

**ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Held on 15th January 2009 at Council Chamber, County Hall, Newport, 7.00pm

-Present-

IWALC Chair - Cllr R Day (Gurnard)
IWALC Vice Chair - Cllr S Doran (Nettlestone & Seaview)
Cllr B Bartlett (Bembridge), Cllr L Brand (Brading), Cllr M Groves (Chale), Cllr D Jones (Cowes), Cllr T Cooper (Fishbourne), Cllr G Kennett (Freshwater), Cllr J Kingston (Gatcombe), Cllr R Mew BEM (Godshill), Cllr H Marshall (Havenstreet & Ashey), Cllr J Davison (Newchurch), Cllr S Smart (Newport), Cllr J Attrill (Niton & Whitwell), Cllr P Fuller (Northwood), Cllr I RiguardBarrett (Rookley), Cllr E Gooch (Ryde), Cllr B Blezzard (Sandown), Cllr M Carr (Shalfleet), Cllr D Russell (Shorwell), Cllr V Fennell (Totland), Cllr R Mew (Ventnor), Cllr R Haynes (Whippingham), Cllr E Loughlin (Wootton), Cllr A Gallop (Wroxall), Cllr S Dyer (Yarmouth)

-Also present-

Cllr D Thompson (Nettlestone & Seaview Deputy), Cllr C Fleury (Freshwater Deputy), Cllr C Page (Newport Deputy), Cllr J Pullen (Northwood Deputy), Mr C Mathews (Head of Democratic Services), Mr M Southwell (Ethical Standards Committee) Mrs A Mariner (IW SLCC Chair)

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everybody for attending the Executive Committee meeting. It was explained that the presentation on PFI by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods would now take place on 19 February.

2. Code of Conduct and the Local Complaints Process – Mark Southwell, Ethical Standards Committee

Mark Southwell, the Chairman of the Ethical Standard Committee gave an interesting and informative presentation on the work of the Committee in relation to the Code of Conduct and the Local Complaints process. He was thanked by IWALC for attending the meeting.

3. Apologies

Daphne Birkwood (Calbourne), Cllr E Bright (Brighstone), Cllr John Cooper (Arreton)

Non-Attendance

Cllr S Walker (East Cowes), Cllr J Bacon (St Helens)

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2008

Resolved: That the minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record.

5. Matters arising

Mr C Mathews, Head of Democratic Services, gave an update on the Empowerment Framework which had been due to be reviewed and signed off just before to the local elections. A view had been taken with regards to the process and available time, that it would be better to delay the final document until after the election to allow the incoming administration to consider the document if they chose to do so. Until such a time it was signed off, officers would be working with the current draft.

6. Recommendations from the joint Strategic and Finance Sub Committee

The Executive were informed that as there was no business to be discussed at the last meeting, the Finance Sub Committee joined the Strategic Sub Committee discussions.

Meeting Protocols and Role of Executive Members

After some discussion it was agreed to disregard the suggestions put forward relating to formalising meeting protocols and Executive members roles and responsibilities. However, the membership agreed to continue to use voting cards, to invite the Head of Democratic Services to attend the Executive meetings in order to clarify any issues.

Resolved:

That the paper on meeting protocols and roles and responsibilities would not be taken forward.

Calor Village of the Year Competition

The Vice-Chairman reported very few responses had been received and that IWALC would not be running the competition in 2009. The Executive thanked Cllr Doran for her hard work to date.

Resolved:

The competition would not be organised by IWALC in 2009, but would be looked at again for 2010.

Frequency of Finance Sub-Committee

It was anticipated that meetings of the Finance Sub-Committee would only be required once or twice a year together with one budget meeting. Therefore it was proposed to merge Sub Committee along with the Strategic Sub Committee under the name General Purposes Committee. It was confirmed that this would be held every other month and the membership would be the same as the current members of the two sub-committees.

Resolved:

The Finance Sub-Committee and the Strategic Sub Committee would merge and be known as the General Purposes Committee

7. Report from the Quality Accreditation Panel

A report had been circulated with the agenda papers. Cllr Denis Russell gave an update to inform members that NALC had recently confirmed applications for Quality could now be received in a non paper format and that furthermore Panels would be able to decide locally if they wished to interview applicants.

8. South East Region County Associations Forum (SERCAF) - Renewal of Membership

Cllr Heidi Marshall informed the Committee that she was still waiting to receive further information and the item should be deferred to the next meeting

9. Website Update

Cllr Rob Jones had resigned from the Executive and a new lead for heading up and managing the website was sought. Cllr David Thompson was nominated and seconded to take over the development and running of the website. It was also suggested that consultations be placed on the website for members to view.

