

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Jones, Matthews, McNeill,  
Nicholson, Robinson, Spalding, Walters and Wardrop.

The Town Mayor welcomed Councillor Spalding to her first Town Council meeting; he congratulated her on her selection as a Councillor for the Cowes South Ward and stated that he was sure she would be a real asset to the Council.

### 6933 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hammond; Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had been delayed due to car problems but hoped to attend at some stage.

### 6934 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

### 6935 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 6936 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public referred to the terrible state of a plot of land at the bottom of Market Hill; the plot had planning consent for two houses but no works had commenced and the land was strewn with rubbish. The member of public also referred to a number of green wheelie bins fronting Ward Cottages that were also an eyesore which could be avoided if a 'bin store' was erected.

The Town Mayor stated that the Town Council had no direct powers to act; however, they would write to the I.W. Council Planning Enforcement Officer asking that he carry out an inspection of the site and if necessary serve an Enforcement Notice on the owner to clear the land. In respect of the wheelie bins, the Town Council could not insist the owner of Ward Cottages build a 'bin store' but they would again refer the problem to the I.W. council.

### 6937 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

#### Councillor Nicholson's written report referred to the following;

- a). That despite Officer recommendation for approval, the Planning Committee had supported localism by adhering to the views of three local Councils and over 500 residents in refusing the application for 87 dwellings between Place Road and Tuttons Hill.
- b). That on the Planning Committee site visit to the Place Road site the bus driver had been criticised for parking on double yellow lines for the duration of the visit; the yellow lines had been introduced without residents knowledge and there was a local campaign to have the extent of the lines reduced as there was very little room left to park in the area!!!!

- c). That at the inaugural meeting of local County Councillors with Island Roads concerns were raised regarding traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the roads accessing Lanesend Primary School; the school had proposed a one-way system to improve and safeguard access.
- d). That he would be monitoring The Parade Village during AAM Cowes Week particularly in regard to security and the compliance of SIA registered security personnel .
- e). That as the new Chairman of the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee he had instigated a review of the procedures and assessments regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the Recreation Ground.
- f). That there was considerable debate on the structure of governance for the Island mainly around concerns between the roles in advising and scrutinising and the potential for conflicts of interest with the current model.

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

- a). That the planning application for dwellings between Place Road and Tuttons Hill had been refused by the Planning Committee.
- b). That the Planning Inspectorate were in the process of considering the Navitus Bay application to provide up to 194 offshore wind turbines south of The Needles; as a consultee, the I.W. Council's Planning Committee had supported in principle the proposal although they had requested further information from the applicant on the potential impact upon noise and the ecology.
- c). That following approval by the Planning Committee for use of two sites for a supermarket south of Newport the application for The Range in Place Road had also been signed off; Planners considered that objections raised by neighbours would not be sustainable should the decision be appealed.
- d). That DEFRA had now agreed to include the Isle of Wight in the Coastal Access Act.
- e). That together with Councillors Nicholson and Peacey-Wilcox they had met with Island Road and the following action points had been agreed:
  - The Traffic Management Plan for Cowes Week would be circulated to All Cowes Members & Town/ Parish Councils.
  - Island Roads were in the process of ensuring all existing Traffic Orders were legitimate. Therefore no new orders were likely to be implemented until March 2015.
  - Further discussion would take place between IW Councillors, Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association and Island Roads to reinstate the bollards in Cowes High Street. Island Roads were investigating the serviceability of the bollards. If there was an additional cost implication this would be referred back to the Town Council and Business Association.
  - The Gratings in Cowes High Street were being investigated, this follows them becoming corroded and filled. These would be repaired, whilst the section between Fountain Quay and Terminus Road replaced this Autumn.
  - There continues to be an issue with responsibility over certain Grass Verges, these continue to be monitored and assessed.
  - Island Roads were working with Scaffolders to ensure best practice was followed.
- f). That he had dealt with other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

**Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:**

- a). That she had been asked to check the I.W. Council store; there were miscellaneous items of furniture available to the Town & Parish Councils and other local organisations should they submit a request.
- b). That she was contacted on a daily basis by residents struggling to manage following the governments benefits reforms.
- c). That she had asked the I.W. County Press to run an 'on line' survey regarding the possible charging of foot passengers on the Cowes/East Cowes chain ferry.
- d). That she understood an 'urgent works' notice would be served on the owners of the hammerhead crane to allow essential works to be undertaken.
- e). That she continued to help, advise and support local residents struggling with new Council Tax benefit regulations.
- f). That she would encourage anyone suffering from anti-social behaviour to call the police.

