



Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 19th July 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Walters (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Ellis, Hammond, Jones, McGregor, Matthews,
Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Wells.

The Town Mayor referred to the sad news of the recent death of Councillor Paul Birch whose funeral would be held at the Crematorium at 1.30pm on Monday 23rd July.
Councillor Wells then paid tribute to Councillor Birch. He stated that he had been a valuable member of the Council taking on the role of Chairman of Finance, internal auditor and setting up the computer suite in the Town Council office. He was an extremely intelligent man although not many people got to know him very well. He had borne his illness with great courage and would be sadly missed. Members and others present stood to observe one minutes silence as a mark of respect.

6643 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and Sanderson.

The Town Mayor stated that a communication had also been received from Councillor Wilcox; after giving his position a great deal of thought, he had decided to stand down as a Town Councillor with immediate effect. The Town Mayor had written to thank him for his contribution during his period as a Town Councillor.

The Town Clerk stated that both vacancies on the Council would be advertised in the prescribed manner following the funeral of Councillor Birch.

6644 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public referred to the proposed behavioural unit at Love Lane School and requested an update.

Councillor Mazillius referred to his report; he stated that a further public meeting would be held regarding the proposal the date of which should be announced shortly.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox stated that she had met with the I.W. Council Chief Executive and Councillor Cousins; although they had not personally visited similar units on the mainland, they would be speaking with the Head of Lanesend Primary who had. The next consultation meeting would not be held until the middle of September.

6645 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Fuller had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- a). That he had undertaken a letter-drop in Cliff Road regarding the planning application for 8 Cliff Road as it had sparked a great deal of local interest; the application would be considered by the Planning Committee on 23rd July.
- b). That the planning application to construct an asphalt plant on land off Arctic Road was still under consideration by planning officers; there had been a very large number of comments and there remained many questions to be answered in respect of the application.

- c). That there were no proposed development sites in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) document for Cowes West. He had met with representatives of Gurnard's Neighbourhood Plan Committee in respect of proposals for Gurnard; they felt strongly about preserving the 'Green Gap' between Cowes and Gurnard. In Cowes, residents had requested a plan that would protect the Conservation Area following recent developments and around the Conservation Area.
- d). That he had been pleased to attend the official opening of the new extension that would serve the Moorings Residential Home. Planning Officers had also visited the site following allegations of non-compliance to the construction of the new dwellings sited to the rear of the care home. He had been advised that the dwellings had been built in accordance with the plans; the Tree Officer had also confirmed that no damage had been caused to nearby trees.
- e). That he had attended the Health & Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel; one area of concern had been in respect of waiting times at the Pathology Department at St. Mary's Hospital. The Scrutiny Panel had been informed that steps were being taken that could see more local Medical Centres taking blood; he had formally requested that Cowes Medical Centre participates.
- f). That Cowes Week Ltd. was promoting the events and activities programme for Cowes Week on their website: www.aamcowesweek.co.uk. However, he had been advised that there would be no Sail Bus operating by Southern Vectis this year and because of the late notice there was no chance of utilising an extended service for the Community Bus.
- g). That he had attended a presentation in respect of further streamlining of the Environmental service provision which would save the I.W. Council £65,000. There had been some duplication of services provided by Environment Officers, Dog Wardens and Enforcement Officers; it was proposed that officers would take on broader responsibilities for specific geographical areas rather than their existing distinctive roles.
- h). Details of children's clubs that were available at Cowes Library.
- i). That he had dealt with other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

Councillor Mazillius had submitted a written report referring to the following;

- a). That the Planning Officers opinion that an Environmental Survey had not been necessary in respect of the asphalt plant planning application had been challenged by objectors; until a final decision on this matter has been reached, the application would not proceed.
Some further general discussion followed regarding the application.
(Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as the value of her property could be affected by the outcome of the application).
- b). That an application had been lodged to expand the granary facility at Medina Wharf, if granted it should strengthen the economic viability of this important bulk waterside access point.
- c). That three panes of glass had been broken by vandals in the Somerton 'park and ride' bus shelter.
- d). That visually intrusive advertising displays had appeared on a prominent BT kiosk in Northwood; he had raised this matter with Planning Enforcement.
- e). That he had been pleased to accompany the Town Mayor and other colleagues at the official opening of the extension to The Mooring Residential Care Home.
- f). That provisional Key Stage Two SATS results showed an impressive rise in the educational attainment of 10-11 year olds; Cowes and Lanesend Primaries showed most commendable increases in pupil performance.
- g). That he expected the date for another public meeting in respect of the proposed behavioural unit at Love Lane to be announced shortly.
- h). That one of the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 allowed 'relevant bodies' (including Town and Parish Councils) to submit expressions of interest to deliver relevant services on the I.W. Council's behalf.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had submitted a written report referring to:

- a). That she had been pleased to attend an exhibition at Cowes Library to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cowes-Newport steam railway.