Resolved:

That Cllr David Thompson be appointed to develop the IWALC website

10. Report of the Secretary

The Secretary's report was received.

All councillors who were members would be welcome to attend the forthcoming IWALC meeting on the 19 February as a presentation would be given by Bill Murphy, Head of Planning Services. A presentation would also be given by Stuart Love on the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which had been postponed from the 15 January meeting. If it was then considered necessary and time was available a General Purposes sub-committee would then be held after the presentations.

It was suggested that the new chairman of NALC be invited to attend the AGM

The Chairman gave an update on membership informing the Executive that Chale would be resigning from IWALC with effect from 1 April 2009.

Following a vote it was

Resolved: The report was noted and the new chairman of NALC be invited to attend the AGM

11. Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was received. It was agreed that future reports would not include both 'spend to date' and 'actual spend' as they contained the same information.

Following a vote it was

Resolved: The report was noted.

12. Review of IWALC's June 2009 meeting dates

The future meeting dates were discussed and it was agreed that the meeting on 18 June 2009 (General Purposes Sub Committee) would not take place. The AGM would go ahead on 19 June 2009 and the new Chairman of NALC would be invited to attend. It was agreed to hold the AGM somewhere in Newport at it was central location and the Secretary to research suitable venues. A meal out would be arranged beforehand.

Resolved

The meeting on 18 June 2009 (Strategic & Finance Sub Committee) would not take place although the AGM would go ahead on 19 June 2009.

13. To receive reports from Representatives on outside bodies

IW County Training Partnership – Cllr R Day

No meeting had taken place since the last update.

Standards Committee Rep – Cllr D Russell

Nothing further to add to the report.

Scrutiny Committee Rep – Cllr B Blezzard

A report was tabled

Island Strategic Partnership – Cllr S Doran

A report was tabled

Carisbrooke Castle Museum Rep – Chairman

The group were currently looking at new ideas to raise money

IOW Best Kept Village Awards – Cllr R Mew

Nothing to report

IOW Sports & Recreation Council – Cllr B Bartlett

The report had been circulated

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – Cllr D Russell

Nothing to report

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) – Cllr H Marshall

The report had been circulated and it was agreed to invite the regional representative to the next available meeting to discuss the level of funding that will be available to county associations and it could be utilised best.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association –Cllr B Blezzard

The report had been tabled. It was noted that Cllr Blezzard was the only representative from the Island.

Resolved:

It was agreed to write to the Leader of the Council to encourage attendance.

Crimestoppers – Cllr R Day

The next meeting would take place in February

14. Open Forum

Concern was expressed over the current low level of interest that parish councils were receiving on their investments. It was agreed to contact NALC to see if they could be bring pressure to bear with the major clearing banks given the national scale of investments. At a local level, the Secretary was asked to investigate the possibility of IWALC pooling parish council investments into an account as a larger amount would attract a higher rate of interest and maximise the return.

Resolved:

That NALC be contacted regarding the level of interest that parish councils were receiving on investments and that the Secretary investigate IWALC pooling parish council investments.

A discussion took place over the recent IWC decision to withdraw funding for amenity grass cutting and graveyard maintenance. A letter was read out from **Nettlestone** and Seaview parish council addressed to the Leader of the Council asking for this amount to be reinstated given the statement from the previous Leader in 2005. After further discussion it was agreed a letter be sent to The Leader of the Council in a similar vein to Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council covering graveyard maintenance, allotments, grass cutting and election expenses and the additional cost this would place on parishes in the current financial climate so late in the budget cycle.

Resolved:

A letter be sent to the Leader of the Council regarding additional costs being placed on parish councils.

After some discussion concerning voting under the open forum it was

Resolved:

that voting procedures should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Robin Mew informed members of the issues concerning the new wall next to the children's paddling pool on Ventnor seafront.

Resolved:

It was agreed to ask the clerk for all the facts so IWALC could help bring this matter to a conclusion.

15. Items for next agenda

- To review meeting procedures governing the Open Forum
- To consider the merits of IWALC renewing its membership of SERCAF

16. Date of next meetings

General Purposes Committee Meetings – Thursday 19th February 2009, 7.00pm Council Chamber, County Hall (Planning and PFI Presentation) – This meeting to be open to all councils who are members

Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday 19th March 2009, 7.00pm Council Chamber, County Hall (Presentation by Land Registry)

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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Chairman

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Date