

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

Held on 19th March 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 J Cooper (Arreton), Cllr B Bartlett (Bembridge), Cllr L Brand (Brading), Cllr M Groves (Chale), Cllr S Walker (East Cowes), Cllr C Fleury (Freshwater), Cllr J Kingston (Gatcombe), Cllr R Mew BEM (Godshill), Cllr B Blezzard (Havenstreet & Ashe), Cllr C Richards (Newchurch), Cllr C Page (Newport), Cllr P Fuller (Northwood), Cllr E Gooch (Ryde), Cllr D Russell (Shorwell), Cllr V Fennell (Totland), Cllr R J Mew (Ventnor), Cllr R Haynes (Whippingham), Cllr E Loughlin (Wootton), Cllr A Gallop (Wroxall), Cllr S Dyer (Yarmouth)

-Also present-

Cllr J Pullen (Northwood Deputy), Gaynor Turner & Nick Jones (Land Registry)

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everybody for attending the Executive Committee meeting.

2. Presentation on Land Registry – Gaynor Turner & Nick Jones

The objectives of Land Registry are to create a register with comprehensive content and national coverage and to encourage land owners to take up the benefits of registration. The benefits of registration are proof of ownership, security of title to land owners, greater protection against adverse possession and convenient access to information. If your Parish or Town Councils need assistance with the registration process please contact Land Registry.

3. Apologies

Cllr E Bright (Brighstone), Cllr D Birkwood (Calbourne), Cllr D Jones (Cowes), Cllr M Prior (East Cowes), Cllr T Cooper (Fishbourne), Cllr G Kennett (Freshwater), Cllr H Marshall (Havenstreet & Ashe), Cllr J Davison (Newchurch), Cllr S Smart (Newport), Cllr J Attrill (Niton & Whitwell), Mr C Mathews (Head of Democratic Services)

Non-Attendance

Cllr I RiguardBarrett (Rookley), Cllr J Bacon (St Helens), Cllr M Carr (Shalfleet)

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2009

In attendance (Freshwater) to be included after Cllr Gill Kennett and spelling of (Shalfleet) to be corrected. Cllr Robin Mew (Ventnor) to be recorded in item 14 not Cllr Ron Mew as listed Nettlestone to be spelt correctly in item 14.

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

5. Matters arising

Clarification was sought over the Parish Charter. The Chair indicated that this would be picked up after the elections in June 2009.

6. To consider the proposed reorganisation of the Parish & Community Development Team and to review the continuation of the tri-partite agreement for secretariat support with the Isle of Wight Council

IWALC would like to make strong representation to Chris Mathews, Head of Democratic Services, that administration of training course for the County Training Partnership be moved into the must do category of work tasks for the Parish & Community Development Team.

Resolved: That a letter be written to Chris Mathews, Head of Democratic Services stating that IWALC wish to make strong representation for the administration of training courses for the County Training Partnership be moved into the must do category of work tasks for the Parish & Community Development Team.

IWALC would like the Treasurer role to be moved out of the tri-partite agreement with an elected member from IWALC to take on this role. The Chair indicated that as his role as Chair would cease in July he would be happy to take on the Treasurer role with his Accountant experience.

Resolved: That the Treasurer role be moved out of the tri-partite agreement with an elected member of IWALC to take on this role, when the review is carried out after the elections in June 2009.

Resolved: IWALC would like to carry on with the existing arrangement and review the tri-partite agreement after the elections in June 2009.

7. To receive notes from the Finance & General Purposes Sub Committee – Cllr S Doran

• **To clarify the name and the membership of IWALC's Sub Committee**

IWALC clarified that the Sub Committee will be called 'Finance & General Purposes Sub Committee'.

• **The future funding of Youth Clubs on the Isle of Wight**

A discussion took place around the lack of clarity in information that Parish & Town Councils have received regarding the future funding of Youth Clubs on the Isle of Wight. It was stated that a consultation is due to commence in June regarding the future funding and structure of Youth Clubs.

Resolved: That a letter be written to Cllr David Pugh and copied to Cllr Alan Wells asking for a statement regarding the current situation, future funding and structure of the Youth Clubs on the Isle of Wight and express IWALC's dissatisfaction at the lack of clarity and information to date.

• **Pooling Parish Monies**

A statement regarding pooling parish monies was circulated by the Secretary. It would not be legal for IWALC or a single Parish to pool parish monies but it would be legal for a Principle Authority to do this.

Resolved: That a letter be written to David Burbage, Director of Finance, for IWC to look into the feasibility of a pool of resources to maximise the investment income of Parish & Town Council funds.

8. To discuss a motion to put forward to NALC regarding the current low level of interest Parish & Town Councils are receiving which will be considered by NALC policy committee on 21/04/09

A discussion took place around the current low level of interest that Parish & Town Councils are receiving at the previous Executive Committee meeting. NALC have asked that a motion is put forward by IWALC. IWALC proposed to put forward a motion to NALC's policy committee on 21/04/09 as follows 'IWALC ask NALC to discuss with the Local Government Association the possibility of a Local Government bank to be established'.

Resolved: IWALC ask NALC to discuss with the Local Government Association the possibility of a Local Government bank to be established.

9. To consider the content for IWALC's website

A discussion took place around IWALC's website which is currently under construction. All Member Councils are encouraged to think about the content that should be included on the website which can be viewed at www.iwalc.parishcouncil.org NALC have all of the administration, employment, legal and policy briefings on their website which would be useful

to include on IWALC's. IWALC will need a website manager for IWALC and County Training Partnership (CTP) once construction of the website is complete.

