

## **COWES TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Cowes Town Council held in the Community Hall at Northwood House, Cowes, on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

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

### **6452 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

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

There being no further nominations, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor McGregor be elected Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2012.

Councillor McGregor thereupon made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, thanked the Town Council for her election and paid tribute to Councillor Wells for his hard work, dedication and even handed approach during his two years in Office.

### **6453 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Proposed by Councillor Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Matthews that Councillor Walters be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor Hammond and seconded by Councillor Ellis that Councillor Birch be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

On a vote being taken, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Walters be elected Deputy Town Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2012.

Councillor Walters thanked Members for their support and pledged to work in the best interests of the Town Council and the local community particularly in the very challenging times ahead.

### **6454 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mazillius.

### **6455 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Finance Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2012:

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

**6456 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Town Improvements Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2012:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Ellis, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Wells and Wilcox.

**6457 NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2012:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Birch, Brown, Jones and Wells.

**6458 ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Acquisitions Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2012:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Sanderson and Wells.

**6459 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 2012:

Cowes/Deauville Twinning Association

Councillor D.K. Walters

Deputy Councillor G. Banks

Cowes Community Partnership

Councillor R.J. McGregot (Town Mayor) and Councillor J. 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.L. Wells

Deputy Councillor S.E.J. Ellis

Environment Agency Flood Warning Group

Councillor D.K. Walters

Deputy Councillor D. Jones

Island Waste Services Community Advisory Group

Councillor D.K. Walters

Member Auditor – Town Council Accounts

Councillor P. Birch

Northwood House Sub-Group

The Town Mayor and Councillors G.J. Banks, L. Brown, S.E.J. Ellis, L. Hammond, J. Matthews, W.I. Sanderson, D.K. Walters and A.L. Wells

Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor G.J. Banks

Tree Wardens

Councillors L. Brown and L. Hammond

Wight in Bloom – Steering Group

Councillors D. Jones and R.E. Robinson

**6460 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**RESOLVED**

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

**6461 ATTENDANCES**

The Town Clerk reported that the attendances of Members at Council Meetings during 2010/2011 were as follows:

	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	<u>%</u>
Councillor G. J. Banks	12	9	75
Councillor P. Birch	12	12	100
Councillor L. Brown	1	1	100
Councillor S. Ellis	10	9	90
Councillor A.J. Giffard	6	4	67
Councillor L. Hammond	12	8	67
Councillor D. J. Jones	12	10	83
Councillor R.J. McGregor	12	11	92
Councillor J.M. Matthews	12	11	92
Councillor Mazillius	12	7	58
Councillor L. Peacey-Wilcox	12	9	75
Councillor R. Robinson	7	7	100
Councillor W. I. Sanderson	12	12	100
Councillor A. Thwaites	12	11	92
Councillor D. Walters	12	11	92
Councillor A. Wells	12	12	100
Councillor J. Wilcox	12	8	75

(Councillors Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox left the meeting at 7.44p.m.)

#### **6462 ACCOUNTS 2010/2011**

The Town Clerk submitted details of Town Council Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

##### **RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Accounts for 2010/2011 be received and noted.

#### **6463 DATES OF MEETINGS 2011/2012**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council meetings be held on the following dates in 2011/2012 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
8 <sup>th</sup> June	11 <sup>th</sup> January
20 <sup>th</sup> July	8 <sup>th</sup> February
7 <sup>th</sup> September	7 <sup>th</sup> March
5 <sup>th</sup> October	4 <sup>th</sup> April
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	18 <sup>th</sup> April (Annual Town Meeting)
7 <sup>th</sup> December	9 <sup>th</sup> May (Annual Council)

#### **6464 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Q:** There is an agenda item regarding future venues for Town Council monthly meetings; if the meetings were moved away from Northwood House there would be great concern because the general public would prefer that their precept was used to support Northwood House.

**A:** This item was on the agenda because the Trustees had asked the Council to move to the Community Hall as the fee charged for the main house was not covering the cost of managing that room. It would be dealt with more fully when the agenda item came up.

