



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 64 HIGH STREET, NEWPORT COMMENCING 6PM.

Councillors Present: Cllrs. Vix Lowthion (Chair), Joanne Ballington, Eric Esteban, Andrew Garratt, Ray Harrington-Vail, Martha Henson, Julie Jones-Evans (Vice-Chair), Terry Martin, Matthew Price, Louise Rippon, Stephen Rushbrook, Michael Smith and Tamsin Verrinder.

<u>Clerk:</u>	Josh Tombleson
<u>Public:</u>	4
<u>Outside Organisations:</u>	0
<u>Press:</u>	1
<u>Other:</u>	1

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Phil Rudd, a qualified engineer advised that following the flooding in 2023, the council was obliged to request a section 19 report which was written by a third party. Having read it Mr Rudd was surprised by things that were missing and also things that were incorrect. He therefore had written his own report which he submitted to NCCC and Richard Quigley MP who wrote to Isle of Wight Council who advised the report would be forwarded to the flood officer and there would be a response. On 22nd July there was a flood meeting at which the EA advised they had already responded to the council and would respond to Mr Rudd. No reply was received so on 8th October Mr Rudd wrote to the EA, seeking a response. To date nothing has been received. Mr Rudd also asked NCCC to chase for a response. On 22nd October, the EA put out a flood alert for Monkton Mead but not for Newport or the Eastern Yar. On 29th August there had been a stark reminder with shops in Newport flooding and no warning from the EA. Since then, nothing has been received from the Isle of Wight Council or the EA four months on from meeting of the flood working group and nothing has been received from IW Council. Can NCCC write to Isle of Wight Council outlining the timeline and asking for an urgent response.

Cllr. Garratt arrived at 1807.

Councillor Henson advised said they are looking to set up a flood working group within the next month. It was agreed to write to the Isle of Wight Council to follow this up and encourage an urgent response. There appeared to be a common theme of people not getting responses regarding flooding.

Mrs Rachel Richards advised that last month she had asked for a bid to be submitted to the PCC for road safety measures. The deadline for bids is 28th November and the

question was do NCCC's procedures allow for the bid to be submitted by the deadline. The Chair advised that a decision couldn't be made in public question time but that the RFO would be in touch with a view to it being considered by the Finance Committee.

3606.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Cllrs. Martin, Smith and Shaw.</p>
3607.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Garratt, Jones-Evans and Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as Isle of Wight councillors.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport Businesses as a vice-chair of Newport Business Association.</p> <p>Cllr. Ballington declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the organisation.</p> <p>Cllr. Harrington-Vail declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Community Action IW as a trustee and director of the organisation.</p> <p>No written requests for dispensation were received.</p>
3608.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u> The minutes of the meeting of full council held on 13th October 2025 were presented to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of full council held on 13th October 2025 be approved as a correct record.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> 3593. MUGA to the rear of Barton Primary School: Councillor Garratt advised that the Isle of Wight Council will consider a recommendation to grant a 10 year lease at its meeting on 19th November.</p> <p>3615. Children's Rights at IW Secondary Schools: The Clerk confirmed that all secondary schools had been written to following the last meeting, along with Councillor Paul Brading, Chair of the Children's Services, Education and Skills Committee, and the Island's MPs. The Clerk had received response from Cllr. Brading, saying that the Department for Education doesn't require schools to have a specific policy, so each school sets its own policies which must support pupils with medical or continence needs. Councillor Brading and Isle of Wight Council officers have confirmed that NCCC concerns are noted, but the matter will not be added to the committee workplan. A meeting has been scheduled between Cllr. Harrington-Vail and Richard Quigley MP to discuss the item and what support can be offered.</p>
3609.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u> Members received the income and expenditure report to 31st October 2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 31st October 2025 be noted.</p>

	<p><u>Reserves Policy</u> Members had before them a recommended reserves policy, produced by the RFO, for consideration. Members questioned whether this was something we could currently maintain or something we needed to work towards, and if so, over how long. Cllr. Garratt, Chair of the Finance Committee, confirmed this would form a part of the discussions at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the reserves policy be adopted.</p>
	<p>Clerk's Note (for the record)</p> <p>The Clerk reminded members that items 5 (HR Support), 6 (HR Committee) and 7 (Grievance Procedure), had been included on the agenda at the direct request of the Chair and that he will not be providing advice, commentary or participating in discussions on these items due to a procedural matter. The Chair confirmed that she had asked the Clerk if he was comfortable remaining in the meeting, and he confirmed that he was.</p>
3611.	<p><u>HR SUPPORT</u> Members had before them two papers from the Chair, one being a summary paper containing a proposal to commission HR services, and the second containing a grid with quotations from providers, obtained and assembled by the Chair. Cllr. Rippon asked who had sourced the providers. The Chair said that it was something discussed by GPWP following which more quotes had been obtained.</p> <p>A named vote was requested.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Verrinder and seconded by Cllr. Henson to accept the quotation from Provider C for a 36 month contract with a break clause at 12 months.</p> <p><u>FOR</u> Councillor Jones-Evans Councillor Verrinder Councillor Henson Councillor Price Councillor Garratt Councillor Esterban Councillor Rushbrook Councillor Ballington Councillor Harrington-Vail Councillor Lowthion</p> <p><u>AGAINST</u> None</p> <p><u>ABSTAINED</u> Councillor Rippon</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the quotation from Provider C for a 36 month contract with a break clause at 12 months be accepted.</p>