A proposal was received at this point to move to the next business. The Chair confirmed that this would be an item at the next meeting.

10. To consider the merits of IWALC renewing membership of the South East Region County Associations Forum (SERCAF) – Cllr H Marshall

SERCAF have three members that currently hold seats representing the Parish & Town Council sector on the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA). SEERA is due to cease and be replaced by SEEC which will not have any representation for Parish & Town Councils. The subscriptions have also increased from £100 to £200 and this was a previous reason for IWALC's withdrawal. IWALC would like Cllr H Marshall to report back before a decision is made. This will be included on the next agenda.

11. To consider the consultation from the Ethical Standards Committee regarding informal feedback to Parish & Town Councils through Independent Members

A discussion took place around the current activities of Independent Members of the Isle of Wight Councils Ethical Standards Committee visiting Parish & Town Council meetings and the actions taken by the Monitoring Officer and Deputies from the feedback received from them. It was considered that these activities are outside of the remit of the Ethical Standards Committee.

Resolved: That a letter be written to Chris Mathews, Head of Democratic Services, that a formal protocol providing feedback to the Monitoring Officer is unnecessary, unhelpful, intrusive and insulting to the reputation of Parish & Town Councils.

12. To note the nominations for the visit to Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 14th July 2009 and draw out 2 attendees for IWALC

IWALC have received nominations from Freshwater, Godshill, Gurnard, Ryde, Ventnor and Wroxall for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party visit on 14th July 2009. The Chair drew two attendees out of the hat for IWALC. Ryde Town Council, Mayor Wayne Whittle and Godshill Parish Council, Cllr Ron Mew BEM were the successful nominees.

Resolved: To inform NALC and the member councils of the successful nominees to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 14th July 2009.

13. To review meeting procedures governing the Open Forum – Cllr R Day

A proposal was put forward that only items planned/notified in advance can be voted on under the Open Forum.

Resolved: That only items planned/notified in advance can be voted on under the Open Forum.

14. To renew membership of the IW Sports & Recreation Council at £5.00 affiliation

Cllr E Gooch (Ryde) declared an interest under this item.

Resolved: That IWALC renew its membership with the IW Sports & Recreation Council at £5.00 affiliation fee.

15. To approve the report of the Secretary

The Secretary's report was received and noted.

16. To approve the report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was received and noted.

17. To receive reports from Representatives on outside bodies IW County Training Partnership – Cllr R Day

The minutes of the CTP meeting were circulated and noted. Cllr R Day was elected as Chair of the CTP steering group. There is another meeting planned in April to discuss future training requirements and the training calendar.

Standards Committee Rep – Cllr D Russell

Nothing further to add to the report as the Ethical Standards Committee protocol was discussed under a separate agenda item. The Standards Board for England has not been forthcoming with information to date regarding the complaint of 5/6 Isle of Wight Councillors.

Scrutiny Committee Rep – Cllr B Blezzard

A report was received and noted. The Chair confirmed that Sandown Town Council have resolved to resign from IWALC with immediate effect. A letter has been received from the Scrutiny Committee explaining that there is one more meeting of the Committee in its current form as this may change after the elections in June 2009. Cllr B Blezzard was thanked for the reports that he has provided to IWALC.

Resolved: That a member is nominated to represent IWALC at the next Scrutiny Committee. That Cllr Paul Fuller (Northwood) represents IWALC at the next Scrutiny Committee. To write to the Scrutiny Committee to inform them of this representation.

Island Strategic Partnership – Cllr S Doran

A report was received and noted.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum Rep – Chairman

A report was received and noted.

IOW Best Kept Village Awards – Cllr R Mew

The inspection for the IOW best kept village awards will commence in April.

IOW Sports & Recreation Council – Cllr B Bartlett

A report was received and noted.

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

Nothing to report.

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

No report received.

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

A report was received and noted.

Crimestoppers – Cllr R Day

A report was received and noted. In addition Cllr Sarah Doran attended a presentation at Carisbrooke on behalf of Cllr Richard Day at which there was the launch of the Crimestoppers for Young People website, www.ShadowsCS.co.uk, which has been designed to be fully interactive.

18. Open Forum

A statement was circulated by the Chair regarding Political Bias as NALC have recently sent out a briefing paper regarding a Conservative Party green paper, which the Secretary forwarded to all Member Councils. It was considered that the Secretary should not filter any NALC briefing papers.

Resolved: That the Secretary is authorised to continue sending out all NALC briefing papers.

Ventnor Town Council would like an update from IWALC on its assistance with the Planning issues that it currently faces with the paddling pool area development. It was suggested that Ventnor's clerks could request legal advice from NALC through the Secretary.

A partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East has been received for IWALC to comment on which has a deadline for 26th June 2009.

Resolved: To circulate a weblink of the review for IWALC Executive Members information and to include on the next agenda.

A reminder that the Calor Village of the Year competition has been launched by Hampshire Association of Local Councils with a deadline for entries of 5th May 2009.

The AGM Venue needs to be confirmed with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

19. Items for next agenda

- To consider the merits of IWALC renewing its membership of SERCAF
- To consider inviting a member of the Youth Council to IWALC Executive Committees
- To consider the content for IWALC’s website
- To consider the partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East

20. Date of next meetings

- General Purposes Sub Committee Meeting – Thursday 16th April 2009, 7.00pm Council Chamber, County Hall
- Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday 21st May 2009, 7.00pm Council Chamber, County Hall (Eco Island and the ISP Presentation)
- Annual General Meeting – Friday 19th June 2009, 7.00pm, venue to be confirmed (Michael Chater NALC Chair to address AGM)

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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Chairman

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Date