

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held at Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2010 at 6.55pm.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Birch, Matthews and Thwaites.

260 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox, Slade, Wells, Wilcox and Mrs. Martin-Dye.

261 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd September, 2009 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

262 PROJECTS IN HAND

a). Enhancement, The Cut

The Town Clerk reported that the planning consent in respect of the enhancement works at The Cut had expired; this would present an opportunity to make changes to the design if the Town Council wished to do so. Councillor McGregor had outlined the Town Council plans to the Managing Director of the Yacht Haven; they hoped to undertake the alterations to their entrance adjacent to The Cut during the winter 2011. The Environment and Neighbourhood Officer had reported that The Cut mural required attention; improvements could be incorporated in the new designs.

It was agreed that Councillors Banks and McGregor meet with Mike Wheeler and Martin Hayles with the intention of developing new design proposals for The Cut.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council re-submit a planning application at the earliest opportunity in respect of the enhancement works at The Cut.

b). Basketball Court, Northwood Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk reported that a planning consent subject to conditions had now been obtained for the basketball court and that a sum of £7,500 had been 'ring fenced' towards the project.

He had obtained a budget quotation from Mountjoy in the sum of £38,326 for the construction and fencing of a 15m x 30m basketball court; this was merely a guide to the amount of funding that might be required.

Councillor McGregor had identified the following funding sources as suitable in respect of applications for grant towards the costs associated with the new basketball court:

- Youth Opportunities Fund (up to a maximum of £10k)
- Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention (up to £4k or £5k)
- Sports England Small Grants (up to £10k)
- Awards for All (up to £10k)

It was agreed that Councillor McGregor and the Town Clerk submit applications for funding to each of the above sources; decisions could be expected within 6 – 8 weeks.

c). Adventure Play Equipment, Northwood Recreation Ground

Councillor McGregor reported that the tender documentation should soon be signed which would enable Caraway to undertake the installation works associated with the new adventure play equipment for Northwood Recreation Ground; it was anticipated that the work would commence during the last week of March and would last approximately six weeks. She also reported:

- that Wood End Enterprise had now been accredited and could supply woodchip locally
- that the bid for additional Aiming High funding to make the play equipment more disabled friendly had been unsuccessful
- that the I.W. Council would supply and finance a new sign for the play park
- that the Town Council should consider a suitable name for the play area
- that the I.W. Council Parks Department would provide and finance new signs to encourage owners to keep their dogs away from the play area

It was agreed that Councillor McGregor would organise a competition for children aged 7 to 13; they would be asked to suggest a name for the new play area and to submit suitable designs for the signage. Councillor McGregor would also contact the Parks and Countryside Manager regarding byelaws to determine what people should and should not do in Northwood Recreation Ground.

d). IT facilities for the Elderly

Councillor McGregor reminded members that the Town Council had obtained £2,500 from the I.W. Council Community Chest Award Scheme 2008 for IT facilities and training primarily for the elderly.

The Isle of Wight Community Club had been asked to house the facility but they believed licensing restrictions would prevent their premises being used.

Councillor Thwaites suggested facilities might be available at the back of Northwood House adjacent to the Registrars offices; she understood the area was watertight and structurally sound although decoration and some other works would be required. Councillor Thwaites agreed to raise the matter with the Trustees.

e). Interactive Water Feature

Councillor McGregor had reported that SSP Waterplay had visited the Island and had submitted a quotation in the sum of £130,693 for the installation of an interactive water play facility on the grassed area adjacent to the toilet facilities at Mornington Road; a second quotation from UAC had subsequently been received in the sum of £156,395. However, the Town Council had not been successful with their bid for Year 2 Playbuilder funding towards a water park; the scheme had been placed on the reserve list.

Additionally, the Town Clerk had received notification from a local resident that Mornington Green had been registered as a Village Green in 1999; this had been confirmed although the I.W. Council Parks and Countryside Manager had not been aware of that registration.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the Head of Legal Services regarding the procedure for the granting of Village Green status and questioning why the Town Council and their own Parks and Countryside Manager had not been made aware of the application in respect of Mornington Green.

