

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Cowes Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Northwood House, Cowes, on Wednesday, 5th May, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

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

6328 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Proposed by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Giffard that Councillor Wells be elected Town Mayor.

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Wells be elected Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2011.

Councillor Wells thereupon made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Town Council for his election.

6329 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Proposed by Councillor Thwaites and seconded by Councillor Birch that Councillor McGregor be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor McGregor be elected Deputy Town Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2011.

6330 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond and Mazillius.

Councillor Wells reported that Councillor Slade had resigned from the Town Council; her input since her election had been invaluable and would be sorely missed.

The Town Clerk would be advertising this vacancy in the North Ward and the vacancy in the Medina Ward following the very sad death of Councillor Deacon at the earliest opportunity.

6331 FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Finance Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2011:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Banks, Birch, Giffard, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox, Sanderson, Walters and Wilcox.

6332 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

1). That the following members be appointed to serve on the Town Improvements Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2011:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Banks, Birch, Giffard, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox, Thwaites and Wilcox; and

2). That Mrs. Brenda Martin-Dye from the I.W. Society invited to serve as a co-opted member of the Committee.

6333 NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2011:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Giffard, Matthews and Mazillius.

6334 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

RESOLVED

1). That the following representatives, having been duly proposed and seconded, be appointed to serve on the following Bodies until the Annual Meeting in 2011:

Cowes/Deauville Twinning Association

Councillor D.K. Walters

Deputy Councillor G. Banks

Cowes Community Partnership

Councillor A.L. Wells (Town Mayor) and Councillor J.M. Matthews

Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Group

Councillor D.K. Walters

Cowes Safer Neighbourhood Parking Liaison Group

Councillor G.J. Banks

Deputy Councillor P. Birch

Cowes Youth and Community Centre Management Committee

Councillor A.J. Giffard

Deputy Councillor L. Hammond

Environment Agency Flood Warning Group

Councillor D.K. Walters

Deputy Councillor D. Jones

Island Waste Services Community Advisory Group

Councillor A.L. Wells

Member Auditor – Town Council Accounts

Councillor P. Birch

Northwood House Sub-Group

Councillors G.J. Banks, L. Hammond, J. Matthews, D.K. Walters and A.L. Wells

Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor G.J. Banks

Tree Wardens

Councillors R.G. Mazillius and A.L. Wells

Wight in Bloom – Steering Group

Councillors L. Hammond and D. Jones

6335 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED

That the Town Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be re-affirmed.

6336 ATTENDANCES

The Town Clerk reported that the attendances of Members at Council Meetings during 2009/2010 were as follows:

	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	<u>%</u>
Councillor G. J. Banks	11	11	100
Councillor P. Birch	11	9	82
Councillor G. Deacon (deceased)	7	6	86
Councillor A.J. Giffard	11	6	55
Councillor L. Hammond	11	9	82
Councillor D. J. Jones	11	8	73
Councillor R.J. McGregor	11	11	100
Councillor J.M. Matthews	11	11	100
Councillor Mazillius	11	11	100
Councillor L. Peacey-Wilcox	11	9	82
Councillor W. I. Sanderson	11	10	91
Councillor V. Slade	11	7	64
Councillor A. Thwaites	11	10	91
Councillor D. Walters	11	11	100
Councillor A. Wells	11	8	73
Councillor J. Wilcox	11	6	55

6337 ACCOUNTS 2009/2010

The Town Clerk submitted details of Town Council Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts for 2009/2010 be received and noted.

6338 DATES OF MEETINGS 2010/2011

RESOLVED

That the Town Council meetings be held on the following dates in 2010/2011 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
2 nd June	5 th January
21 st July	2 nd February
8 th September	2 nd March
6 th October	6 th April
3 rd November	20 th April (Annual Town Meeting)
1 st December	4 th May (Annual Council)

6339 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

6340 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brown had apologised for his absence.

He submitted a written statement explaining that there were a number of issues in his Ward on which he wished to delay comment until he had obtained the latest information; he hoped to circulate his report to members within the next two weeks.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:

- a). That the Planning Committee had agreed with the Town Council's objections and had refused the application in respect of 46 Mill Hill Road despite Officer recommendation for acceptance.
- b). That an appeal had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against the I.W. Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the development at the Co-op Store, 155 Mill Hill Road.
- c). That she had received complaints regarding increased charges for beach huts.
- d). That despite a report to the last meeting of the Town Council that the Cowes Business Association (CBA) would undertake the task of raising and lowering the bollards in the High Street on a voluntary basis, they were not as it had transpired that they would not be indemnified by the Council's Public Liability insurance. For the interim period the ENO and Parking Enforcement Officers were operating the bollards until the issue could be resolved with the CBA.

