

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Wells (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Banks, Birch, Deacon, Giffard, Hammond, Jones, McGregor, Matthews, Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox, Sanderson, Thwaites, Walters, Wells and Wilcox.

Prior to the meeting the Town Mayor announced the very sad news of the death of former Councillor Effemey who, during his many years of outstanding public service had strived tirelessly for the benefit of the town; those present stood to observe a one minute silence.

### **6295 PRESENTATION – IWRCC VOLUNTARY SUPPORT TEAMS**

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Estelle Thomas from the I.W. Rural Community Council (IWRCC) who had attended to outline how their newly appointed Voluntary Support Teams could help local voluntary and community groups across the Island.

Estelle explained that the IWRCC was the main instructive support body for up to 2,000 voluntary sector organisations on the Island. The IWRCC motto was ‘to help communities to help themselves’ even though there was actually very limited infrastructure support for them; the aim of this project was to increase the level of sustainable support available particularly targeting smaller community groups enabling them to develop their activities. The volunteer recruits would hopefully comprise existing community activists as well as new individuals and they would all be trained to specialise in one or two of the following areas:

- Funding support
- Financial management
- HR
- Volunteering support
- ICT
- Inclusive working
- Partnership development
- Charity law & Governance
- Buildings management

Voluntary Support Teams would each comprise six people and they would operate in one of eight areas (hubs) across the Island:

- North Wight
- Ryde
- East Wight
- The Bay area
- South Wight
- Central Wight
- West Wight
- Newport

All volunteers would be trained by the IWRCC to a concise and consistent standard; they would receive accredited training in aspects of the work they would be undertaking which could also assist their own future employment opportunities. Each Team would operate in a specific area helping the community groups from that area.

The IWRCC would be recruiting a minimum of 64 volunteers for the life of this four year project. The first team had already been recruited and the volunteers were being trained in what would

become their specialist areas; until more teams were appointed this team would operate across the Island.

The IWRCC were looking to Town and Parish Councils to help in two ways; identify individuals from their areas who may meet the criteria and wish to become one of the volunteers and also to identify groups from the area who may need help. Funding was available for hiring rooms where the Support Teams could meet their client organisations or complete paperwork ect.

Voluntary groups seeking help would initially direct their enquiries to a new IWRCC Helpline and the helpline would in turn channel the enquiry to the correct volunteer to help with the problem.

A number of questions were asked by members following which the Town Mayor thanked Estelle for attending to give a very informative presentation. He stated that the Town Council would assist in any way they could; they would also wish to receive details of any future developments in respect of the scheme.

#### **6296 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jones.

#### **6297 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

An opportunity was given for members of the public to ask questions but none were asked.

#### **6298 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

An apology for his absence had been received from Councillor Brown.

**Councillor Fuller circulated a written report referring to the following:**

- a). The very sad news of the death of former Councillor Effemey.
- b). The planning applications in respect of The Moorings, Egypt Hill and 76 Baring Road; both had been the subject of local opposition but both had been approved by the Planning Authority. He now wished to meet with the Police's Road Traffic Unit, Highways Officers and Solent Middle School to agree a route for construction traffic accessing these sites. He would also act on concerns flagged up by Solent Middle School in relation to their Green Travel Plan.
- c). That he had reported graffiti in Parklands Avenue and Reynolds Close; more missing bollards in Baring Road; dog fouling in Magdalen Crescent; overhanging hedges in Park Road and various potholes in roads around the area.
- d) That he expected difficult cuts in service provision when the I.W. Council sets its budget for 2010.
- e). That I.W. Councillors had concurred with the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding members allowances.
- f). That the I.W. Council was supporting the BBC 'ThrillSeeker' campaign which aimed to get families involved in physical activity with a sense of fun, challenge and adventure; at various times up until 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Medina Leisure Centre, The Heights and the Waterside Pool they would provide a free adult swim with every paying child.
- g). That he had caused some offence with his article in the Cowes Beacon that referred to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; he had stated that rubbish should be placed at the roadside after 7am on the day of collection or stored in a dustbin if this was not possible otherwise residents would run the risk of receiving a fixed penalty!