- b). That in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment document (SHLAA), it was only the Harrison site that had been listed for the Cowes Medina ward.
- c). That she had attended a workshop to consider I.W. Council corporate priorities as part of their budget consultation.
- d). That she was still being contacted with regard to double yellow lines; it was a fact that there is not enough parking availability for the number of homes in the town.
- e). That she had attended Lanesend Primary School to present the pupils with a commemorative coin and gift card. However, concerns were still being raised regarding the I.W. Council proposal to site a behavioural unit for all ages in the former Love Lane School.

6646 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sergeant Mike Sizer reported as follows:

- a). That PC James Holden had transferred from the Cowes team to the Roads Policing Unit at Shanklin.
- b). That police statistics continued to improve; during the last three months there had been 58 reported crimes in the area with a detection rate of 50%. This compared with 75 reported crimes for the same period last year and 85 for the year before that.
- c). That the issue of drugs remained a top priority; the police had raided a cannabis plant site and made two arrests and there had been further arrests for the possession of drugs.
- d). That he continued to receive reports of speeding traffic particularly in Newport Road; one of his officers had recently been trained in the use of hand held speed detection equipment which he soon hoped to bring into use.
- e). That there had been no significant issues in Cowes following the music festival and the recent Olympic torch relay had passed without problem. The police were now focussing on further events including the Queen's visit and AAM Cowes Week. A temporary camera had been installed on Princes Green following complaints of youth behaviour; he was considering installing a similar camera on The Parade as a precautionary measure.
- f). That members should be alert to the problem of thefts of metal items; two arrests had been made in Arctic Road following metal thefts from boatyards in that area.

6647 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk submitted a short written report from the Environment Officer referring to the following:

- a). That there had been relatively few major concerns for Cowes over the last couple of months.
- b). That there remained issues regarding waste, particularly in respect of waste being put out for collection too early.
- c). That the skate park ramps had had to be cleaned by Top Mops following them being smothered with fat/butter /spread which rendered them very dangerous for users. Photographs had been taken and passed to the police for action.
- d). That it was extremely busy at present preparing for the Queens visit; all benches and litter bins were being removed for the visit and would be replaced afterwards.

6648 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6649 MATTERS ARISING

a). Medina Valley Action Plan (MVAAP)/Neighbourhood Plan (Min. Nos. 6610a and 6638a refer)

The Town Mayor stated Ollie Boulter, the Planning Policy & Conservation Team Leader had given a presentation to members of the Town Council regarding the MVAAP/Neighbourhood Plans on 11th July; his advice was that most of the issues that should be included in a Neighbourhood Plan would be covered in the MVAAP. The Town Council would have significant input to the MVAAP; they should provide the I.W. Council with a list of issues they consider to be important to the Cowes area together with a justification for the issues.

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan could cost in the region of £15,000 while the MVAAP would be lead by the I.W. Council and produced at their expense. Both documents had to comply with the Island Plan Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council does not proceed with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan but instead takes an active role in the preparation of the Medina Valley Area Action Plan; and
- 2). That the Town Council forms a Sub Committee comprising the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Jones, Robinson and Wells to determine the important issues for the Cowes area that should be addressed and included in the MVAAP.

b). Computer suite (Min. No. 6566b refers)

The Town Clerk reported that the possible re-location of computers to the Library had not materialised; they did not appear to want them and had placed a number of obstacles in the way of any transfer. Following much discussion it was

RESOLVED

- 1). That the computer suite remain in the Town Council office for the foreseeable future;
- 2). That the Town Mayor advertise the availability of the computers for use by members of the public through his article in the Beacon; and
- 3). That Councillor Hammond would establish whether or not the Beckford Centre could provide suitable IT training for members of the public requiring such training.

c). Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations (Min. No. 6630f refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Headteacher of Lanesend Primary School thanking the Town Council for their donation towards their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The school had enjoyed a memorable day and it had been a special way for them to say 'farewell' to their old Love Lane Primary School site.