Councillor Fuller had submitted a written report which referred to the following:

- a). That he had questioned at Full Council the issue regarding car parking income received at Northwood Park; he had received an assurance that the new arrangements would ensure that all funds would be transferred to the Northwood House Trustees.
- b). That following the call-in period for the Highways Capital Programme he could confirm approval for a pavement in Baring Road linking Crossfield Avenue with Park Road. Advance stage negotiations with residents were due to be held in respect of a Baring Road pavement link between Nubia House/Egypt Hill and Pine Tree Close. Also within the programme were pedestrian refuges for the bottom of Ward Avenue to aid pedestrian access to Cowes Primary and Cowes High Schools.
- c). That he continued to receive complains regarding the new refuse collection arrangements.
- d). That he had been assured that funding was secure for the new Cowes Learning Centre; the I.W. Council would appoint a preferred bidder in Mid June, a planning application would be submitted in July and it was anticipated that work would start on site in late October or early November.
- e). That following a number of complaints, some resurfacing work had been undertaken in Ward Avenue.
- f). That he had received confirmation that bus service 32 was safe from cutbacks for at least another year; service 30 was due to go out to tender in late summer so would remain safe until September.

- g). That he had received complaints regarding leaf fall from Oak trees on the Crossfield Avenue Estate.
- h). That he had received a number of complaints regarding heavy vehicles using Baring Road.
- i). That a public Information Day regarding the Cowes One School Pathfinder Learning Centre would be held at Cowes High School on Tuesday 25th May between 3p.m and 7p.m.
- j). That he was trying to form a Beach Hut Association following many complaints regarding the increased charges for the huts.
- k). That it had been clarified that Blackberry Lane was under the ownership of the I.W. Council; he could now concentrate on three issues within the Lane – the provision of a litter bin, street lighting and making the pavement safe – and questioned whether the Town Council would work in partnership with him to achieve these aims.

RESOLVED

That the suggested improvements for Blackberry Lane be referred to the Town Improvements Committee for further consideration

6341 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

PCSO Steve Oatley referred to the following:

- a). That the Hampshire Constabulary would be ‘rolling out’ a summer anti social behaviour campaign – each area would select a top three list of individuals and locations to target; for our area the three locations would be around Somerton School, St. Faiths Church and Gurnard beach.
- b). That the police had managed to prevent a rave that was being organised for Gurnard beach; the rave had been advertised on facebook but following a tip off, the police had identified and spoken to the organiser who cancelled the event and the facebook page was removed.
- c). That extra officers would be brought in to police the Ribex weekend between 7th to 9th May. Councillor Walters questioned who would be paying for the extra officers; at other high profile events these extra charges were paid by the organisers?
Councillor Fuller undertook to find out and report back to the next meeting.

6342 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Town Clerk reported that Jacqui Darby had resigned as Environment and Neighbourhood Officer to take up a post with the Drug and Alcohol Team. In the short term while the ENO service was under review, Cowes would be covered as an addition to Neil Perry’s West Wight area; he would operate in Cowes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Neil had reported that his only concern related to a possible litter problem at Crown Court, Sun Hill; he would be monitoring the situation.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk writes to the I.W. Council stressing that the introduction of Town Managers/ENO’s had proven a real asset and stating that the Town Council would welcome the early reinstatement of a full time Officer for the town.

6343 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6344 MATTERS ARISING

a). Recycling containers, St. Mary's Road car park (Min. No. 6326e refers)

Members were reminded that if alternative arrangements could be found for the recycling containers at St. Mary's Road car park it would free up an additional 9/10 spaces and hopefully it would solve a problem of fly tipping in the area.

Following much general discussion it was agreed that the Town Mayor would via his article in the Cowes Beacon, request suggestions from members of the public for suitable alternative sites; otherwise, the Town Council could request that the I.W. Council reduce the number and type of recycling containers at St. Mary's Road.

b). Public shelter, Watch House Lane (6302c refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Esplanade & Beaches Officer which stated that she had contacted the Planning Office regarding a planning application for the new roof on the public shelter at Watch House Lane; as the increase in height of the roof amounted to only four inches she hoped the application would be successful.

c). Interpretation panels, Northwood Park (Min. No. 6313c refers)

The Town Clerk explained that the new interpretation signs in Northwood Park had now been fitted; however the frames no longer matched the fixing holes in the plinths which very much spoilt the overall effect of the panels. Additionally, one of the seven signs had never been installed.

He had obtained a quotation from DMR Engineering for the following:

Manufacture 7 No. new aluminium frames to house signs	£160
Remove existing frames and refit new (5 stone plinths and 2 walls)	£280
Pressure hose 5 No. stone plinths	£150
To have the frames anodised for longer life and a better finish	£108

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to have all of the above works undertaken at a fixed price of £698 plus VAT.

