



ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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Draft - minutes IWALC Executive Meeting 30th July 2026 at The Riverside Centre,
Newport Isle of Wight and via Zoom - commenced 7pm

Present:

Cllr Patricia Redpath (Chair), Cllr Ian Boyd (Vice Chair), Cllr Susan Hardy (Treasurer) and Brian Jennings (County Officer).

Members:

Cllr Bob Blezzard (Newchurch), Cllr Nick Stuart (Brighstone), Cllr Vivian Roberts (Arreton), Cllr Steve Dyer (St Helens), Cllr Steph Toogood (Ventnor), Cllr Penny Acton (Gurnard), Cllr Diana Conyers (Ryde), Cllr Sarah Morris (Lake), Cllr Monique Gallop (Northwodd), Cllr Joanne Ballington, Cllr Harriet Brabazon (Bembridge), Cllr Phil Rudd (Newport & Carisbrooke) and Cllr Jon Ellis (Brading).

1. Welcome

Cllr Redpath (IWALC Chair) welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllr Mick Lyons, Cllr Bill Freshwater, Cllr Jane Timbrell, Cllr Jonathan Hill, Cllr Paul Fuller and Cllr Dan Wavell.

3. Minutes

Cllr Blezzard proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th May 2026 be accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings; this was seconded and supported by a show of hands.

4. Chair's Report

Cllr Redpath reported that Dr Ruth Adams (CEO, Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority) had been in touch with IWALC and offered to speak to members about what the new authority will mean for local councils. Cllr Redpath is keen for this to be hosted in a way that allows as many members of IWALC's councils as possible to attend.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Cllr Sue Hardy) had submitted a bi-monthly finance report. It was resolved that the payments be approved.

6. County Officer's Report

The County Officer shared the following report:

I. New Councillor Training

The New Councillor Training session held in June was a success, seeing a strong turnout that included representation from a non-IWALC member council. Feedback from attendees has been compiled and will be used to refine and shape future training offerings.

II. **IWC Joint Workshop**

Following the AGM, a formal invitation was issued to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) to hold a joint workshop. We have recently followed up on this request and are currently awaiting their response. Cllr Redpath was able to confirm that shortly before the meeting, the Leader of the IWC had been in touch to say that this is still at the front of their minds but the usual holiday season challenges were slowing down progress with setting a date.

III. **Training Group & Forward Plan**

The Training Group recently met to map out upcoming sessions:

- October: Subject to resources, the plan is to deliver a session focused on Budget and Finance Planning.
- Subsequent Session: We intend to invite a representative from the IWC Planning Department to provide an operational update on the Island Planning Strategy.

IV. **Upcoming Calendar**

- August: No meeting scheduled.
- Next Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, 24th September.

7. External Body Representation – to assign IWALC representatives to the following bodies:

7.1 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIWLGA) – **Cllr Bob Blezzard** was appointed.

7.2 Isle of Wight Standards Committee – **Cllr Diana Conyers** was appointed.

7.3 Local Access Forum – **Cllr Penny Acton** was appointed.

7.4 Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust – **Cllr Penny Acton** was appointed.

A further working group meeting will be held before September's meeting to assess which other bodies are suitable for IWALC representation.

8. Banking Arrangement update – To agree that former IWALC representatives are removed from the banking mandate and that four new IWALC representatives are added.

It was resolved that the following four IWALC representatives are added as signatories to the Bank Account:

- **Cllr Bob Blezzard**
- **Cllr Patricia Redpath**
- **Cllr Ian Boyd**
- **Brian Jennings**

It was also resolved that three former members of IWALC would be removed.

9. Formation of working group for investigation of implications of devolution

The forthcoming regional devolution is likely to present a range of as yet unknown challenges for IWALC. It is therefore proposed that a working group be established to consider the potential implications, investigate the feasibility of any organisational changes that may be required, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The working group will comprise Cllr Bob Blezzard, Cllr Trish Redpath, Cllr Ian Boyd, Cllr Diana Conyers, Cllr Sue Hardy and Brian Jennings.

10. NALC AGM - To appoint three voting representatives to attend the NALC AGM.

Cllr Bob Blezzard, Cllr Ian Boyd and Brian Jennings were appointed as voting representatives for the NALC AGM.

11. Reports from Outside Bodies.

Cllr Conyers had submitted a report from the previous IWBURG meeting and Cllr Blezzard had submitted a report from the previous NALC assembly meeting – these had been shared with members prior to the meeting. Both members clarified a couple of points about their reports and they were thanked for sharing them.

Cllr Stuart provided a verbal update on a number of matters arising from his role as an Isle of Wight Council Ward Councillor. Firstly, he advised members that the Isle of Wight Council is reviewing its approach to school place planning. He asked whether IWALC would write to the Council requesting that town and parish councils are consulted at an early stage in the process, recognising their valuable role in engaging with and representing their local communities. Members agreed, and the County Officer was asked to write to the Isle of Wight Council on behalf of IWALC to make this request.

Cllr Stuart also raised concerns regarding the installation of several mobile cabins within Bouldnor Forest by Forestry England for commercial purposes. He explained that the structures had been installed without planning permission, causing considerable concern within the local community. However, the Isle of Wight Council's Planning Authority had advised that, because the cabins are considered mobile structures, planning permission is not required. Cllr Redpath advised that she was aware of a similar situation within her own parish. Following discussion, members agreed that IWALC should write to the Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Acton provided a verbal report on the most recent meeting of the Local Access Forum. She highlighted the informative presentation delivered by Unlimited Island, which explored the accessibility challenges experienced by people with additional needs and was well received by Forum members. She also reported that the Forum had received an update on the progress of the King Charles III Coastal Path project and had discussed concerns relating to speeding on rural lanes across the Island.

12. Close of Meeting

With there being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.55pm.