3612.	<p><u>HR COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Members had before them a Paper E produced by the Chair which set out a proposal to establish an HR committee, including proposed terms of reference. Approval of the paper was proposed by Councillor Lowthian and seconded by Councillor Harrington-Vail. A debate on the paper took place with Councillor Rippon expressing concern over lack of staff input in the document which was responded to by the Chair.</p> <p>A named vote was requested.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p><u>FOR</u> Councillor Harrington-Vail Councillor Ballington Councillor Rushbrook Councillor Esteban Councillor Garratt Councillor Price Councillor Henson Councillor Verrinder Councillor Jones-Evans Councillor Lowthion</p> <p><u>AGAINST</u> None</p> <p><u>ABSTAINED</u> Councillor Rippon</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT the Council establishes a Human Resources Committee as set out in Paper E.</p>
3613.	<p><u>GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE</u></p> <p>Members had before them a new grievance procedure for consideration (Paper F), proposed by Councillor Jones-Evans and seconded by Councillor Verrinder. The grievance procedure is the NALC model and is in line with the Ledbury Judgment. Councillor Garratt suggested some minor textual amendments which were accepted. A full debate took place on the paper. A number of questions were raised by members and Councillor Rippon expressed disquiet that there was no input from the Clerk and the staff had not been consulted.</p> <p>A named vote was requested.</p> <p><u>FOR</u> Councillor Jones-Evans Councillor Verrinder Councillor Price Councillor Garratt</p>

	<p>Councillor Esteban Councillor Rushbrook Councillor Ballington Councillor Harrington-Vail Councillor Lowthion</p> <p><u>AGAINST</u> None</p> <p><u>ABSTAIN</u> Councillor Rippon</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the updated grievance procedure set out at Paper F be approved and adopted.</p>
3614.	<p><u>STRATEGIC CONSULTATION</u> The Chair spoke about the consultation café and was really pleased with how many people had come in. She had circulated the online consultation through her work. The Chair also said mentioned members who have done consultations in their own ward and how well these have gone. Cllr. Price will be doing another one 5pm-8pm in 64 High Street this coming Friday.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that 490 responses to the consultation so far, and that it would be great to grow this during the Day of Christmas event. The Clerk thanked those members who have responded regarding their availability for the Day of Christmas, to collect responses.</p>
3615.	<p><u>DAY OF CHRISTMAS</u> Members had before them a copy of the timetable for the Day of Christmas for noting. The Clerk again thanked those who have responded to the Assistant Clerk offering their availability. Helping with the consultation is the only support being requested.</p>
	<p><u>NEWPORT HEALTH CENTRE</u> Members discussed and considered any implications for Newport residents of the planned merger between Newport Health Centre and Cowes Medical Centre. There will be a public consultation event at 64 High Street on Thursday 13th November from 3pm to 6pm. Members were asked for comments to be fed into the public consultation event. It was noted that Cowes do not accept shared care whereas Newport does. The issue of low car ownership in Newport was raised and the implications of the need for residents to travel to Cowes. Any other questions for the consultation should be forwarded to the Clerk.</p>
3616.	<p><u>ASSETS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE</u> The Chair of the committee, Cllr. Ballington presented the minutes of the Assets & Facilities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st October 2025. It was asked that NCCC requests the EO to inspect installations such as the Christmas tree sockets which are Isle of Wight Council assets. The budgetary cost of maintaining assets will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the draft minutes of the Assets & Facilities meeting held on Tuesday 2nd October 2025 be noted.</p>

	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> TO extend the meeting by up to 30 minutes beyond 8pm if required.</p>
3617.	<p><u>PLANNING & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE</u> The Chair, Cllr. Lowthion, presented the minutes of the Planning & Consultation Committee meeting held on 30th October 2025, on behalf of the Chair of the committee, Cllr. Smith, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the draft minutes of the Planning & Consultation meeting held on 30th October 2025 be noted.</p>
3618.	<p><u>WORKING PARTIES</u> Cllr. Rippon circulated minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Working Party. It as noted that the Flooding Working Party is due to meet next month. Allotments meeting reflected in the Assets and Facilities minutes.</p>
3619.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u> Cllr. Jones-Evans advised that the next meeting of the Shaping Newport Group will be held on teams on Monday 1st December.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that “The Port” team have received some good news that they have been able to agree a free rent period with Isle of Wight Council up to the end of the financial year. Isorropia has now been confirmed as the long-term operator of “The Port” and have asked to come along to the December meeting of full council to give an update.</p>
3620.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u> The Chair advised that this is a standing item. The Chair and Councillor Smith Continue to sign off food vouchers from the Newport and Carisbrooke Support Fund. but have almost run out of money at which point we will need to signpost them to get support elsewhere.</p>
3621.	<p><u>CLERK’S REPORT</u> The Clerk said that he has received the youth consultation report back from Network Ryde this afternoon, and will circulate in the coming days, however he has not yet had an opportunity to read it.</p> <p>A tenant for two of the shop units providing a printing and photographic restoration service has been found. Insurance arrangements have to be confirmed.</p>
3622.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u> Cllr Lowthion reported on the last IWALC executive meeting.</p>
3623.	<p><u>MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS</u> None</p>
3624.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u> The Clerk reiterated issues regarding the Christmas Tree.</p>
3625.	<p><u>NEXT AGENDA</u></p> <p>Cllr Garratt requested a discussion on the closure of the carriageway on Horsebridge Hill in January.</p>

	Any items to be sent to the Clerk by close of business on Friday 28 th November 2025, along with any accompanying papers or proposals required.
3626.	NEXT MEETING – DATE, TIME AND LOCATION The next meeting of Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council will be held on Monday 8 th December, commencing at 6.00pm at 64 High Street.

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CHAIR