(Councillor Thwaites declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item as she was Chair of the Northwood House Trustees)

d). Cycle routes, Cowes (Min. No. 6323d refers)

The I.W. Council Cycling Officer had reported that the cycling maps had now been printed and would be distributed through the town; she questioned whether the Town Council would approve the enlargement of a cycling map of the town which could then be displayed on the Cowes/East Cowes chain ferry.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council fully supports and welcomes the suggestion that a cycling map of the town be enlarged and displayed on the chain ferry.

6345 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

Councillor Thwaites stated that the Trustees continued to work long hours investigating ways to improve the viability of the Estate; in particular they were seeking ways of re-opening the House as soon as possible in order to generate income. The Trustees had been delighted with the St. George's Day celebrations organised by the Rotary Club of Cowes; it had been an excellent community lead event and the grounds of Northwood House proved the perfect venue. The Friends of Northwood House had had a stand in the marquee and they had received considerable interest during the event.

Councillor Thwaites continued by stating that the Town Council were aware, and had been part of ongoing discussions with the I.W. Council that would enable them to withdraw from Northwood House and hand responsibility to the Trustees working with a two year planned timescale. Working together with this common aim, draft documents for consideration by the I.W. Cabinet had been circulated every month since January but none were presented to the Cabinet. Interim discussions

between Cowes Town Council and the I.W. Council and the Northwood House Charitable Trust and the I.W. Council had also taken place although regular meeting with the Trustees and the I.W. Council had been cancelled for a two month period until the beginning of June. Achieving an acceptable working handover had been the aim of the Trustees and other all parties to the discussions although there remained much detailed information to be handed over as requested by the Trustees. However, with no preparatory meetings the Trustees received a letter on 30th April from the Director of Resources explaining that the Council had decided there was no need for the Cabinet to consider the various options for severance and he set out details of the severance which had been approved at a Council meeting on 27th April. These related to different aspects of the I.W. Council handing over responsibility to the Trust for managing the Northwood House Estate but with a much shorter timescale than previously indicated – some with immediate effect. These were decisions and not proposals and had been made unilaterally by the I.W. Council and not with interested parties as agreed. The Trust had called an Extraordinary Meeting for Trustees to consider a response. Councillor Thwaites had been unable to comment further or to disclose the exact details of the letter.

b). Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 28th April 2010 were received.

Applications for grants.

i). Cowes Youth Forum

The Cowes Youth Forum was seeking financial assistance towards two skate events that were scheduled to be held on 22nd May and 25th September 2010.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council gives a grant of £460 to the Cowes Youth Forum towards the two 2010 skate events and advise them that they should seek other financial sponsors for future years.

(Councillor Wells declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item as he was Chairman of the Youth Forum; Councillors McGregor and Peacey-Wilcox declared personal and prejudicial interests because they were members of the Youth Forum and Councillor Wilcox because he was related to a member – they left the room for this item only).

ii). Northwood House Charitable Trust.

The Northwood House Trust had secured a grant from English Heritage that would cover 80% of the cost of commissioning a feasibility study which would provide a professional view of the full scope and way forward to protect the property; they were requesting that the Town Council underwrite the 20% shortfall which was likely to be in the region of £1,200.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council asks the Northwood House Trust to enquire from English Heritage whether the feasibility study could be held over until such a time that the relationship between the I.W. Council, the Trust and Cowes Town Council has been clarified.

(Councillor Thwaites declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above on the grounds that she was Chair of the Trust and she left the room for this item only)

6346 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). Whether or not the Town Council should organise a ‘Cowes in Bloom’ competition in 2010 and to confirm any arrangements.
 - b). Whether or not the Town Council should invite nominations for a Community Award.
 - c). Training events organised by the RCC including Financial Management for Your Charity.
 - d). Consideration of the purchase of flags for the new flagpole in Francki Place and for the installation of the Francki Place nameplate.
 - e). Details of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 19th May 2010.
 - f). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.
 - g). To determine whether or not the Town Council should object to the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the Harbour Office car park.
- (* Copies circulated to each member)

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council would organise a Cowes in Bloom 2010 competition on the same basis as that in 2009;
- 2). That the Town Clerk invites nominations for persons considered worthy of receiving a Community Award;
- 3). That the Town Clerk be authorised to have the Francki Place nameplate fixed to a suitable hardwood backing board and installed and that he seeks a quotation for the supply of flags suitable for the new flagpole; and
- 4). That the Town Council objects to the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the Harbour Office car park on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.03p.m.)

CHAIRMAN