**Councillor Mazillius had submitted a written report which referred to:**

- a). That he had held discussions with a representative from Persimmon Homes regarding the on-going and long-standing completion works on the Westbury Estate. Persimmon had presented detailed plans to the I.W. Council together with a specification of works to complete the surfacing of the cyclepath. They had also agreed a list of work to be completed which would enable Southern Water to formally adopt the sewer and water drainage systems. Contractors had been instructed and were about to commence these works; he would continue to monitor the situation.

b). That he had received further complaints from a local resident regarding cycling along the pedestrian area of Princes Green and the seafront.

Councillor Wells stated that together with the Town Clerk he was meeting the I.W. Council Cycling Officer on 4<sup>th</sup> February; they would refer to the complaint.

c). That speed revision monitoring had been completed on the A3020 main road to Newport; he would support a recommendation that a stretch of road from Stag Lane to past Hogan Road be reduced from 40 to 30mph. He had also received clarification that the road from Somerton to Northwood would remain at 40mph as the higher percentile vehicle speeds and accident rate did not justify a reduction to 30mph.

**Councillor Peacey-Wilcox reported as follows:**

a). That the weight of snow on a tree at Arctic Park had caused it to topple; although the Parks Department had been forced to remove the tree it would be replaced.

b). That she had been contacted by many residents regarding the proliferation of potholes; one resident in particular had referred to a very bad pothole on the B & Q roundabout although the I.W. Council had not considered this to be top priority. Councillor Mazillius agreed to ask for a sign to warn motorists of this dangerous pothole.

c). That an appeal in respect of the I.W. Council refusal of a planning application at the Magnolia Tree House in Mill Hill Road had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

d). That workmen were cutting back overgrown trees and vegetation at the Northwood Cemetery; small hedging shrubs would be planted which should make the area much safer.

e). That she had been dealing with parking issues at the UKSA end of Arctic Road.

## **6299 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

**PCSO Lisa Paul reported as follows:**

a). That Hampshire Constabulary would be publishing a 'Your Safer Neighbourhoods' newsletter twice a year; she circulated a Winter 2010 edition to every member. Each of the three beat areas for Cowes would have their own edition; these would also be issued as part of future street mapping events.

Street mapping had proved of great benefit to the police; not only does it help them to identify the top three priorities for each area where street mapping takes place but it also gives them a good insight into the type of people living in that area. They build good relationships with the local residents and shopkeepers and are able to identify those who are vulnerable and may need help.

b). That members of the public should 'keep an eye out' for their neighbours particularly if they are elderly; they should contact the police if they have any concerns for a neighbour's welfare.

c). The police were pleased to report that crime in Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood had fallen from 59 reported cases in January 2009 to only 34 in January 2010 – a 42% reduction. They believed that this reduction could have been due to increased foot patrols on Friday and Saturday evenings which targeted pubs and clubs where problems might otherwise have occurred.

d). That the police had had some significant successes with drug seizures in other parts of the Island; this had had a knock on effect for Cowes as there were less drugs on the streets available for purchase.

## **6300 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

**Jacqui Darby referred to the following:**

a). That during the recent spell of bad weather she had checked with local shops to find out whether they had seen their regular elderly and possibly vulnerable customers; if they hadn't, she had knocked on those customers' doors to ascertain that they were alright.

b). That the artwork for the Watch House Lane shelter had been installed; she hoped an article and photograph would appear in the next issue of the I.W. County Press.

- c). That a small area of Northwood Park had been cordoned off because of sewerage problems; although Dynarod had investigated with cameras and completed repair works the camera survey had identified tree root damage that might require yet more repairs in the future.
- d). That Denmark Road had had to be temporarily closed for road repairs.
- e). That she had issued one s46 notice when a resident had, for the second time put out their domestic rubbish too early.
- f). That there had been severe graffiti problems in Northwood Recreation Ground; the tag had been identified and an individual had been seen by the police.
- g). That she had issued 2 notices regarding untaxed vehicles on the highway and she had notified the DVLA; this was an issue that would receive more of her attention in the future.
- h). That she was organising a Boneshaker event to be held at the I.W. Community Club in Cowes on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and noon; cycles could be security marked at this event free of charge and dogs could receive security chipping for a very reduced fee of £10.
- i). That together with PCSO Oatley they were seeking joint funding to enable the water bailiffs at Somerton Reservoir to open an Angling Club for youngsters; the bid had to be submitted by 23<sup>rd</sup> February and they should know the outcome soon after that date. The funding would enable the purchase of angling equipment and the provision of safety fencing; this scheme would hopefully help to address anti social behaviour issues in the area – anti social behaviour had been identified as one of the top three issues for residents in Cowes.
- j). That it was hoped to progress a Traffic Order for the area in Cross Street near Corries Cabin which would enable Officers to enforce a No Parking restriction.