- g). That the I.W. Council had held an Island Resilience Meeting; this confirmed how the Council would deal with emergencies. She had requested the team contact the CBA as it could be beneficial to shop owners in the town with regard to flooding issues in the High Street.
- h). That she had attended the recent 'Queen Elizabeth' naming ceremony at Portsmouth Dockyard; the Cowes Sea Cadets played a lead part and a local girl was the official bugler at the event.
- i). That the I.W. Council had compiled a list of derelict/vacant Island properties; they were investigating legal powers they might use to enforce action.
- j). That she understood the I.W. Council were being blamed for the loss of Vodafone service in Newport; the Chief Executive had stated that Vodafone had had almost daily access to the mast on County Hall.
- k). That swift action had been taken to resolve a problem at The Cut toilets.
- l). That four dedicated applicants had been interviewed for the vacant Councillor position in the Cowes South ward; Jacqui Spalding had been selected but each one would have been an asset to the Town Council.

## **6938 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

There was no police presence at the meeting although a written report had been submitted which referred to the following:

- a). That crime figures for July were down by 23%; from 39 crimes July 2013/14 down to 30 crimes July 2014/15. In relation to the year to date, crime figures were down by 17% from 156 crimes in 2013/14 down to 129 crimes in 2014/15.
- b). That the no. 1 priority identified by the Local Action group remained cycling and cars using the High Street during times of prohibition. The police continued to actively patrol the area and had caught 2 cyclists during July; these have all had their details taken, been given a verbal warning and an educational letter. If the same persons were seen cycling in the High Street again during prohibited times then formal action would be taken.
- c). That the frequency and day of the month for Beat Surgeries had changed; the Beat Surgery would now be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Cowes Police Station between 1800hrs and 2000hrs. The next Surgery would be on 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- d). That there were no crimes of note to bring to the attention of the Town Council.

## **6939 MATTERS ARISING**

### **a). Vacancy – Cowes South (Min. No. 6929a refers)**

The Town Clerk reported that the interview panel had the very difficult task of deciding between four excellent candidates wishing to fill the Councillor vacancy in the Cowes South Ward all of whom would have been an asset to the Town Council. However, following the interviews Jacqui Spalding had been selected.

### **b). The Parade Village (Min. No. 6929b refers)**

The Town Clerk submitted a response from the I.W. Council Head of Economy which stated that there was no problem in providing details of the Council's costs and income associated with the Parade Village contract; the proposed 'none disclosure agreement' (NDA) had been in respect of the detailed accounts for Taylor Events' operation which would not be disclosed under the Freedom of Information request.

The Town Clerk had confirmed that it was the I.W. Council's details of income and expenditure that was required. Further correspondence stated that they were collating the information; they were only awaiting a final quotation for this year's traffic arrangements which would have a significant impact on the figures.

### **c). World War 1 Centenary (Min. No. 6863 refers)**

Councillor Banks submitted a paper regarding World War 1 (WW1) Commemorations; it stated that following the inaugural meeting of an Islandwide steering group, it had now been determined that it

would be left to individual Town and Parish Councils to commemorate the period of the WW1 war years as they saw fit. Carisbrooke Castle Museum would remain the pre-established co-ordinating body for events under the Chairmanship of David Langford and if funding was required in support of any commemoration an application could be submitted to the co-ordinating group.

The Town Council had already agreed that they would engage in the WW1 commemorations.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That Councillor Spalding be added to the Town Council's WW1 Commemoration Working Group; and
- 2). That the Town Mayor together with the Deputy Town Mayor produce an agenda with supporting reports for a meeting of the WW1 Commemoration Working Group be held at an early date;

**6940 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

**a). Supporters of Cowes Library Group**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were received.

**b). Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of Meetings of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were received.

**c). Town Improvements Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were received.

**i). Dog waste bins.**

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Island Roads notification of increased charges for emptying dog waste bins be noted; and
- 2). That authority be given for the revised contract outlining the increase in charges to be signed.