They had now settled into their new premises (the former Somerton Middle School site); they were inviting Members to call in to look round at any time as the children were always eager to show off their fabulous new school!!!

d). Waste issue (Min. No. 6636 refers)

The problem of refuse being put out for collection too early had been highlighted by a number of Councillors; it was felt that this was a problem created primarily by 'second home' owners who often only visited for weekends. A number of useful suggestions were offered including

- 'Second home' owners to seek assistance from their neighbours on the Island
- To revert to a Monday morning collection for Cowes – *Councillor Mazillius stated that this had already been requested*

The local Environment Officer was checking through sacks that were deposited on the highway too early and would issue fixed penalty notices if he could identify an address for those responsible.

Whether the property was being used by the owner or rented, it would be the Council Tax payer who would be penalised as the legal liability rested with them!!!!

It was agreed that the Town Council should await the outcome of the request for a Monday collection for the town and that the Town Mayor highlight the problem through his article in the Beacon magazine.

e). Town Council website (Min. No. 6544 refers)

Councillor Matthews reported that the Town Council web site had been re-designed; the new site used a Content Management System (CMS) called WordPress; this was very easy to use unlike the

old system 'ConMan2'. The web site address had also changed to www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk from the original site which wasco.uk. The new site would include much more information eg. tide timetables, weather news, shipping news; although it was in its infancy it would be developed over time.

f). SLCC Conference (Min. No. 6555c refers)

The Town Clerk reported that the Annual Conference for the Society of Local Council Clerks would be held in Bristol this year between 12th and 14th October; the Town Council had made allowance in the budget for an attendance at the conference. The Town Clerk stated that the Assistant Town Clerk would benefit from the experience this year and that she was willing to attend.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to be held in Bristol between 12th and 14th October and that her reasonable expenses and conference fees be met by the Town Council.

6650 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

The Town Council received and noted a report from the Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust.

The full report is attached to these minutes and the most recent report to the Town Council can also be viewed at www.northwoodhouse.org/news.

b). Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood Community Transport Forum

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood Community Transport Forum held on 28th May 2012 were received

c). Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The Minutes of Meetings of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 28th May and 25th June 2012 were received.

d). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 3rd July 2012 were received.

i). Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Plaque.

RESOLVED

1). That the urgent decision to obtain blue velvet curtains for the unveiling of the Queens Diamond Jubilee plaque and to have a frame manufactured for mounting the curtain track be noted and confirmed; and

2). That the Town Council hire curtains and track from Hallams for the unveiling ceremony.

ii). Town Maps.

1). That the urgent decision to purchase two updated town maps, a replacement sheet of perspex and to paint the frames of the map boards on The Parade be noted and confirmed; and

2). That the Town Council purchase an additional six updated town maps, one further sheet of perspex and where necessary paint the frames of the remaining map boards through the town.

e). Finance Committee

The Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th July 2012 were received.

i). Conference recording equipment.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to assess and purchase the conference recording equipment that he deems most suitable for the Town Council.

ii). ORP Blyskawica Commemoration.

The Town Council had agreed to underwrite the event in the sum of £3,000

RESOLVED

That the Town Council makes no payments in respect of the ORP Blyskawica Commemoration until a final statement of accounts is produced by the organizing committee.

iii). Assistant Town Clerk.

The Assistant Town Clerk had built up 40 hours over and above contracted hours primarily due to initial training and study.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Town Clerk be paid for the additional hours that she has accrued.

6651 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). Consideration of a donation to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion towards refreshments following the Remembrance Day Parade and details of that Parade.
 - b). To consider a request that the Town Council, together with East Cowes Town Council submits an application for royal status for Cowes.
 - c). The appointment of a representative to attend the I.W. Council Budget Consultation Workshop at County Hall on Thursday 26th July between 3.30 and 5.30pm.
 - d). To consider sharing with Gurnard Parish Council the purchase and servicing costs of a litter bin to be sited at the Baring Road/Crossfield Avenue junction,
 - e). *A revised Register of Interests for completion by Members following the new Localism Act 2011.
 - f). *Details of the accounts and petty cash payments for the period April to June 2012.
 - g). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.
- (* copies circulated to all members)

