

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 8th September, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

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

6366 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mazillius.

6367 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

6368 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillors Brown and Mazillius had apologised for their absence.

Councillor Mazillius had circulated a written report referring to the following:

- a). The application for a concrete batching plant at Kingston was causing great concern to residents in the Cowes and greater Cowes area – he intended to speak against the proposal.
- b). The mobile exhibition and consultation regarding the Shoreline Management Plan.
- c). The importance of being registered to vote – the I.W. Council had issued 69,000 registration forms to residential properties and a new register of electors would be published on 1st December.
- d). A review of local Polling Districts and the possible merit of amalgamating Cowes, Gumard and Northwood Town and Parish Councils into one body.
- e). That the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was the proposed replacement body for SEEDA; the I.W. Council was expecting to join this LEP with Portsmouth, Southampton and the District Councils of South Hampshire. The concept of this replacement body was that instead of being led by civil service bureaucrats, the lead would be taken by private enterprise with support from the local authorities concerned. Government agreement was required for the change to the local LEP which the I.W. Council were confident would be given later in the year.
- f). As a consequence of the Government Comprehensive Spending Review the I.W. Council was already addressing expected spending cuts across many of the services it delivers; some of the proposals would be submitted to Cabinet on 22nd September and the papers for the meeting were available on the I.W. Council website.

Councillor Fuller circulated a written report referring to the following:

- a). That residents had been targeted by Sky who had started a national campaign of Cold Calling.
- b). That ten representations had been received regarding the planning application for the new Cowes Secondary School; the concerns raised related to traffic and parking, floodlighting and soundproofing and the loss of trees from the site.
- c). That the Friends of Northwood Cemetery were holding an Open Day from 11 am to 4pm on Sunday 12th September.
- d). Following the I.W. Council's Budget Review, the first round of cuts/savings had been identified; later in September Councillors would review the budget further focusing on other areas.
- e). That I.W. Council grants to subsidise non-commercial bus services would have to be spread more thinly following a decision by Southern Vectis to withdraw bus services that had been run commercially for many years; the withdrawals mostly affected rural communities. In the Cowes area it was intended to withdraw Wightbus service 30 to/from Newport via Rew Street and the afternoon service operated on service 32.

- f). That at this time of year he expects to receive either requests for advice or complaints regarding garden bonfires.
- g). That he continued to deal with miscellaneous complaints concerning traffic and parking issues, the poor condition of roads, trimming of hedges and abandoned cars.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:

- a). That she had been dealing with the problem of abandoned vehicles in Fraser Close.
- b). That there complaints of excess noise associated with the boatyard in Pelham Road.
- c). That there had been complaints and concerns regarding the application for the concrete batching plant at Kingston.
- d). That she wished to congratulate those persons associated with Cowes Carnival for providing such wonderful carnivals this year.

6369 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Sgt. Mike Sizer to the meeting.

Sgt. Sizer stated that he had been in the police force for 15 years serving for the majority of that period in and around Southampton. He had been promoted some four years ago; being an Islander he had voluntarily moved to the Island in September last year but only started his present post as replacement for Sgt. Julie Cocks two weeks previously. He appreciated that Sgt. Cocks would be a hard act to follow!!

Sgt. Sizer reported as follows:

- a). The seizure of alcohol from youngsters (operation 'catch a pidgeon') – the I.W. had the first arrest nationally under this operation specifically in Cowes.
- b). That he had been involved in the planning for The Bestival and its impact for Cowes and East Cowes particularly in respect of the eventual movement off the Island of those attending.
- c). That there had been issues with graffiti at a number of locations in the town – the police did have a couple of suspects.
- d). Cowes Week had been fairly successful as a policing operation – although the number of reported incidents were down on the previous year, there were two serious GBH incidents which did stretch police resources. However, for the most part local officers and those attending from the mainland enjoyed a mainly good humoured week of events.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox questioned whether the recently installed CCTV in the town had been helpful during Cowes Week. Sgt. Sizer stated that having high quality CCTV had been a real boost; in the first week of its operation it had been fundamental in leading to the arrest of a person who had attacked a taxi driver. In future years the police would be working with those responsible for the positioning of advertising banners in the High Street as the banners had obstructed some of the CCTV cameras.