## 6301 MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 6302 MATTERS ARISING

### a). 'Lights of Love' Christmas carol service (Min. No. 6265e refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Earl Mountbatten Hospice thanking the Town Council for once again organising a 'Lights of Love' Christmas carol service in the town.

He stated that many people had contributed to this very worthwhile event; the landlady at the Painters Arms had provided the mulled wine, the Co-op had provided the mince pies, Cowes Concert Band the music and the Cowes Business Association had made a donation of £300 towards an overall total raised on the evening of £1,266.54.

### b). Lion monuments, The Esplanade (Min. No. 6265g refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Esplanade & Beaches Officer which stated that the I.W. Council were now in a position to award the contract for the restoration/cleaning of the four lion monuments along the Esplanade; the Town Council had under min. no. 6239b offered a contribution of £2,500 towards the work and the I.W. Council now wished to claim that contribution to enable them to proceed.

(Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as his company had tendered for the work and he left the room for this item)

### c). Public slipways, Cowes and Shelter, Watch House Lane (Min. Nos. 6278d and 6276a refer)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Esplanade & Beaches Officer regarding the closure of public slipways; it stated that the slipways in Cowes were closed for Health & Safety reasons during the 2009 Cowes Week event and notices had been erected advising the public of alternative facilities. However, the I.W. Council had now received legal advice and any future closures would be advertised in the press and with site notices in the same way that road closures were advertised by Highways.

In respect of the Watch House Lane shelter the Esplanade & Beaches Officer stated that the alterations formed part of the Public Realm improvement works in Cowes; although the sloping roof had been replaced with a pitched roof it had only slightly increased the height of the shelter so as not to cause any obstruction to nearby properties. The objectives had been to enhance the look of the shelter whilst also ensuring that the facility remained in keeping with its surroundings. However, a further letter from the Planning Office advised that as the work to the shelter involved the replacement of the roof rather than a repair to the existing roof then a formal planning consent would be required.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk forwards a copy of the letter from the Planning Office to the Esplanade & Beaches Officer to alert her to the apparent requirement for a planning consent for the changes to the roof on the shelter at Watch House Lane.

#### **d). Declarations of Interest (Min. no. 6294 refers)**

The Town Clerk stated that Councillors declaring a personal and prejudicial interest in an item nevertheless had the same right as a member of the public to make representation on that item. Paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct clearly stated:

*'Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise'*

The Town Council's Standing Orders allow a member of the public to speak at the start of an agenda item for a period not exceeding two minutes and Councillors would have a similar right; Councillors would however; be required to leave the meeting immediately following their representation to the Council until the business for that particular agenda item had been concluded.

The Town Clerk advised that if members were still uncertain, a further Code of Conduct training session would be held at County Hall between 2.30pm and 4.00pm on 15<sup>th</sup> February specifically aimed at town and parish councillors; members wishing to attend were asked to notify the Town Clerk.

#### **e). Adventure play area, Northwood Recreation Ground (Min. No.6278c refers)**

Councillor McGregor stated that the Town Council had bid for additional 'Aiming High' funding of approximately £8k specifically to make the proposed adventure play at Northwood Recreation Ground more disabled friendly; no decision on that funding had been received to date. The Town Council was also awaiting confirmation from their preferred contractor Caroway, regarding a revised tender price and starting date for the works. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the contract, Groundwork Solent had been seeking additional tenders from Island companies who could undertake the work within the strict timescales that had been a condition of the grant funding.

(Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest as his company had been asked to tender for the works and he left the room for this item)

#### **f). Town Plan (Min. no. 6278h refers)**

The Town Clerk presented a paper that had been produced by the I.W. Society regarding what they perceived as a widespread frustration that the planning procedure was not producing developments that local residents considered suitable for their towns.