**ii). Wishing well.**

**RESOLVED**

That the I.W. Council be notified of the action taken regarding ownership of the wishing well and requesting a legal agreement for the Town Council to assume the responsibility for it.

**iii). Plaques on the bandstand.**

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That if there are no cost implications, the Town Mayor be authorised to sign the legal agreement regarding the plaques on the bandstand on behalf of the Town Council; and
- 2). That the Town Council produce a specification for the task of cleaning the plaques and then seek quotations for undertaking the work.

**iv). Free French plaque.**

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council orders 2 No. replacement enamel Free French plaques from Stock Signs for the fixed price of £195.86 plus VAT.

**v). Additional litter bin.**

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That an additional litter bin for installation in or around Blackberry Lane be ordered from Island Roads at a fixed cost of £85 plus installation; and
- 2). That the additional bin be emptied three times per week at a current charge of £2.25 per emptying.

**d). Beach Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Meetings**

Notes of Beach Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 were received.

It was agreed that following the receipt of further financial information from the I.W. Council Strategic Manager, Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces a meeting of the Acquisitions Committee would be held to determine whether or not the Town Council wished to assume responsibility for these additional services.

**e). Staffing & Development Committee**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Staffing & Development Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were received.

**f). I.W. Association of Local Councils Executive Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the I.W. Association of Local Councils Executive Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were received.

**6941 TOURIST INFORMATION POINT (TIP), COWES**

Councillor Wardrop submitted a paper regarding the Tourist Information Points that had opened around the Island and details of a new Point for tourists that had recently opened in East Cowes; she was not aware of any proposals for a similar TIP in Cowes.

Councillor Fuller stated that the I.W. Council were opening a TIP on Fountain Quay on 1<sup>st</sup> August but that it was a temporary measure for AAM Cowes Week only.

Following much discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Clerk contacts Red Funnel asking if they had any plans for establishing a TIP within any of their premises in the town;
- 2). That the Town Clerk writes to 'Visit IW' to request whether any funding would be available to assist in setting up a TIP; and
- 3). That the Town Clerk writes to the CBA and the Harbour Commission seeking their view on supporting or instigating the formation of a TIP for Cowes.

**6942 NORTHWOOD CEMETERY**

Councillor Matthews reported that The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had granted the Friends of Northwood Cemetery earmarked funding of £1,064,000 including a development grant of £75,300. The development grant would fund the preparation of a further application next year to secure the full amount of funding. Plans for the cemetery included the restoration of the Grade II listed twin chapels, which were in danger of eventual collapse, in order for them to be returned to community use. In addition future plans would include the creation of the Island's first municipal woodland burial site and a heritage trail within the cemetery. 'Little Ben', the bell in the east chapel tower which was cast in the same foundry that produced Westminster's Big Ben, would be restored, the Grade II listed boundary wall along Newport Road in Cowes would be re-pointed and the central driveway through the cemetery resurfaced.

**6943 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

a). Details of a joint Cowes/East Cowes Public Meeting regarding the possible introduction by the I.W. Council of charging for foot passengers on the Cowes/East Cowes chain ferry to be held at East Cowes Town Hall on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm.

b). \*Details of miscellaneous correspondence

\* Copies circulated to all members

**6944 COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Corby stated that the Cowes Harbour Commission was seeking stakeholder feedback regarding two separate items; the first related to a proposal for a new ferry service to be operated between Cowes and Portsmouth and the second on whether or not the Harbour Commission should continue to pursue and support the 'Destination Cowes' project.

Members agreed that Councillor Corby should report that the Town Council supports the new Cowes/Portsmouth ferry service in principle but that they do not consider it acceptable to utilise Trinity Landing as the berthing terminal.

Members also agreed that should the Harbour Commission decide to proceed with the 'Destination Cowes' project they should first prepare a detailed business plan outlining their proposals for any income generated and details of the tangible aims and benefits; the Town Council would then further consider whether or not they wished to contribute to the project.

#### **6945 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

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

- i). That the Town Council gives consideration to having a facebook page (Councillor Spalding).

(The proceedings terminated at 8.26pm)

**CHAIRMAN**