

PAPER A

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

Held on 21st May 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 S Walker (East Cowes), Cllr T Cooper (Fishbourne), Cllr G Kennett (Freshwater), Cllr D Ferris (Gatcombe), Cllr R Mew BEM (Godshill), Cllr P Fuller (Northwood), Cllr R Whitby-Smith (Ryde), Cllr M Carr (Shalfleet), Cllr V Fennell (Totland), Cllr R Haynes (Whippingham), Cllr E Loughlin (Wootton), Cllr A Gallop (Wroxall), Cllr S Dyer (Yarmouth)

-Also present-

Cllr C Fleury (Freshwater), Cllr J Pullen (Northwood Deputy)

1. Welcome

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

2. Presentation on the Youth Council – Chris Smy Youth Empowerment Worker

Chris Smy gave an overview of the Youth Council and highlighted successes to date. The Youth Council consists of 24 seats and is split into North, South, East and West sectors of the Island. The term of office is 1 year and elections take place in schools. In 2008, 47 candidates stood for election and 2009 the number reached 43 candidates evidencing a growing interest in the Democratic process from a young age.

The Youth Council have successfully demonstrated they are able to raise and deal with serious issues affecting the youth of the island. These have included the introduction of the student rider card, used on Island buses, the multi-use games area in Freshwater (MUGA) and the introduction of a new youth reduced travel fare on Red Funnel, Wightlink and Hovertravel for 16 – 19 year olds.

The consultation for the restructure of the youth service on the Island has been postponed until July. The Youth Council are preparing a response to this consultation and request IWALC's support and assistance with this issue when the opportunity arises.

3. Apologies

Cllr J Cooper (Arreton), Cllr M Prior (East Cowes), Cllr J Kingston (Gatcombe), Cllr B Blezzard (Havenstreet & Ashley), Cllr J Davison (Newchurch), Cllr J Attrill (Niton & Whitwell), Cllr Ian RigaudBarrett (Rookley), Cllr D Russell (Shorwell), Mr C Mathews (Head of Democratic Services).

Non-Attendance

Cllr E Bright (Brighstone), Cllr D Birkwood (Calbourne), Cllr D Jones (Cowes), Cllr J Bacon (St Helens), Cllr R Mew (Ventnor).

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

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

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. To consider the risk assessment and recommended actions to be implemented

A discussion took place around the risk assessment, the frequency of review and IWALC insurance requirements.

PAPER A

Resolved: Approach NALC for legal advice on the type of insurance required and present the risk assessment for comment. This item to be placed on the next agenda.

7. To consider and adopt the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership training strategy

A discussion took place around the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership's responsibility to employ trainers, setting the next training calendar and the role of the steering group to undertake the work. The Member and Parish Support team will provide secretarial and administrative support to the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership. It is intended that the same amount of training will be delivered as in previous years.

Resolved: To adopt the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership training strategy.

8. To consider a response to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East

A discussion took place around the importance of IWALC responding to this consultation.

Resolved: To provide no comment on this consultation.

9. To discuss IWALC's website

Cllr R Day has not had time to contact the website provider and asked for this to be an item on the next agenda.

Resolved: This item to be placed on the next agenda.

10. To approve the report of the Secretary

The Secretary's report was received

11. To approve the report of the Treasurer & 2008/09 Audited Accounts

The Treasurer's report and audited accounts were received. The treasurer explained that the Isle of Wight County Training Partnership (IW CTP) balance will be banked within IWALC's account and reports will be given separately to IWALC and IW CTP throughout the financial year. The Audited accounts will be brought to IWALC on an annual basis for IWALC and IW CTP.

Resolved: To approve the Treasurer's report.

12. To receive reports from Representatives on outside bodies

IW County Training Partnership – Cllr R Day

Training strategy and programme produced with training commencing in July 2009.

Standards Committee Rep – Cllr R Mew

The first year is complete as the Ethical Standards Committee with 32 complaints being received in total. These comprised 15 Isle of Wight Council and 17 Parish & Town Council complaints. A lot of the complaints were minor breaches, which were resolved by reminders of responsibilities.

Scrutiny Committee Rep – Cllr P Fuller

The scrutiny committee have met twice since Cllr P Fuller's appointment. An ofsted report was taken to the scrutiny committee regarding a case of a child's death and how the IWC handled the situation. There is a huge amount of work to be undertaken by the scrutiny committee with a suggested revision on the committee structure consisting of 4 working groups which is considered good practice by other authorities. This revision will enable specialist knowledge to be directed to the relevant working group. This was the last committee meeting chaired by Cllr M Miller.

Island Strategic Partnership – Cllr S Doran

No update since the last meeting.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum Rep – Chairman

No update since the last meeting.

IOW Best Kept Village Awards – Cllr R Mew

No update since the last meeting.

PAPER A

IOW Sports & Recreation Council – Cllr B Bartlett

No report from the last meeting due to clash in appointments.

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

No report.

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

No report received.

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

No update since the last meeting.

Crimestoppers – Cllr R Day

Channel 5 has offered Crimestoppers a regular 2 minute slot on the 7pm news. The new slogan for reporting crime is 'No one will know that you have called'. The local statistics show a 2% decrease in calls and a 10% reduction in crime. The graffiti gallery online has caught the attention of watchdog who intent to visit the Island during the festival period to film. An event will be launched in November to try and address some issues around domestic violence.

The secretary has been tasked to carry out a review of the outside bodies that IWALC currently appoint to and any other organisations that may be relevant for IWALC to have representation on.

13. Open Forum

- To address the lack of meaningful consultation undertaken by the Local Planning Authority regarding the alterations made to the seafront planning application since the original application issues raised by Ventnor Town Council

A discussion took place around the Local Planning Authority not consulting with Parish & Town Councils when an amendment is made to a planning application. The Local Planning Authority may think that the amendment is minor but it could be seen as significant by the Parish.

Resolved: To write to Davina Fiore, Director for Corporate Services and copy to Bill Murphy, Head of Planning Services and NALC, to address the lack of meaningful consultation by the Local Planning Authority with amended planning applications, both locally and nationally.

- To consider the parking enforcement issues raised by Yarmouth Town Council with the Isle of Wight Council

A discussion took place around over zealous parking enforcement within Yarmouth which is not enhancing the Island image for tourists. Yarmouth Town Council wanted to bring this issue to the attention of IWALC where member councils shared some concerns. It was expressed that if parking tickets are over the expiry time and traffic enforcement officers have been given instructions there would be no room for tolerance. This issue was deemed to be the responsibility of each Parish or Town Council to negotiate the time limits within certain car parks or parking areas with the IWC Car Parks department.

14. Items for next agenda

- To discuss IWALC's website – Cllr R Day
- To consider the risk assessment and recommended actions to be implemented

15. Date of next meetings

- Annual General Meeting – Friday 19th June 2009, 7.00pm, Council Chamber County Hall (Michael Chater NALC Chair to address AGM)
- Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday 16th July 2009, 7.00pm Council Chamber, County Hall

PAPER A
Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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Chairman
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Date