

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT 6.00PM ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2026 AT 64 HIGH STREET, NEWPORT

PRESENT: Councillors Vix Lowthion (Chair), Andrew Garratt, Ray Harrington-Vail, Martha Henson, Julie Jones-Evans, Terry Martin, Matthew Price, Stephen Rushbrook, Eva Shaw, and Michael Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: R H Blezzard (Acting Clerk and Proper Officer)
PC Georgia Blanchard and Sergeant Chantal Miller (Isle of Wight Police)
Beck Swan, Youth Work Manager, Network Ryde Youth Service
Vicky Hawarth (Isorropia Foundation)
Georgia Harris and Romie Battista (Port)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

3651 APOLOGIES: Councillors Ballington, Esteban, and Verrinder.

3652 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY & NON- PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Councillor Jones- Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport businesses as a vice-chair of Newport Business Association and any matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council as an Isle of Wight councillor.

Councillor Harrington-Vail declared a non-pecuniary interest in Community Action IW as a director and trustee of the organisation.

Councillor Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Gunville Community Association. No written requests for dispensation were received.

3653 MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED:

THAT, the minutes of the meeting of the full council held on 8th December 2025 and of the extraordinary council meeting held on 8th December 2025 (Part 1) be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Minute 3637 MATTERS ARISING: Change “Budget Working Group” to “Floods Working Group.”

Minute 3639: Under Delete “Henson” and insert “Jones-Evans” under non-pecuniary interests.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

Councillor Shaw joined the meeting at 6.06pm.

3654 POLICE MATTERS

The Chair welcomed PC Georgia Blanchard, PC for Pan, Carisbrooke, Shide and Fairlee and PS Jules Miller, responsible for Newport and West Wight to the meeting. The officers advised that their main priorities at present are drug related harm, anti-social driving and anti-social behaviour. They did not have a report as such but will be happy to answer members’ questions. Members raised issues of anti-social behavior, dangerous driving, public order offences, vehicles speeding outside schools, pavement parking and youths on electric scooters. The Acting Clerk drew attention to issues highlighted at public conveniences and requested police attention. It was confirmed that the Police are now carrying out joint patrols with the Isle of Wight Council Public Realm officers. The officers agreed to feed back the specific issues raised and were thanked for attending.

3655 YOUTH MATTERS

Councillor Garratt joined the meeting at 6.35pm and declared a non-pecuniary interest as an Isle of Wight Councillor.

The Chair welcomed Becky Swan from Network Ryde Youth Service, Vicky Hawarth from Isorropia Foundation, and Georgia Harris and Romie Battista from Port. A report prepared by Becky was before the meeting. Becky referred to the youth consultation carried out for the council last year. There is a lack of understanding amongst young people about open access youth facilities following the closures of youth clubs a decade ago. There was a request for central, free out of school activities and sporting activities. Costs of activities can be prohibitive. They wanted non faith based provision. Funding for open access provision is minimal because it does not have “sexy” headlines, but it does have amazing outcomes for young people. It is not possible to access a pot of money because the Island numbers are not there. There is funding vulnerability in Newport. The Port has funding only until December 2026. Vicky advised that Isorropia is a mental health organisation funded by the NHS and the Integrated Care Board and work with the 16 plus age group and works in partnership with The Port. They officially took over Port in September when funding was about to run out. The Isle of Wight Council stepped in with funding until 31st December 2025. Further funding has been found which will run out the first week in February. Isorropia is not a youth service but is happy to offer support if funding is available and would be happy to hand over to an organisation like Network Ryde. Port gets 10 to 15 kids per night and recently some drugs abuse issues have come to light. The Port signpost them in the right direction when necessary. Some of the kids come in every day straight from school and are there until 7pm. It is important for them to have someone to talk to. Bex pointed out that whilst there is the bones of youth provision with the youth offer in Newport. Uncertainty about funding makes it very vulnerable. Uncertainty makes it a very stressful time at Port. PCC funding is not available for open access youth provision and Isle of Wight Council funding is closed for this year. They are still looking for funding pots for The Port. Members asked a number of questions and noted the financial challenges, and the guests were thanked for their reports.

3656 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF ASSETS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Nominations were invited for Chair of the Assets and Facilities Committee until the 2026 Annual Meeting. The role includes HR Committee membership. Councillor Jones Evans was nominated by Councillor Shaw and seconded by Councillor Rushbrook. Councillor Harrington-Vail was nominated by Councillor Martin and seconded by Councillor Garratt. Both candidates addressed the meeting. Councillor Jones-Evans received four votes and Councillor Harrington-Vail received five votes.

RESOLVED

THAT Councillor Harrington-Vail be elected Chair of the Assets and Facilities Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3657 FINANCE

A detailed Income & Expenditure report by budget head had been circulated. There was also a recommendation that Laura Jones be added as a signatory with authority for online banking at the NatWest Bank.

RESOLVED:

(1) THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 31st December 2025 be noted.

(2) THAT Laura Jones be added as a signatory with authority for online banking at the NatWest Bank.

