update on the work he is doing, by way of the book he has written on Ethical Leadership and the code of practice, the training and system Steve wrote is very transferrable to all models of Government. NALC want for every council to sign up to the C&R pledge. Six councils have signed up to the Pledge on the Island. 60% of councils have signed up in Yorkshire. Cllr Diana Conyers asked if it is councils that are to sign up, Cllr Cooper confirmed that NALC wants for individual councils to sign up. Cllr Conyers asked for clarity as to whether NALC are wanting for councils to sign up or individual councillors, Cllr Cooper confirmed that NALC have shifted on their stance and are asking for individual councillors to sign up to take the pledge, and corporately as a body of this is possible.

7. **Appointment of IWALC Acting Deputy Chair until May 2025.** The County Officer read out loud the statement for consideration from Cllr Bob Blezzard , there were no other candidates coming forward for this position. **It was decided by a unanimous show of hands to appoint Cllr Bob Blezzard to the role.**
8. **Appointment to Deputy Poverty reduction task force.** The County Officer confirmed that this would be a commitment on 1 meeting every 3 months. Cllr Diana Conyers expressed an interest in this position. **It was decided by a unanimous show of hands to appoint Cllr Diana Conyers to this role.**
9. ROSPA playground equipment. Cllr Thomas Cowley hi-lighted the shortage of ROSPA certified playground inspectors on the Island. Thomas expressed an interest in training for this role so that he could do inspections cost free in his area, and had made enquiries to training organisations on the mainland. Pricing is on a minimum of 6 attendees, ROSPA can train a further 6 people to the same training course at an additional cost per attendee, there are further costs to sit exams. The County Officer confirmed that the Agenda was sent to all Clerks with the costs and details, and that no Clerks had replied. **The Chair suggested putting some communications together with the County Officer to go out to Councils.**
10. Reports , several were available to Councillors printed out at the back desk.