



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025 AT 64 HIGH STREET 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, Eva Shaw, Michael Smith and Tamsin Verrinder.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

3606.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> No apologies were received.
3607.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Jones-Evans and Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as Isle of Wight councillors. Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport Businesses as a vice-chair of Newport Business Association. Cllr. Ballington declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the organisation. Cllr. Harrington-Vail declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Community Action IW as a director of the organisation. Cllr. Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Gunville Community Action. No written requests for dispensation were received.
3608.	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u> The minutes of the meeting of full council held on 8 th September 2025 were presented to members.

	<p>Members requested that the wording of the Chairs response to the final question within public question time, be changed to “Yes, this is likely something the council will consider in the future”.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of full council held on 8th September 2025 be unanimously agreed with the proposed amendment above and signed as an accurate record.</p> <p>Cllrs. Martin and Rippon abstained as they were not present at the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. Esteban arrived at 1803</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>3593. MUGA to the rear of Barton Primary School- Cllr. Jones-Evans asked if there was an update. The Clerk said that the IWC is currently taking NCCCs request for a 10-year lease through its internal process, and will advise us of next steps accordingly. Cllr. Verrinder said that she believes the IWC will be looking to hold their first meetings on the matter at some stage during November.</p> <p>3594. Cllr. Jones-Evans asked if the Clerk if there is an update on the strategic plan. The Clerk confirmed that he will be providing an update during Clerks report later in the meeting.</p>
3609.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Members received the income and expenditure report to 30th September 2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 30th September 2025 be noted.</p> <p><u>Finance Committee</u></p> <p>Following a recent meeting of the committee which was unable to take place due to the meeting being inquorate, members were asked to consider the current membership of the committee and if any members wished to be added or removed from this.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that members who wished to be on the committee put themselves forward and this form the new committee membership.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, Cllrs. Garratt, Smith, Martin, Harrington-Vail, Esteban, Price, Verrinder, Jones-Evans and Lowthion be the new membership for the finance committee.</p> <p>Cllr. Garratt arrived 1812 and declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to IWC as an Isle of Wight Councillor.</p> <p>Cllr. Garratt, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided members with a brief overview of the 2026/2027 budget setting process and key dates to remember.</p> <p><u>Sponsorship Opportunity</u></p>

	<p>Members had before them a sponsorship opportunity from the Poet Laureate to consider.</p> <p>After a good debate, by Cllr. Henson formulated a proposal which she felt summarised the views and opinions from the discussions held.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC is supportive of the Isle of Wight Poet Laureate Programme and wishes them well in their efforts for the funding, however at the current time NCCC is unable to provide financial support. NCCC welcome the programme to approach the council again through the usual monthly grants and donations process, once the outcome of their arts council funding is known, should they require. Applications that focus on Newport and Carisbrooke are more likely to be successful. As part of any application, NCCC would like to see the outcomes of some of the case studies described within the programme document.</p>
3610.	<p><u>BANKING</u></p> <p>Members had before them a paper from the RFO, containing a recommendation to start an additional banking relationship with Unity Trust Bank. The recommendation was made as the current banking provider did not offer services which were now appropriate in order for the council to reduce its risk in different payment areas. It was recommended that the existing signatories be applied to the new banking, along with adding the assistant clerk, Laura Jones.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC to open a new bank account and associated services with Unity Trust Bank, with the signatories to match that of the existing baking facilities, with the addition of Laura Jones.</p>
3611.	<p><u>EXTERNAL AUDIT</u></p> <p>Members had before them a copy of the 2024/2025 annual governance and accountability return for noting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the 2024/2025 annual governance and accountability return be noted.</p>
3612.	<p><u>LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members had before them the following proposal from Cllrs Rushbrooke and Garratt for consideration.</p> <p>“THAT, Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council formally begins the process of applying for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Council Award Scheme, starting with the Bronze Award.”</p> <p>Members were supportive of the proposal.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council formally begins the process of applying for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Council Award Scheme, starting with the Bronze Award.</p>
3613.	<p><u>HR SUPPORT</u></p>

	<p>Members had been asked by the Clerk to consider taking up external HR support to provide additional support and resources to him in his role, to rectify any outstanding issues the council as an employer may have, and also to help the council maintain good employment practices for the future. Members had before them a table providing price comparisons for two providers who have responded to the Clerks request for information.</p> <p>During a lengthy debate, there were mixed responses from members, and although some members felt they had a reasonable understanding of the item and sufficient information and trust in the Clerks recommendation to enable them to make a decision on the night, there was also a portion of members who felt they required further background information on the matter before they would make a decision. On that basis, a vote was taken on the item in front of members with the information available. Members indicated that if the vote were to fall, they would wish to see the item on a future agenda, with a paper providing further background and rationale for the item, as well as some further clarity on the services provided by companies who have provided quotations.</p> <p>Votes were split 7 for and 7 against. The Clerk indicated to the Chair that she has the casting vote. The Chair used her casting vote to vote against the item, consistent with her original vote.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC do not proceed at the current time with commissioning HR Support for the Clerk, but agreed that the item be included on a future agenda for reconsideration with the information requested.</p>
3614.	<p><u>CODE OF CONDUCT</u></p> <p>Members had before them the latest version of the members code of conduct which the IWC have adopted. NCCC has historically followed suit by adopting the same version, which is what is being asked of them again.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> THAT, the latest version of the members code of conduct, as adopted by the IWC, be adopted by NCCC.</p>
3615.	<p><u>CHILDRENS RIGHTS AT IW SECONDARY SCHOOLS</u></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr. Lowthion, said she would not be participating in the item as she is employed by a local education provider. She will chair the item but will not participate.</p> <p>Members received a brief background of the item and were asked to consider the following proposal from Cllr. Harrington-Vail:</p> <p>“We urge an immediate review of the policies and practices in relation to toilet use for students at all Isle of Wight schools. Ensuring such policies and practices give dignity to the young people in line with the rights of children.”</p> <p>Cllr. Harrington-Vail highlighted to members that unions and national children’s charities disagree with the current practices.</p> <p>Members were very supportive of the proposal.</p>