263 TOWN CLOCK

Councillor Banks stated that the town clock was currently operated by batteries powering a small motor for each clock face; this had not proven very successful and one of the two clock faces had not worked properly for some time. He had obtained a quotation from the clock suppliers to adapt the clock to mains operated with a radio and GPS controller that would control the clock and manage BST and power cuts; including any necessary excavation works he estimated a total cost of £1,500 for this alteration.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council appoint a local clock specialist to determine how best to modify the clock to ensure its reliability and then provide an estimate of the cost of the necessary modifications.

264 INTERPRETATION PANELS, NORTHWOOD PARK

Councillor Banks had submitted photographs of the interpretation panels and plinths in Northwood Park; the panels had been provided by the Town Council over ten years previously. The photographs clearly showed that some had deteriorated badly and that all would benefit from some refurbishment. The Town Clerk stated that he had copies of the original drawings; these could be laminated and installed at relatively little cost but they would deteriorate over time. He had also obtained the following quotations for alternative options:

A.J. Wells & Sons	420mm x 297mm vitreous enamel signs, the steel panels to be sprayed white and screen printed in two graphic/text colours to face, each panel with individual image	£188.00 each
	To install sign to existing prepared flat surface	£ 66.00 each
The Sign Company	A3 map prints reverse printed on acrylic panels to fit existing cases	£ 29.50 each
	As above but with new cases	£180.00 each
	Studio fee to originate map artwork	£ 65.00 each
	To install signs to existing surfaces	£ 25.00

Vicki Basford had drawn the original interpretation plans; Councillor Matthew agreed to seek to obtain the original artwork from her.

RECOMMENDED

That assuming the necessary artwork is available and suitable, the Town Council accepts the quotation from the Sign Company to have the 7 signs reverse printed on acrylic panels at a cost of £29.50 each and then fitted for a further £25.

(Councillor McGregor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item on the grounds that she was related to the owners of A.J. Wells & Sons)
(Councillor Matthews left the meeting at 7.55pm.)

265 THE BANDSTAND, THE PARADE

The Town Clerk reported that Village Greens were protected under nineteenth century legislation. Section 12 of the Enclosure Act 1857 covers any act which '*injures a green or interrupts its use and enjoyment as a place for exercise and recreation*'

Section 28 of the Commons Act 1876 overlaps the 1857 Act to some extent but also covers permanent encroachment or enclosure (eg. Fencing a green or erecting a building). However an offence is only committed where the encroachment ect. is made '*otherwise than with a view of the better enjoyment of the green*'. Therefore, the provision of facilities to assist in the enjoyment of recreation would be permitted.

Councillor Banks stated that the Town Council had no wish to do anything other than to enhance the bandstand and its facilities; he would like to see some landscaping of the area and an awning covering the bandstand to extend its use.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would arrange a meeting the Parks and Countryside Manager regarding the landscaping work and seek a budget quotation for the cost of an awning to cover the bandstand.

266 TREE PLANTING

Councillor Thwaites stated that the I.W. Council were always seeking suitable locations for tree planting; an open space at the rear of houses in Guppy Close which backed onto the 8th green of Cowes Golf Club could benefit from some clearing and planting and it might then deter local youngsters from accessing the Golf Club. It was agreed that the Town Clerk contacts the Parks & Countryside Manager with the aim of providing some suitable planting at that location.

267 DECORATIVE LIGHTING MOTIFS

The Town Clerk stated that the majority of small decorative lighting motifs situated on lamp columns along Birmingham Road and at various other locations through the town were in some way faulty. He had obtained an estimate from Southern Electric Contracting in the sum of £3,640 to remove the existing motifs from 23 locations, to supply and re-rope them with LED rope light in blue/white and then re-install them. As there was no real continuity or flow with the motifs throughout the town it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That the Town Council removes the decorative lighting motifs from the 23 locations through the town and then has a sufficient number re-rope in blue/white LED rope light to be re-installed along Birmingham Road at an approximate cost of £1,500; and
- 2). That the Town Council undertakes no work at this stage to the remainder of the motifs but retains them pending the determination of a suitable location for their re-installation.

(The proceedings terminated at 8.25p.m.)

CHAIRMAN