



# Minutes

Name of meeting	IWALC Meeting
Date and time	14 <sup>th</sup> September at 11:00am
Venue	Via Teams
Present	John Metcalfe, Cllr Dave Stewart, Cllr Helena Hewston, Cllr Mick Lyons, Jill Webster, Jayne Tyler (notes)
1.	Welcome and Teams Etiquette.
2.	<p>Leader explained house rules for using Teams CX asked about general issues that could be raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HALC</li><li>• General topics</li></ul> <p>Leader noted the principle of keeping the community safe. Rule of 6 – to engage with the community- T&amp;PC's need to consider COVID and rules around T&amp;PC meetings.</p>
3.	<p>1. Does the IWC Leader think we need to bring in some form of performance management for all councillors to measure each councillor's performance and to raise their level of expertise? Peter Whiteman (Chillerton &amp; Gatcombe PC)</p> <p>Leader / CX Leader noted that he didn't think that this was an issue. The electorate will decide if the councillors are doing a good job. CX – there are no minimum levels of qualification for anyone wishing to be a councillor this is the essence of democracy. Cabinet team and other councillors attend various courses as they are requirements of particular roles. Cllrs from other parties are not excluded from training.</p> <p>2. What is the attitude of the IWC towards being billed by T&amp;PCs for work the Highways Dept is not undertaking but would enabled those parishes to improve the environment? Helena Hewston (Shalfleet Parish Council)</p> <p>As part of the review of the PFI contract, IWC agreed for Island Roads to reduce the number of cuts to Highways Verges. This has resulted in a saving from the contract and less frequent cutting will encourage pollinators and improve biodiversity. IWC is not able to recompense Town and Parish Councils for undertaking additional work to Highway Verges.</p> <p>It was suggested that any contractor the T&amp;PC's would commission is likely to cost more than the saving taken out of the contract, and the council does not have the budgets to reinstate these savings.</p> <p>Would not expect bill for T&amp;PC and not in a position for paying additional work to verges etc. Additional activities discussed around by Bouldner View car park. Would not expect T&amp;PC to do this. It is maintained to a suitable specification but if others require a higher standard of maintenance then that would need to be funded. Leader noted potential for collaboration in this respect. CX noted the need to understand the expectation for this piece of work. There is no provision T&amp;PC's to bill the council without prior agreement, this would need to be a collaborative</p>

process

### 3 Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Why does the taxpayer have to be burdened to pay extra rates for essential services, when you have adequate reserves to make up any shortfall? Peter Whiteman (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC)

Leader noted that reserves are on the border line and just going into the budget programme now. Council tax support team has been noted, together with position of council tax support scheme.

- CX noted the consultation on the council tax support scheme.
- Reserves can only be used once but the council need an annual sustainable budget.
- Current reserves are £10.2m and need to be kept above £7m. there is little headroom and will need to protect essential services (ASC/CS/Highways/Regulatory services)

Cllr Lyons noted the current position for residents in lower paid positions and will make more issues for those people.

CX noted this will place more pressure on the council tax support scheme. The consultation on the scheme is required every year.

Leader noted the hardship fund that was available

### 4. Diamond Races 2021

Has there been any major discussion with the IW Healthcare Trust on the extra emergency services which will need to be provided for such an event? As residents' needs come as a priority. Peter Whiteman (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC)

Events such as this require an event plan, which would have to be approved by the strategic advisory group (the SAG). The Health trust are represented on this group and would have to see and comment on any plan

Leader noted the higher levels of planning for these events and the SAG will advise the council and the organisers that all safety requirements are met to the highest level.

Leader noted that comments have been made from a group on this matter and Leader noted the economic benefit to the Island was potentially huge and an opportunity to be managed safely. It was noted that the Military Road was an area where there was regular speeding and Leader would be in discussion with Police about the safety message.

Leader noted the Tour of Britain and this would also raise income for the Island and assist in employing younger people.

Helena Hewston noted concern around a change of culture in respect of racing outside of this and noted the need for consultation on the Island.

Leader noted public information/consultation later the year.

CX noted the model of the IW Festival in terms of Fire Service/Medical Services and Security and that this would likely be the approach in this instance.