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC urge for an immediate review of the policies and practices in relation to toilet use for students at all Isle of Wight schools. Ensuring such policies and practices give dignity to the young people in line with the rights of children.</p> <p>Cllr. Lowthion abstained from voting on the item.</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 23rd September 2025.</p> <p>Cllr. Ballington said that she had been passed some proposed amendments to the minutes by Cllr. Jones-Evans, and asked for the correct procedure in requesting these. The Clerk confirmed that the requested amendments should be sent directly to the deputy Clerk, who will then decide if to accept them, and it should be noted that only amendments relating to the accuracy of the minutes can be considered. The Deputy Clerk would then highlight these requests and any insertions or alterations at the next meeting of the committee when the minutes are being voted upon as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the draft minutes of the Assets & Facilities meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 be noted.</p> <p>Cllr. Harrington-Vail asked to be added as a member of the committee.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, Cllr. Harrington-Vail be added to the Assets & Facilities Committee membership.</p>
3617.	<p><u>PLANNING & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE</u> The Chair, Cllr. Lowthion, presented the minutes of the Planning & Consultation Committee meeting held on 11th September 2025.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the draft minutes of the Planning & Consultation meeting held on 11th September 2025 be noted.</p>
3618.	<p><u>WORKING PARTIES</u></p> <p><u>Allotment Working Party</u> The Clerk said that since the last meeting of full council, the allotment working party had convened and items discussed would be placed on the next agenda for the assets & facilities committee meeting. The Chair of the committee, Cllr. Ballington, was in attendance and agreed with the process.</p> <p><u>Flooding Working Party</u> Cllr. Henson said that the working party is looking to convene a second meeting in early November, and members will be notified once a date is set.</p>
3619.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p>

	<p>Cllr. Jones-Evans, one of the representatives on the Shaping Newport group, provided members with an update on what was discussed at the last meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members NCCC have just made payment from the Shaping Newport budget for the business rates to cover the period from October 2025 to March 2026. This was due to an unforeseen situation where the project has been able to run for longer than initially anticipated. IWC have covered the rates up until this point, however to avoid legal action, steering group members agreed that utilising the budget in this was reasonable. Although the Shaping Newport budget is NCCC funds and held by NCCC, and as a result are the decision makers on expenditure from the budget, the Clerk said that the usual process out of courtesy has been to respect the “steer” on expenditure from the steering group.</p>
3620.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>Cllr. Smith provided members with an update on the funds remaining in the Newport & Carisbrooke Support Fund, and anticipates that by the next meeting of full council, all funds will likely have been spent.</p>
3621.	<p><u>CLERK’S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with an update on actions taken by staff to launch the public consultation which will contribute towards the new strategic plan, including communications, physical events and how members can support. He said that the communications with schools has been particularly positive and hopes that their engagement will support driving the survey to many households.</p>
3622.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p>The Clerk said that he attended the Island Anti-Poverty Workshop, and that some of the guest speakers were excellent, with particular credit to Ian Boyd who provided a great talk on how important town, parish and community councils are. The key theme of the event was about taking action rather than just talking about doing so, and organisations were asked for their endeavours over the next 12 months which he is sure will be revisited. He urged members to attend future workshops if they can as he thinks they will find them very valuable. Once the Clerk has received any slides or write ups from the event he will share them with members accordingly.</p> <p>The Chair asked members to consider an extension to the meeting of 15 minutes to allow any remaining business to be transacted.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the meeting be extended by an additional 15 minutes.</p>
3623.	<p><u>MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>The council asked the Clerk to write to the chair of the IWC PFR committee to ask if there are any services or assets which they may be looking to dissolve to NCCC as part of its 2026/2027 budget setting process. The Clerk agreed and highlighted to members that this has been asked in previous years and the timelines which he has communicated with the IWC to enable this to happen in a professional and responsible way, including a rationale of these timelines for the benefit of newer members.</p> <p>Cllr. Martin asked members to share that local members will be attending a wreath laying on the 11th November at Simeon Monument, and anyone wishing to join them is welcome to do so.</p>

3624.	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u> The Clerk said that there has been several near misses at Victoria recreation ground since the last meeting of full council, and that between himself and local councillors, they have communicated the incidents with local schools and groups, highlighting the concerns and asking for support in raising awareness to enable everyone to safely co-exist on the site. The Clerk said he will be keeping the situation under review.
3625.	<u>NEXT AGENDA</u> To be sent to the Clerk by close of business on Friday 31 st October 2025, along with any accompanying papers or proposals required.
3626.	<u>NEXT MEETING – DATE, TIME AND LOCATION</u> The next meeting of Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council will be held on Monday 10 th November, commencing at 6.00pm at 64 High Street.

Contact: Joshua Tombleson – 01983 559119 or clerk@newportwright.org.uk

CHAIR