Councillor Banks requested an update in respect of the 'rise and fall' bollards through the town; the police stated that keys to the bollards had been issued to the CBA who had given an undertaking that their members would raise and lower the bollards as necessary.

6370 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Head of Community Safety a copy of which had been circulated to all members, which gave details of those services which from 1st September had superseded the Environment and Neighbourhood (ENOs) service.

Eight Environment Officers (Eos) had been appointed within Environment and Waste Services; they would focus on improving the condition of public areas by tackling issues of litter, domestic waste, trade waste, graffiti, flytipping, flyposting, cleansing standards and by enforcing against environmental offences. The Environment Officers would undertake street inspection functions

throughout the Island to ensure contract compliance and value for money for a wide range of public realm related contracts, including:

- Street cleaning
- Public convenience cleansing and minor maintenance
- Integrated grounds maintenance (the Highway part)
- Integrated waste management
- Parks, beaches and slipways cleansing
- Any other contracts as appropriate

Four Community Support Officers had also been appointed within the Community Safety Service; they would work closely with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and focus on multi-agency crime reduction and prevention, tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting the victims of crime, reducing re-offending and community engagement work.

Neither the Environment Officers nor Community Support Officers would routinely attend Town and Parish Council meetings.

6371 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 21st July, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6372 MATTERS ARISING

a). Cowes in Bloom (Min. No. 6346a refers)

The Town Clerk reported that prizes to the winners of Cowes in Bloom 2010 had been resented by the Town Mayor at his Cowes Week reception to the following:

Best large garden	Mr. & Mrs. Lowday, Westcliff, 1 Egypt Copse
Best small garden	Mr. R. Frampton, 1 Rogerson Close
Best boxes and baskets	Mrs. Koerner, 57 Ward Avenue
Best business frontage	Mr. & Mrs. Hollman, Park Court

The Town Clerk and Councillor Jones reported that entries for the 2010 competition were extremely poor; they questioned whether it was worth running the competition in 2011.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council does not hold a Cowes in Bloom competition in 2011 but reviews during the year whether or not to hold a competition in 2012.

b). Town Council web site (Min. No. 6357 refers)

Councillor Matthews reported that a questionnaire capability was available on the Town Council website through a third party (www.surveymonkey.com) with whom the I.W. Council had a licensing agreement; this third party would host the questionnaire although there would be a link to it on the Town Council website. Councillor Matthews would contact Mr. Burdett of the I.W. Society who would be the author of the questionnaire; he understood it would be a simple yes/no type survey and if so, although not confirmed, might be free to run.

c). Basketball court (Min. No. 6354g refers)

The Town Clerk reported that following consultation with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor he had accepted in principle a draft lease from the I.W. Council for land in Northwood Recreation Ground for the basketball court; it had been a requirement of a grant application that a lease for the land for the basketball court was in place.

Following discussion, a number of minor alterations to the lease were suggested.

RESOLVED

- 1). That Councillor Walters amend the draft lease as necessary taking account of the comments that had been made; and
- 2). That the amended lease be circulated to all Councillors prior to its submission to the I.W. Council.

d). New bench for Cowes High Street (Town Improvement Min. No. 278 refers)

Many local residents had requested the re-instatement of a bench that had been removed from outside of Bailey's shop in the High Street

The Town Clerk reported that a replacement bench would cost £760.80; this cost would include the supply, installation, a plaque and maintenance for the remainder of its natural life.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk arrange for a replacement bench to be installed outside of Bailey's shop in the High Street at a cost of £760.80.

e). Plaque, Northwood Recreation Ground (Min. No. 6315d refers)

The Town Clerk stated that local residents remained concerned that a plaque referring to the opening of the Northwood Recreation Ground had been removed from a pillar at the lower entrance in Park Road; they were requesting the Town Council have the plaque replaced.