SAG approach is to ensure minimal impact on existing services.

### 5. Isle of Wight Parking Strategy

I know you're thinking on this is blurred as Island residents have grown to expect free parking on areas from September to May. I think the amount of money will cost more to collect and police than generated. Peter Whiteman (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC)

Assuming this refers to extending esplanade charges to all year round this is currently subject to consultation on a new parking order. The proposal contained in the order was part of a package of parking measures presented to Full Council in

February 2020 as part of setting the 20/21 budget. These can be broken down into two types – the first group is where charges are being introduced into areas that were previously free (Somerton Park and Ride, Cowes to Gurnard Esplanade) or extending chargeable periods (all esplanades being pay and display all year round) and these require a new parking places order which is subject to public consultation.

Presented in February – Somerton and Gurnard, this is about being equitable to all esplanades.

On street parking can only be used to support highways work and council car parks support the council. It is about balancing the books. Leader suggested a parking permit of £120.00 per year and whether this was a better deal for island residents.

Cllr Lyons noted that residents look for public streets where they can park for free and noted places that have parking meters in Ryde for example are empty at some parts of the year.

Leader noted the fairness issue around esplanade parking and contributes to the council budget.

Cllr Lyons noted the first hour could be free.

CX noted that parking is only one tool and some areas are quite popular and there needs to be a similar approach across the Island. Leader asked for suggestions.

6. How can we develop a more engaging, equal partnership working relationship with the IWC that facilitates open discussion about local topics? (Freshwater PC)

Leader

Noted that the IWALC meetings and meetings with HALC would be useful.

Cabinet on the road are also being arranged although will be virtual

Suggested webinar meeting for all.

Elected members should make the effort to go to all town and parish council meetings.

7. When officers of the IWC conduct inspections within the parish to fulfil their statutory functions can they be completed in partnership with the parish council? A more meaningful joint site visit would have a more positive outcome for both the IWC and the Parish. (Freshwater PC)

This work is carried out in the main by the environment officers, some are funded by certain towns and parishes, so this is not relevant to all parties. The environment officers carry out many duties, and are required to move from one job to another so would not be in a position to carry out fixed meetings as they may need to attend other duties at the drop of a hat for example a stray dog collection or a fly tip or environmental offence. However, they do record what they find on all their checks and this information could be shared with the relevant authority.

Leader noted that this is dependent on what the inspection is and also depended on confidentiality. Leader noted he attends problem areas in his ward with the Parish Council. CX noted that council officers needed to be impartial and may not be helpful to have a member from T&PC attending the meeting as could breach impartiality of officer.

8. Can we have a conversation with the IWC to explore the adoption of a local car park to enable the parish council to support the local business community and local economy, which is even more vital following Covid -19? (Freshwater PC)

It was agreed at the Parking Project Board on 5 August Agreed not to sell/lease any car parks to any third parties in advance of the delivery plan being produced and signed off by Cabinet – this will include a review of car parks, their utilisation, potential redevelopment value and future options.

Leader noted the Ventnor Car Park example and was previously done in a smaller car park. VTC wanted to duplicate this with the Central Car park, although this brings in a good revenue for IWC. Noted the Harbour positions and potential to have conversations. The bottom line is that the books need to balance. There has

been a significant hit in terms of the budget and the Leader referenced the floating bridge.

4.

**HALC raised**

IWALC are on the scrutiny board and potential for HALC to join a scrutiny panel and Leader noted the potential to utilise other councils. HALC is another body that could have a role. Scrutiny is important, but IWALC does not have a formal vote. Cllr Lyons noted that he did not think he could accept a member of HALC on a scrutiny committee and HALC sells its services. Leader also noted the voluntary sector representative and representation is not always on a pro-rata basis. Leader to research HALC in more detail. Any representative other than a councillor would need to be invited.

**Final comments**

Helena Hewston noted the White paper and Island Plan - Leader noted that written comments to be accepted. Currently working with the Island MP and have a very clear strategy on how to deliver this. The Island plan should finalise after May and a twin approach being developed and looking for Island homes for Island people. Leader suggested an update for the next meeting.