



Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held remotely
via Zoom on Thursday October 29th at 7pm

Present:

Officers: Cllrs Helena Hewston, Chair (Shalfleet PC), Mick Lyons, Vice Chair (Havenstreet & Asheys PC), Sue Hardy, Treasurer (Lake PC) Jill Webster (County Officer) and Maxine Warr (former County Officer)

Members:

Cllrs Heather Calloway (Arreton PC), Vivian Roberts (Arreton PC), John Graney (Brading TC), John Cirrone (Brighstone PC), Malcolm East (Brighstone PC), Nigel Phillips (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC), Simon Walker (East Cowes TC), Cheryl Fontana (Fishbourne PC), Gill Kennett (Freshwater PC), Anne Bamford (Freshwater PC), Paul Fuller (Gurnard PC), Veronica Hattersley (Havenstreet & Asheys PC), Bob Blezzard (Lake PC), June Davison (Newchurch PC), Terry Martin (Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council), Shirley Smart (Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council), Sherlie Burrige (Niton & Whitwell PC), Ian RigaudBarrett (Rookley PC), Diana Conyers (Ryde TC), Phil Jordan (Ryde TC), Daryll Pitcher (Wootton Bridge PC) and Steve Cowley (Yarmouth TC).

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting – the first meeting since February and the first remote meeting, using Zoom. Cllrs from twenty-two of the twenty-five member councils had indicated an intention to attend.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Whiteman (Chillerton & Gatcombe PC) and Cllr Martin Kimber (Arreton PC)

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday July 18 2019

The Minutes of the AGM held on July 18 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Elections

Chair - Cllr Helena Hewston had given prior notice of her intention to stand down as Chair. One nomination for the position of Chair had been received. The nominee was Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde TC) who was thus appointed as Chair for the coming year.

Cllr Conyers then took over as chair of the meeting. She thanked the outgoing Chair for all her hard work during her two years in office, and in particular during the difficult six months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Hewston gave thanks for the kind words and hoped that IWALC would move forward. She thanked everybody for their help during this time. Cllr Conyers said she was honoured and excited to be Chair. She said she had many ideas to share to enable IWALC to move forward in a progressive way.

Vice Chair – No prior nominations had been received so nominations were invited. Two members, Cllr Mick Lyons and Cllr Shirley Smart, were nominated. They each gave a brief presentation of what they felt they could bring to the position. Cllr Lyons felt that with a new Chair and new County Officer there was need for continuity and felt that it was important that there was representation from one of the Island's smaller councils. Cllr Smart said she has been involved with IWALC for many years and that, as a current Councillor for the Isle of Wight Council, she feels that IWALC should be working closely with the IWC for the benefit of the Island.

A vote was taken and Cllr Lyons was elected Vice Chair for the coming year by 11 votes to 6 with one abstention.

- 6. To amend Constitution clause 7a to delete the sentence that 'the Honorary Treasurer shall be a serving Councillor with a Member Council'.** This was unanimously agreed and therefore the Constitution will be amended.

Action: County officer to amend constitution and circulate

7. Resignation of the County Officer

- The resignation of Jill Webster, County Officer, was noted. Thanks were given by the Chair, for her exceptionally hard work, especially since the start of the Covid pandemic.
- After a lengthy discussion on various issues, including whether the County Officer should have a permanent base, the need for more support to be given, pay scales and holiday cover, it was agreed that there was a need to recruit quickly and that a panel of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Cllr Kennett and Cllr Hewston would meet via Zoom to coordinate the recruitment process. Former County Officer, Maxine Warr offered to stand in as interim County Officer. This was unanimously agreed and accepted.

Action: the panel to meet as soon as possible to begin the recruitment process

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8. Current dispute with HALC

It was discussed and agreed that the Island should try to work together, move forward and leave arguments behind; to continue to provide the excellent training; and to continue producing the Bulletin.

- It was agreed to accept NALC's offer to provide Direct Access to all Member Councils to encourage non-Member Councils to join IWALC.
- It was agreed to accept but reduce from two years to one year, NALC's offer to waive their portion of membership fees to encourage non-Member Council to join/re-join IWALC.
- It was agreed to accept NALC's offer to provide virtual training.
- It was agreed to accept NALC's support for improving SLCC branch relationship.

Action: Cllr Blezzard to liaise with NALC to take this forward.

9. Communication & Training

- It was agreed that virtual meetings, using Zoom, would continue, with help and advice provided for those Councillors and Councils who may need support.

Action - Cllr Blezzard to contact the IWC IT Team.

- The importance of the Bulletin was agreed. A small group will meet to discuss the future of the Bulletin and other forms of communication.

Action: Cllrs Kennett, Hewston and Graney to meet and report back to the November Executive Meeting

10. To discuss the award of Honoraria in recognition of extra duties undertaken by Representatives.

Members agreed with the sentiment but would like more details. Questions were raised about how to implement an honorarium, whether such an award could be open to abuse or set an inappropriate precedent and whether recognition should be financial or a Minuted acknowledgement.

Action: Cllr Hewston to make further inquiries and report back at the November Executive Meeting

11. Business to be Transacted

- **To Appoint the Treasurer.** Cllr Hardy had been nominated and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Hardy should continue in the role. She was thanked by the Chair for all her hard work.
- **To appoint the Auditor.** It was unanimously agreed to appoint Gareth Hughes.
- **To receive the Association's accounts.** The accounts were unanimously approved, and thanks given to Cllr Hardy.
- **To receive the Chairman's Annual Report.** This was unanimously accepted, and former Chair Cllr Hewston was thanked by Chair, Cllr Conyers.

- **To agree appointments to outside bodies.**

- i) Carisbrooke Castle Museum. In the past, the Chair has fulfilled this role. However, Cllr Kennett reported that the Trustees suggested that Cllr Helena Hewston continue in the role. It was agreed that Cllr Helena Hewston would be the representative.
- ii) IW Health and Well-Being Board. (Cllr Shirley Smart, Deputy, Cllr Gill Kennett)
- iii) NALC (Cllr Bob Blezzard, Deputy, Cllr Gill Kennett)
- iv) IW Council Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Helena Hewston. Deputy Cllr Mick Lyons)
- v) Voluntary Sector Forum (Cllr Gill Kennett)
- vi) AONB (Cllr John Graney)
- vii) Campaign to Protect Rural England (Action – to ask wider circle for a volunteer)**
- viii) County Association Training Group (Cllrs Diana Conyers, Mick Lyons, Sue Hardy, Gill Kennett, June Davison and Peter Whiteman)
- ix) Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association (Cllr Bob Blezzard, Deputy Cllr Gill Kennett)
- x) South East Regional County Association Forum (SERCAF) (Cllr Bob Blezzard, Deputy Cllr Gill Kennett, Cllr Diana Conyers)
- xi) Community Led Housing Board (Cllrs Peter Whiteman and Helena Hewston)
- xii) Prevent Board (Cllr John Graney)
- xiii) IWC Appeals Committee (Cllr Mick Lyons and Cllr Martin Kimber)
- xiv) Local Access Forum (Cllr Mick Lyons)

12. Meeting Dates 2020/2021

The meeting dates were confirmed.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday November 26th at 7pm via Zoom

14. Renewal of Insurance Policy

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote for a three-year-deal given by current providers, Came & Company.

Action: Treasurer to accept and pay the premium.

15. To discuss whether to purchase a Zoom package for use by the Association

It was unanimously agreed to purchase an annual subscription to Zoom.