It also referred to a document that had been produced by the Planning Department entitled 'Local Voices, Island Issues' which outlined the following three types of Community Led Plans that would form part of the planning system:

- **Village Design Statement** – describes the physical characteristics of a community
- **Market Town Healthcheck** – looks at the social, economic and environmental aspects of the town as it is at the time of the survey
- **Parish/Community Plan** – details of what the community considers important and what they would like to see changed or improved

The Town Council had already committed to producing these Community Led Plans to outline how future changes should affect the town and as a guide as to how the town should develop.

The Isle of Wight Society had invited members of the Town Council to their meeting at the Beckford Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm to discuss these issues; they had changed the date of their meeting specifically to accommodate the Town Council so it was hoped as many members as possible would attend.

**g). Southern Water Wastewater Flood Protection Scheme (Min. No. 6265f)**

The Town Clerk reported that the Southern Water Flood Protection works in St. Mary's Road and Francki Place were on schedule to be completed by the end of April.

Four-D, the contractors undertaking the works had agreed to install a flagpole with uplighting in Francki Place; they did request that planning consent be obtained by the Town Council. Councillor Banks kindly agreed to draft and then submit the application on behalf of the Town Council. The contractors had also agreed to provide a 'Francki Place' nameplate for the Town Council to install.

The Town Clerk would liaise with the Highways Department regarding the feasibility of 'rise and fall' bollards to prevent vehicular access to Francki Place between 10am and 6.00pm.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Banks be authorised to submit a planning application on behalf of the Town Council for the installation of a flagpole with uplighters in Francki Place.

**h). CCTV (Min. No. 6265a refers)**

The Town Mayor referred to the CCTV repeater masts that had been erected in the town; they had been the subject of severe criticism from members of the public.

The I.W. Council Community Safety Operations Manager had stated that the Town Council were aware that these masts were an essential part of the CCTV scheme; the Town Council would have to finance any additional cost of painting them if that was required to soften their impact.

Councillor Wilcox disputed that statement; as Chairman of the CCTV Working Group he had not been aware of the requirement for these masts.

It was agreed that Councillor Wilcox pursue the issue with the Community Safety Operation Manager.

**6303 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

**a). Northwood House**

Councillor Thwaites reported that Mrs. McKenzie, the Chairman of the Northwood House Trustees had addressed Northwood Parish Council to outline the issues and developments surrounding Northwood House, to clarify the role of the Trustees and the I.W. Council and to outline the interest shown by Cowes Town Council. Members of the Parish Council had shown considerable interest and had expressed a desire to assist the Cowes Town Council in their endeavours; this interest had been welcomed by the Trustees.

Councillor Thwaites also reported that following recent discussions with the I.W. Council it had been agreed that future bookings for large events would be temporarily suspended while essential maintenance works were carried out; the Registrar and caretaking functions would continue as normal and rooms would remain available for meetings requiring only light refreshment. Use of the Community Hall and grounds would be unaffected.

Councillor Thwaites stated that regarding her position as a Town Councillor and its nominated Trustee relative to the Town Council sub committee tasked with identifying ways of assisting the Trust, she had been advised that she would always have a personal interest to declare and on occasions a prejudicial interest and that these must always be declared at the relevant time.

Councillor Wells stated that the Town Council sub committee referred to by Councillor Thwaites had met; they had collated a series of questions for the I.W. Council and for the Trustees. A paper regarding Northwood House that was to be submitted to the February meeting of the I.W. Council Cabinet had been withdrawn and would now be submitted to the March meeting allowing time for a response to the proposals made within that paper. The sub group had agreed to arrange a meeting with leading I.W. Councillors to ascertain how the I.W. Council wished to proceed and to determine

how the Town Council might be able to assist in a potential role of Custodian Trusteeship; the sub group would meet again following the meeting with the I.W. Council.

**b). Cowes Community Partnership**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cowes Community Partnership held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were received.

As the Community Partnership had been unable to access the necessary funding to progress the War Memorial project, Councillor Banks questioned whether the Town Council should adopt a more positive role to ensure the projects completion; it was agreed that it would be for the Community Partnership to make that request. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox would make the suggestion to the next Partnership meeting.