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council make a donation of £200 to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion towards refreshments following the Remembrance Day Parade and that the Town Clerk obtain a wreath and be authorised to make a donation of £50 towards the RBL poppy appeal;
- 2). That as the Town Council believes that Royal status is an honour bestowed by the Queen and not requested, they do not submit an application for such status for Cowes;
- 3). That Councillor Matthews represent the Town Council at the I.W. Council Budget Consultation Workshop on 26th July;
- 4). That the Town Council shares with Gurnard Parish Council the cost of purchasing and servicing an additional litter bin for the Baring Road/Crossfield Avenue junction;
- 5). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period April to June 2012 be noted and approved

DN Associates	Office Rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
IW Council	CCTV licence fee (Min No 6265i)	2,950.00
Sign Co.	MUGA sign (Min. No. 6594)	75.00
A.A. King	Fixing signs, Arctic Park and MUGA (Min. No. 6543d And 6594i)	87.21
R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f and 6387c)	220.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S Waters	Salary	344.75
Forest View Nursery	Tree for QDJ (Min. No. 6607a)	31.66
John Palmer	Clock repairs	50.00
BT	Telephone	48.32
Wight Business Services	Printer cartridges and stationery	188.28
Beacon	Newsletter (Min no 6157e)	110.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00

R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No. 6630e)	250.00
BTCV	Membership fee (Min. No. 6610b)	38.00
S. Waters	McAfee internet security fee	69.56
Beacon	Newsletter (Min. No. 6157e)	110.00
Southern Electric	Toilets, Northwood Recreation ground	75.62
Grapefruit Graphics	Bunting (Min. No. 6607g)	2,471.25
W.J. Nigh	Jubilee mugs (Min. No. 6594k)	2,213.75
Wight Business	Stationery	38.42
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	344.55
Lanesend Primary	Grant – QDJ celebrations (Min. No. 6630f)	800.00
Cowes Carnival Committee	Grant – QDJ celebrations (Min. No. 6630g)	2,000.00
Cowes Open Bowls	Grant (Min. No. 6630g)	400.00
Gurnard Pre School	Grant (Min. No. 6630g)	500.00
Aon Insurance	Insurance (Min. No. 6630g)	2,101.80
Bison Entertainment	Erecting bunting (Min. No. 6607g)	500.00
Playsafety	ROSPA skatepark inspection	81.00
W.J. Nigh	Hand held flags for Jubilee (Min. No. 6630f)	198.00
BT	Telephone	48.46
Bay Tree Florist	Wreaths, Blyskawica commemoration	66.67
Ryde House Nursery	Bedding plants – troughs and planters	168.42
Broxap	Litter bin for MUGA (Min. No.6607f)	460.00
Wight Business Services	Stationery	27.69
Bright Brown	End year accounts and internal audit (Min. Nos.6594j And 5364g)	700.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Castle Road Street Party	QDJ celebrations (Min. No. 6630f)	200.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
JRR Fencing	Replace skatepark fence (Min. No. 6607f)	2,147.40
Forest View Nursery	Summer baskets	807.49
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. waters	Salary	344.55
Moss Hayman	Painting signs and benches (Min. No. 6607f)	1,020.00
Wight Business Services	Stationery	4.80
Cowes Week Fireworks	Grant (Min. No. 6639e)	400.00
Cowes Sea Cadets	Grant (Min. No. 6639e)	500.00
Bay Tree Florist	Bouquet, QDJ concert	20.83
Broxap	Two benches for MUGA	648.00
Crossprint	Printing song sheets – QDJ concert	42.00
DARES	Clearing blocked drain – Northwood Rec. toilets	75.00
Lightmain	Final payment for MUGA (Min no 6575)	2,320.00

Petty Cash Payments April to June 2012

Bookers	Refreshments for MUGA opening (Min. No. 6594i)	38.51
Baileys	Ribbon – MUGA opening	1.17
Lidl	Refreshments for MUGA opening (Min. No. 6594i)	21.71
Poundland	Door stops	0.84
B & Q	Top soil – QDJ tree planting (Min. No. 6607a)	7.37
Poundland	Union jack flags	5.00
Lidl	Bouquet – QDJ concert	4.17
Hursts	Tape measure	1.33
Mostyns	Curtains for plaque opening ceremony	22.91

R. Hendey	Travelling	43.88
R. Hendey	Postage	5.70

6652 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following item be placed on a future agenda:

- a). Localism Act 2011 – Community Right to Challenge (Councillor Mazillius)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.20pm)

CHAIRMAN