



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday January 30th 2020

Present: Councillors, Helena Hewston (Chairman and Shalfleet PC member), Mick Lyons (Vice Chair and Havenstreet and Ashley PC member), Sue Hardy (Treasurer and Lake PC member), John Pullen (Northwood), Diana Conyers (Ryde), Trish Evans (Wootton Bridge), Michael Paler (East Cowes), Paul Fuller (Gurnard), Ian RigaudBarrett (Rookley), Lora Peacey-Wilcox (Cowes), Peter Whiteman (Chillerton and Gatcombe), Sue Honeywill (Fishbourne), Sherlie Burridge (Niton and Whitwell), Bob Blezzard (Lake), June Davison (Newchurch), John Graney (Brading), Shirley Smart (Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, Jill Webster (County Officer).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Presentation by Laura Fraser (Riverside Operations & Business Manager)

A report following a meeting with Ms Fraser had been circulated and Ms Fraser gave a very informative and interesting presentation about the possibility of offering a video-conferencing facility using IWALC as a 'guinea pig'. It would be offered in one room only to start. Four wi-fi points in the centre would ensure a strong signal but signal strength and reliability obviously could not be guaranteed in other areas of the Island where Councils may be using the facility. Different options were highlighted (as explained in the report). Access would be to member councils only and be accessed via a PIN. There would be a small charge to IWALC to use the facility to cover Riverside's costs.

The move was strongly supported by Cllr Fuller who said people who may find it difficult to attend meetings in person might be encouraged to get involved. Cllr Burridge commented that it was environmentally friendly but added that the facility/PIN should only be open to those members who had previously sent an apology for absence. Cllr Hardy suggested all member councils should be consulted. Cllr Davison commented that while she feels it is a good idea, she enjoys the 'networking' of a meeting attended in person and wondered which members councils do not send members to IWALC meetings and why? Another suggestion was that only a nominated delegate or an agreed proxy would be allowed to take part in meetings.

Cllr Blezzard remarked that he can see the benefits for use on the mainland, but as nowhere on the Island is more than ten miles from Newport, he doesn't see the need for it and he feels it is important, as did Cllr Whiteman, to attend meetings in person.

Cllr Hewston suggested a three-month trial period. A working party (Cllr Hewston, Cllr Burridge, Cllr Whiteman, Cllr Fuller, Cllr Honeywill, Cllr Hardy and the County Officer) will meet to discuss further, with a vote being held at the March meeting.

County Officer to arrange a meeting of the Working Party and to contact those T&PCs who do not regularly attend Executive Meetings to ask why.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: Gill Kennett (Freshwater), Dave Adams (Nettlestone and Seaview) and Martin Kimber (Arreton), John Cirrone (Brighstone).

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. To approve the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Thursday November 28th 2019.

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. It was noted that the presentation by Stuart Bailey of Southern Water had been very well received. Letters of thanks and support were sent to Stuart Bailey and to Richard Grogan (AONB).

6. Treasurer's Report

Cllr Hardy had circulated financial reports previously. She emphasized that the budget was finely balanced and that extra costs (for example the cost for video conferencing) could affect this balance.

7. Nominations for invitations to the Royal Garden Party.

Cllr Hewston had previously circulated a suggestion that Maxine Warr, (out-going IWALC County Officer) should receive an automatic nomination for her services to IWALC along with services to T&PCs across the Island. Cllr Lyons proposed this suggestion, which was seconded by Cllr Blezzard and it was carried unanimously. The Chair then drew a name from the remaining nominees and Cllr Joe Robertson (nominated by St Helen's PC) receives the second pair of tickets.

8. Feedback from the Infrastructure Workshop held on Friday January 24th 2020

Cllr Lyons reported that overall, the Workshop had been seen as very successful. Feedback received included a lack of refreshments, that some questions were parochial, the panel was too large, the room lay-out (and microphones which only worked intermittently) made it difficult to hear what was being said, that Island Roads were not represented, more structure to the question order, more time for Cllrs and panellists to interact, too many questions were asked with some submitted questions not being answered, a suggestion that smaller, more focussed meetings might be more beneficial ie Police, Education & Mental Health.