**c). Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.**

Councillor Banks reported on a meeting of the Shoreside Committee of Cowes Week Ltd. held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

He stated that the position regarding a Title Sponsor for Cowes Week was unchanged – there had been several declarations of interest but no firm commitment. Therefore, one of the main concerns surrounding the 2010 event was the Friday firework display; there still remained a funding shortfall from the 2009 fireworks.

Unless a mechanism could be identified that would enable the funding to be obtained for the traditional end of Cowes Week firework display, it would not be held in 2010. The Shoreside Committee would welcome any ideas or suggestions that might result in finding the necessary funding.

**d). I.W. Playing Fields Association**

Notes of a meeting of the I.W. Playing Fields Association Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were received.

(Councillors Mazillius and Sanderson left the meeting at 9.04pm)

**6304 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

- a). Renewal fee for the Town Council's registration under the Data Protection Act 1998.
- b). Request for support in principle for the Friends of Northwood Cemetery in respect of their application for a Heritage Grant.
- c). The appointment of ROSPA to undertake the annual safety inspection of the skatepark.
- d). \*A I.W. Council/NHS initiative to establish a nominated Health Trainer in every town or village on the Island.
- e). \*Letter from a resident concerned about the condition of Mornington Woods.
- f). \*Details of the accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December 2009.
- g). \*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

(Councillors Banks, Hammond, Matthews, Slade, Peacey-Wilcox, Walters and Wilcox all declared personal and prejudicial interests in item b) above as they were all members of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery and they left the room during the discussion).

(\* copies circulated to all members)

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Clerk be authorised to renew the Town Council's registration with the Information Commissioners Office under the Data protection Act 1998;
- 2). That the Town Council offers support in principle to the Friends of Northwood cemetery in respect of an application for a Heritage Grant;
- 3). That the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint ROSPA to undertake the annual inspection of the skatepark;

- 4). That the Town Clerk forward the letter of complaint to Richard Day from the Cowes Community Partnership who were organising the works; and
- 5). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December, 2009 be noted and confirmed:

		£
R. Williams	Skatepark cleaner (Min No 4999f)	200.00
H.E.R.S. Group	Delivery of No Cold Calling Packs (Min No 6229f)	100.00
Tari Willis Assoc.	Topographical Survey Northwood Rec. (Min No 6248)	225.00
Sula Products	Councillor nameplate	15.00
Cowes Heritage	Grant (Min No 6254f)	350.00
Cowes Short mat bowls	“ “ “	250.00
Friends Cowes Med Centre	“ “ “	1,000.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath for Remembrance Day (Min No 6258k)	100.00
R. Hendey	Salary	821.34
HM Revenue & Customs		374.98
Petty Cash		300.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f)	200.00
RBL	Grant – Refreshments for Remembrance Day (Min No. 6268)	500.00
Brighstone Landscape	Watering charges – summer baskets etc.	1,756.16
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Ryde House Nursery	Bedding plants	197.52
R. Hendey	Salary	821.54
HM Revenue & Customs		374.78
R. Williams	Skatepark cleaner	200.00
SEC	Decorative lights, The Parade (Min No 6239f)	386.09
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No. 6157e)	110.00
Moreys	Christmas trees (Min No 6254f)	425.80
Groundwork Solent	Detailed design adventure playground (Min No 6216b)	1,283.33
R. Hendey	Broadband charges (Min No 5728)	36.39
Wight Business Services	Stationery, copier paper	30.62
R. Hayman	Transport of flower troughs	65.00
Plessey Bowls Club	Grant (Min No 6279c)	500.00
Wight Brass	“ “ “	300.00
Earl Mountbatten Hospice	“ (Min No 6254f)	500.00
R. Hendey	Salary	911.01
HM Revenue & Customs		431.67
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f)	200.00
<b>Petty Cash Payments October to December, 2009</b>		
R. Hendey	Telephone Line rental October to December, 2009	29.35
R. Hendey	Telephone calls, October to December, 2009	15.20
R. Hendey	Postage “ “	19.28
R. Hendey	Travelling “ “	46.87

## 6305 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

- a). The War Memorial (Councillor Banks)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.21pm)

**CHAIRMAN**