

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Marriage Room at Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 28th September 2010 at 6.45pm.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Chair)
Councillors Birch, Giffard, Jones, Thwaites, Wells

280 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, Hammond, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox, Wilcox and Mrs Martin-Dye

281 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 26th May, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

282 PROJECT UP DATE

a). Enhancement, The Cut

Councillor McGregor reported that she will meet with Martin Hayles (architect) tomorrow ready for him to re-submit planning application as last one expired. Hoping to complete project within the financial year ready for summer 2011. Was noted that the existing mural is in a poor state but no action to be taken as work should start soon.

b). Basketball Court, Northwood Recreation Ground

Councillor McGregor stated that the following funding is in place

- Youth Opportunities Fund – £10, 000 with an invitation to apply for more funds if needed. Their response included an email stating the committee are “*Happy for you to come back to request additional funds for the project if other applications are less successful*” (monies to be spent by March 2011)
- Community Chest – £2,500
- Town Council - Ring fenced £5, 000
- Police – IW Youth Inclusion Forum – £3, 000
- Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Strategy – £3, 000

This means that £23, 500 of funds are in place.

- Sport England – Did not grant any funds despite £10, 000 request. The reason they gave for declining to fund this project was somewhat opaque as they stated construction was not eligible, although this is not listed in their exclusions on their website.
- PTCG – Police working with us to bid for a further £3, 000 can't be submitted until all other funds are in place.

Up to date quotes needed to confirm the budget cost – last quote was for £38, 000.

More up to date quote required to include fencing.

One further application is ready for submitting to Awards for All specifically towards the cost of two floodlights (£6, 500). Need lease in place from IW council before this can be submitted. Approx 6-week turn around.

Need additional £10,000 as Sport England Bid was unsuccessful. With this £10,000 sourced from elsewhere and PTCG there would still be a short fall of £2,500. Can't use Awards for All to pay for court construction, but possibility to use the grant to pay for some of fencing and floodlighting. This needs clarification with Awards for All who would also need a quote for cost of fencing. Councillor McGregor to explore possibility of PCT grant funding because of health impact of the project.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council request an additional £5,000 from Youth Opportunities Fund; and

2). That the Town Council 'ring fence' a further £5,000 from the Town Improvement budget as match funding.

c). Adventure Play Equipment, Northwood Recreation Ground

Open and being very well used by community. Speaker tubes working well, despite some minor repairs. All snagging work sorted and nets replaced at end of school holidays and withstanding use.

Site visit with Andrew McIntyre and Andrew Early was done last Friday couple of problems highlighted

- Loose bin and off its foundation has happened a number of times – appears to be poorly installed
- Concrete post removed to allow access by contractors, has been replaced at an angle.

Cllr McGregor has requested Caroways resolve the above or for CTC to engage local firm to and then take cost from retention fee. Caroways have said it is more cost effective to use local contractor (IW Council has a list), Caroways want to know that this cost is reasonable before works go ahead. Cllr McGregor to follow up.

- Turf – some patches need replacing due to hot weather when was installed and turf did not take. Also a large area between zip wire and back of mound was not turfed as was earmarked for planting. IW council not keen to maintain planting and not clear that this would enhance the area as already well used. Saving £1870 by not proceeding with planting. Andrew Early suggests November is a good time (after school holidays, weather generally wet) to re-turf and that Hillcroft Turfing is a good company. IW council insist the re-turfing needs to take place the Town Council will take advice from contractor to maximise chances of turf taking.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council utilise the money saved on planting for the re-turfing work.

Maintenance Groundworks Solent contract has 3 maintenance visits 5 grass cutting visits once play area installed however Mike Kemp feels that these do not need to take place as IW council have already done grass cutting and to take these costs out of contract saving £1,500. Andrew McIntyre recommends leaving the bank for an annual cut to allow grass to grow long because of high traffic volumes. No planting to maintain. Caarowys happy to remove visits from contract but only if claim for nets is

dropped. Success of a potential claim for nets is not guaranteed and play area was still used when not in place. Nets are now in place and working well.

Cllr McGregaor to instruct Groundworks Solent that claim will be dropped in return for £1, 500 refund on maintenance visits.

Feedback from Police – since play area has been in operation skate park problems have been reduced and that this is due to more adults in area supervising younger children on play area.

Additional seating– none has been requested by community. IW Council have stipulated seating type and will not permit wooden tree trunk type seating.

Fencing – letter from member of public about lack of fencing. Main concern is that dogs are loose in area and alludes to dog fouling, roadway through to cricket ground Cllr McGreggor has responded (copy of correspondence circulated) that fencing is a huge cost, area is for 8 – 13 year olds and that age group needs larger open spaces. Matthew Chapfield has suggested dog control order, Andrew McIntyre is not keen as policing of dog control orders is very hard, signs are up asking people not to let dogs roam or foul. The skate park cleaner has undertaken regular litter picks and has not found any dog fouling.

Posts in place which can act as barrier for children, speed humps are in place on road. Issue has been raised with IW Council as has never been a problem in whole time the recreation ground has been there. Consequently this is not a priority for the council.

Changing Room Huts – graffiti and guttering has come off. IW council not happy about boarding and a mural. Belongs to Property Services but not clear that there is monies for refurbishment. Guttering has been fixed and graffiti removed by council.

Maintenance of play area – raking out of bark pits is Town Council's responsibility. Discussed with Skate Park cleaner adding raking and litter picking on a weekly basis, he is happy to do this.

RECOMMENDED

To increase the fee paid to skate park cleaner by £5 per week and provide him with a rake.

283 DEDICATION SIGN, PARK ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Member of public has highlighted that it is missing. Unclear as to exact wording, previous advertising in the Beacon to no avail. Town Clerk has contacted Charlie Taylor (local historian) he has supplied following wording:

Northwood Recreation Ground, opened 13th June 1859. West Cowes Local Board of Health with thanks to William George Ward of Northwood House.

However some of his old notes show plaque states 1875 when land was given. Consequently it is unclear as to the exact wording.

Alan Stroud to be asked if he has some information. Cowes Heritage to have exhibition in October where there maybe someone who has further information. Also the County Press to be asked run a story on the lost sign.

No further action to taken until certain correct information has been found.

284 ADDITIONAL BENCH, EGYPT LIGHT

Town Clerk and Cllr Jones have had a look at the sight and an additional bench would match an east facing bench.

Dave Green (ex-UKSA) has expressed a wish in the past to sponsor a bench in memory of his father and Councillor Giffard was aware of further possible sponsorship. These possibilities to be followed up.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council have a bench installed facing west adjacent to Egypt Light and if possible find a sponsor to meet the cost.

(The proceedings terminated at 7.45pm)

CHAIRMAN