RESOLVED

That the replacement of the plaque at Northwood Recreation Ground be referred to the Town Improvements Committee for consideration.

f). New Play park, Northwood Recreation Ground (Min. No. 6362b refers)

Councillor McGregor referred to a draft agreement with the I.W. Council in respect of the new play park in Northwood Recreation Ground, a copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors; she suggested a number of minor alterations.

Councillor McGregor also stated that additional charges would be levied for emptying the two litter bins – a flexible service was possible which could entail weekly emptying during summer months and every two weeks during the winter. Climbing nets, which had been faulty on one of the items of equipment, had been replaced; the Town Council was seeking compensation from the contractor for the inconvenience caused.

Councillor Ellis stated that there had been serious vandalism issues at the adjacent I.W. Council football changing rooms and the conifers that had been planted to screen the building had been pulled out.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council contacts Groundwork Solent requesting that replacement conifers be planted to screen the I.W. Council building;
- 2). That the Town Council contacts the I.W. Council requesting that they undertake refurbishment works to their building; and
- 3). That subject to the agreed minor alterations, the Town Council accepts and authorises the Town Mayor to sign the agreement with the I.W. Council in respect of the new play park in Northwood Recreation Ground.

g). CCTV (Min. no. 6362e refers)

Members of the Town Council had been invited for a further visit to the CCTV Control Room on Friday 17th September.

Members reported that complaints were still being received in respect of the CCTV repeater mast in Terminus Road; Councillor Wilcox agreed to contact the CCTV Operations Manager regarding this issue.

A quotation from The Community Safety Operations Manager for equipment that would provide a Shopwatch Wireless Interface to the CCTV control room in the sum of £16,528.31 had also received; it was assumed that this cost could be shared by the two shopwatch outstations at Cowes and Shanklin. As it was agreed that this enhancement related to the Cowes Business Association shopwatch scheme, the Town Clerk would forward the quotation to them.

RESOLVED

That Councillors McGregor and Walters together with the Town Clerk and a representative from the CBA visit the CCTV Control Rom on 17th September at 11 a.m. and that the Town Clerk makes a further appointment for a visit by the remainder of the Council.

h). The War Memorial (Min. No. 6362g refers)

Councillor Banks questioned whether he should add the name W.E. Ryall to the list of First World War dead bearing in mind the information that had been provided and circulated to all Councillors. He also stated that there had been an amendment on 14th June 2010 to the list of Second World War dead; as amendments were ongoing, he was concerned that the Town Council would never be able to obtain a definitive list. Councillor Banks recommended that the Town Council accept his existing list as their definitive list; if additional names could be justified at a later date an extra tablet could be added to the memorial. He had taken account of Town Councillors comments regarding the wording on the plaques; he still anticipated that work to the memorial would be completed to enable the plaques to be either dedicated or re-dedicated as a part of the Remembrance Service on 14th November.

Councillors then decided on the type of stone for the new paving slabs around the memorial.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk contact Revd. Emblin requesting that incorporate the dedication of the name plaques as part of the Remembrance Service on 14th November.

6373 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

Councillor Thwaites reported that the 27 July I.W. Council Cabinet meeting was very important for the Trustees; they had been given very short notice to respond to the 12 page detailed report and their request for a postponement was refused so Trustees sent as full a response as was possible in the time. The purpose of the Trustees' response was to correct inaccuracies and provide information relevant to the very important proposals due to be considered to allow I.W. Council to wash severe its connection with Northwood House as they regarded the estate as an unwelcome burden. The Trustees and the majority of Islanders regard it as a potential asset that is under-utilised and not sufficiently well cared for. Recommendations that the I.W. Council request the charity Commission amend the deed so that they were no longer the Custodian Trustee and that they would formally relinquish right to use the house for council offices and not to make a grant of £50,000 to assist the trust with professional costs (they had previously offered 30K) were all approved.

Following that Cabinet meeting the Trustees have received various statements of intent from I.W. Council; it has been difficult to deal with all the issues in a short space of time but progress has been achieved. There remains much financial information on which the Managing Trustees must have full disclosure which for various reasons has yet to be received.