3658 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 15th December 2025 had been circulated.

RESOLVED

THAT the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025 be noted.

3659 HR COMMITTEE

Draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 18th December 2025 which included recommended changes to the committee's terms of reference had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) THAT the draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting (Part 1) held on 18th December 2025 be noted;**
- (2) THAT the recommended changes to the committee's terms of reference be approved.**

3660 TOWN OF CULTURE APPLICATION

Councillor Jones-Evans presented a paper recommending that the council supports an application for Newport to enter the Town of Culture competition run by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). No funding will be needed, and the application will be prepared by Shaping Newport.

RESOLVED:

THAT Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council:

- (1) Agrees in principle to exploring an application to DCMS Town of Culture competition;**
- (2) Agrees that NCCC may act as lead applicant, working through the Shaping Newport Partnership.**

3661 PLANNING APPLICATION

Members considered Planning Application 25/01556/FUL, Proposed 32 dwellings; means of access; landscaping and ancillary infrastructure (additional information) (readvertised application) at Land at Acorn Farm, Horsebridge Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5UP.

Councillor Price joined the meeting at 7.20pm and declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as Vice-Chair of the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee and took no part in the discussion or the vote.

The meeting had before it a paper prepared by the Assistant Clerk when this application was originally considered. Councillor Garratt as the local Isle of Wight Councillor spoke in favour of supporting the application drawing attention to the dire need for social housing, including housing suitable for larger families. If accepted by a certain date Sovereign could take on the social housing with a s106 agreement. The development would meet the criteria for a speed review. There is also concern about potential flooding and drainage issues, pedestrian safety and accessibility, the need to replace trees for biodiversity and a contribution towards the additional primary care costs.

RESOLVED:

THAT the application be welcomed and supported subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the outcome of the traffic speed review be actioned as the level of development along the route meets the criteria for a speed limit reduction to help with pedestrian safety;**

- (2) That the improvements to the footway to improve safety and accessibility through to the bus stop should be addressed
- (3) That concerns about drainage capacity and potential flooding concerns are addressed;
- (4) That tree planting to replace trees lost and to improve biodiversity be supported;
- (5) That a developer contribution towards the additional cost of primary care provision be supported.

3662 WORKING PARTIES

The Chair advised that Natasha Dix has been informed that the council intends to convene a Flood Working Group meeting within the next month.

3663 SHAPING NEWPORT

The Chair advised that a Teams meeting will be held on Monday 26th January 2026 and will be attended by Councillors Jones-Evans and Henson.

3664 CLERKS REPORT

The Acting Clerk reported as follows:

1. ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An application has been made online for bronze entry level for the Armed Forces Covenant and Employer Recognition Scheme and a response is awaited.

2. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

An inspection of South Street toilets revealed the poor state of repair of the building, particularly in the male toilet. This in no way reflects on the cleaning contractors who are responsible for cleaning the facilities and replenishing consumables and not for maintenance. A report will be made to the Assets and Facilities Committee. A report had been received from a member of the public about the inappropriate use of the disabled toilet facility at Seaclose Park with evidence of rough sleeping there. This has been drawn to the attention of the Police.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FORMS

The new style declarations of interests forms to comply with the council's new code of conduct have been circulated. Completed forms have gone to be countersigned by the Monitoring Officer and uploaded onto the council website.

4. GREEN GARDEN WASTE RENEWALS

Members were advised that the Isle of Wight Council's Green Garden Waste Collection Scheme renewals opens on 13th January with priority being given to existing customers.

3665 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were advised of a request through IWALC for member councils to consider supporting a bid by a consortium made up of Ryde and Ventnor Town Councils, Aspire Ryde, West Wight Sports and Community Centre (which works closely with Freshwater Parish Council, Pan Together and Frontline Advice Centre in Cowes to take over the Isle of Wight Council's Advice and Guidance Contract (IAG). Member councils were being asked to indicate their support or otherwise through an online poll.

RESOLVED:

THAT the bid be supported.

3666 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

No questions were asked.

3667 HEALTH & SAFETY

No report was given.

3668 NEXT AGENDA

No items were put forward.

3669 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council will be held on Monday 9th February 2026 commencing at 6pm at 64 High Street, Newport.

3670 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

THAT due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (Public Bodies admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1(2) and SO 63.

3671 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED:

THAT the draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting (Part 2) held on 18th December 2025 be noted.

3672 DATA COMPLIANCE PACKAGE

Members had before them a detailed proposal and quotation from Breakthrough Communications for a data compliance package and support to enable the council to fully comply with UK GDPR and data protection legislation and also Assertion 10 which is being introduced this year into the annual audit regime. The cost of the contract is £4,995 plus VAT. The Acting Clerk recommended that the contract should be accepted and pointed out that the company works in partnership with NALC and that there was a degree of urgency for the work to be carried out given the close proximity of the year-end and the upcoming annual audit.

RESOLVED

THAT the specification and quotation from Breakthrough Communications in the sum of £4,995 plus VAT be accepted.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.47pm

Signed..... (Chair) Date:.....