9. Reports were received and noted from the following delegates to outside bodies:

- Public Health Strategy - a report had been circulated by Cllr Hewston following a meeting attended along with Cllr Kennett at County Hall on January 13th 2020. Details of the meeting to be held on February 6th will be circulated to all Executive Members.
- CPRE – Cllr Hewston reported that CPRE has been mentioned in NALC's report.
- LAF – Cllr Hewston reported that a meeting will be held in February regarding the Coastal Path and that Highways are undertaking surveys on footpaths and bridleways across the Island. Volunteers should contact Jennine Gardener. There was a lengthy discussion about the future for bus usage, revenue and services across the Island.
- Carisbrooke Castle Museum – Cllr Hewston reported that it has been closed and will re-open with an exhibition of Anglo-Saxon items – many of which originated on the Isle Wight - from February 14th at 3pm.
- Scrutiny – Cllr Kennett's report had been circulated. Cllr Hewston reported that she will attend the February meeting.
- Meeting of IWALC/IWC (Dec 2) – it was noted that despite repeated requests, Minutes of this meeting still had not been released. Fishbourne PC had been able to obtain answers to their questions directly. Cllr Hewston suggested that T&PCs could go directly to the IWC if they had questions.
- IWC Seminar (Dec 4) – Cllr Conyer's report had been circulated. Cllr Hewston thanked Cllr Conyer for producing an excellent and detailed report.
- Appeals Committee on Code of Conduct at Bembridge – Cllr Lyons had circulated a report. Cllr Fuller emphasised the need for 'openness and transparency'.
- Cllr Blezzard circulated and reported on the NALC Assembly (December 11 2019). Cllr Blezzard has been elected to serve on the Management Board. Congratulations were given to him. A report of the Health and Well-Being Board (January 16 2020) was also circulated by Cllr Blezzard. A written SERCAF report will be circulated for the next meeting. Cllr Fuller thanked Cllr Blezzard for his informative reports.

- As a result of the contents of some of these reports it was agreed to arrange a meeting with Bob Seely MP to raise concerns about rural bus services, responsibility for the financing of Island bus services, that the question of devolution within England may arise again, concerns that the Island may be tacked on to Hampshire, and Island Status, as it was felt that money 'promised' to the Island before the General Election might now be diverted elsewhere. **County Officer to arrange a meeting with Bob Seely MP.**

10. Points of Interest from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Cllr Peacey-Wilcox reported on preparations for Cowes Week 2020. She has approached the IWC to request a 'blanket licence' to cover all events staged by Island-wide T&PCs to commemorate VE Day rather than T&PC Councils apply individually. **The County Officer will pass this on to all T&PCs and ask them to contact Cllr Peacey-Wilcox.**

Cllr Paler reported that the IWC are offering no financial support for commemorations for VE Day and that they are scaling down Isle of Wight Day celebrations. Cllr Hewston commented that Age UK are now involved in these.

Cllr Fuller reported on the discontinuation of the mobile CCTV. He is investigating the cost to purchase mobile CCTV facilities with the financial support of larger T&PCs. Cllr Lyons commented that smaller Councils would not be able to afford to contribute and several already pay for the services of an Environmental Officer. Cllr Fuller accepted this and said that smaller Councils would be able to use the CCTV for a small hire fee. Cllr Hewston reported that Speedwatch is returning to Shalfleet. Cllr Smart reported that it is returning to Newport as well and that anybody wishing to volunteer should contact Clerk, Josh Tombleson. Cllr Lyons commented that if there was a 40mph speed limit across the Island there would be no need for Speedwatch.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:-

- Thursday February 27th – Topic Meeting (Richard Tyldsely from Southern Vectis and Tanja Rebel of Incredible Edible Island).
- Thursday March 26th – Executive Meeting