The Car Park has long been identified as having the potential to generate the best income for the Trust; however, the Trust had received no income at all for the months of April, May, June, July, August whilst I.W. Council has been managing the car park. They had notified the Trustees that they would withdraw from 1 September, with an option for them to carry on until the year end. The Trustees have been negotiating for a replacement contractor to manage the car park; in the interim the I.W. Council would continue. An alternative would have been for the Trustees to close the car park until the new contractor could be appointed but that would have been unhelpful to the public and Trustees recognised its importance to commuters as well as shoppers and local people. In the long term the car park had to be managed in the best interests of the Trust.

Some items on the museum service inventory but on show or stored at Northwood House have been removed; the large oil paintings which have long been displayed on the walls in the house are due to be removed to storage later in the month; the Trust have argued for their retention and have been led to believe recently that if the house is managed properly they could remain in the house. The Trust would welcome that decision.

Some uplifting news had come as a result of the Trust finding insurance to enable the interim summer event with Robert Thompson to take place; getting a Michelin Star chef to Cowes was quite a coup. The house was put into party mode; people visited, had lunch, dinner, tea – the launch evening was

very well attended and the house impressed. The six week event raised funds for the Trust, brought the house to life, got the windows cleaned and was a success.

For the future, the Trust had two immediate proposals for the Town Council regarding:

- Office accommodation for the Town Council
- An agreement in principle from the Town Council to investigate underwriting the cost of keeping the Northwood Park play area open for public use

The Trustees are liaising with the Friends of Northwood House & Park and the wider community and they look forward to being in a position to increase the amount of positive news. Meantime the support of the Town Council and people at large give Trustees the encouragement to carry on with the task in hand – to find a sustainable future for the house and grounds and to ensure that the house is taken off the English Heritage AT RISK register with all possible speed.

b). Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 12th August 2010 were received.

1). Annual Audit of Accounts

RESOLVED

That the official notification of the satisfactory completion of the audit of the Town Council's accounts for the financial year 2009/10 be received.

2). Applications for grants.

i). Cowes Open Bowls Tournament Committee.

Towards the costs associated with the traditional Cowes Week bowling tournament.

ii). 2nd Cowes (St. Mary's) Sea Scouts.

Towards the cost of repairs to the Sea Scout building.

iii). I.W. Musical Competition Festival.

Assistance with the costs of the 2011 Musical Competition Festival.

RESOLVED

1). That grants be made to the following organisations in accordance with the amounts shown:

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|---|------|
| a). 2 nd Cowes (St. Mary's) Sea Scouts | £400 |
| b). I.W. Musical Competition Festival | £ 50 |

2). That no grant be made this year in respect of the application from the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament Committee; they should re-apply in time for their 2011 tournament and also be advised that it is not in their interests to name organisations in their accounts that have ceased giving donations; and

3). That the balance of £3,340 in the estimates be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.

6374 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a). Approval of the following urgent decisions:

- i). the removal of a condition to the Premises Licence for the Painters Arms in respect of the admission of new customers after midnight – *opposed the application*. (the application had subsequently been approved)
- ii). a request from the Community Fundraising Team for the Breast Cancer Campaign to grant permission for them to turn a town landmark pink during September – *suggested the lion statues on the Esplanade*.

b).*The draft Shoreline Management Plan 2 and an invitation to a preview event at Northwood House to be held on Monday, 13th September between 1pm and 2pm.

c). Notification from the I.W. Council Registrars regarding the use of facilities at Northwood House after 30th September.

d).*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

e).*Details of training events October 2010 to June 2011.

f). Details of a Rural Community Council event at Quay Arts on 13th September at 7pm – 'Community Funded Transport Schemes'

g). Consideration of a commemoration to mark the 275th Anniversary of John & Charles Wesley's departure from Cowes to Georgia on 10th November 1735.

(* Copies circulated to all Councillors)

RESOLVED

- 1). That the action taken by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town mayor in respect of the urgent decisions be noted and approved; and
- 2). That the Town Council does not organise a commemoration to mark the 275th Anniversary of John & Charles Wesley's departure from Cowes to Georgia on 10th November 1735.

6375 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

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

- a). Town Crier (Councillor Hammond)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.25pm)

CHAIRMAN