#### **6465 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Brown had apologised for his absence.**

**Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had apologised for having to leave the meeting early but would email her report to all Councillors.**

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

a) That the I.W. Council were consulting regarding the Plan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). All local authorities had asked for landowners, agents and other parties to bring forward suggestions for potential future housing purposes. Within Cowes West, the only site large enough to be under consideration is land between Lammas Close and Pine Tree Close. At present there is a significant over-allocation of land suggested for this purpose. The vast majority of land being highlighted locally was in Gurnard and Northwood. (Only 1268 dwellings were required for the Island Plan in the Medina Valley- space for 18,000 had so far come forward)

b). That the contractors at the Cowes High School site had allocated more land on the site for parking their vehicles; this would counter complaints about parking in the Crossfield Estate. The construction was running in accordance with time scales; inevitably the workload, disturbance and contractors on site would increase in the coming weeks.

c). Drivers were due to be selected and trained in the coming weeks for the Cowes Community buses and discussions are due to take place with the RCC over management and co-ordination of the Volunteer Drivers.

**d).** At a recent Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting the I.W. Council outlined the savings to be made from the closure/ transferal of **public toilets**; also on the agenda members

received a presentation on **renewable technologies** and the potential employment opportunities available within the Island and the Committee had heard of opposition to the **Fire Call Centre** being transferred to Surrey. At the meeting Councillor Fuller had asked questions concerning the failure of the Council to meet **road traffic accident targets**, the underperformance of **Planning Services, recycling of commercial waste and street lighting**.

#### **6466 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

##### **PCSO Steve Oatley referred to the following:**

- a). That key addresses had been identified as centres of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. Through work with the landlords eviction notices had been issued.
- b). That there was still a problem of local burglaries; most of these were opportunistic. The police would like to remind people to keep their doors and windows locked at all times.
- c). That two extra police officers were coming to Cowes for a 2 month period to fill the void left by those Officers retiring.

#### **6467 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

Neil Perry, the Environment & Neighbourhood Officer had submitted a written report which stated that the town was generally in a very tidy condition.

He had received a complaint from youngsters using the skate park that the ramps required re-painting and also from a holidaymaker commenting that the render had cracked on the seawall opposite the bandstand. Finally, checks had been carried out through the town confirming that businesses were completing their Waste Transfer Notes correctly.

#### **6468 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **6469 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a). Venue for Town Council Meetings**

Some members were concerned that the Northwood House Trust were preventing the Town Council using the House for their meetings because it was uneconomical at the rate being charged; they thought the Town Council should explore all options including Northwood House (at a revised and realistic charge), Northwood House Community Hall, St Andrew's Hall, Library and the Yacht Haven.

##### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Northwood House Trust provide a revised charge for use of Northwood House; and
- 2) That the Acquisition Committee explore all possible options regarding a meeting venue for the Town Council.

(Cllr McGregor declared a personal and prejudicial interest as her husband sits on the management committee for St Andrews Hall and left the room for this item)

(Cllr Thwaites declared a personal and prejudicial interest as she was the Chair of the Northwood House Trust and left the room for this item)

##### **b). Island Plan - 'Regulation 27 Proposed Submission'**

Members agreed that the issues within the consultation document were wide ranging and that it was difficult to take a collective view. However, there seemed to be a lack of joined-up thinking within the document as areas had been ear-marked for both preservation as countryside and for development and regeneration.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council writes to I.W. Council stating that Councillors had been encouraged to respond individually as it had been impossible to reach a consensus to such a large and wide ranging document.

### **c). Isle of Wight Association of Town & Parish Councils (IWALC)**

The Town Clerk stated that the Chair of IWALC had attended the last meeting to explain the benefits of membership; the charge had been capped at approximately £950 for larger Town and Parish Councils. Members discussed the merits and whether the benefits represented good value for money.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council does not rejoin IWALC at this stage.

(Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 8.32p.m.)

## **6470 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### **a). Northwood House**

Councillor Thwaites gave an oral report as follows:

#### **THE PARK**

After lengthy consultation with I.W.Council and a professional tree surgeon, work had begun to deal with trees which have been deemed to be a risk either to people or to property. Due attention would be paid to animal welfare legislation, and some ropeways have been inserted for the benefit of the red squirrel population. Letters had been delivered to over 155 surrounding properties explaining the activity but in spite of the letters there had been some concern.

The toilets had been reopened for the season following minor repairs, paint and a thorough cleaning and they would be cleaned daily until the end of September.

Two tennis courts were in use; the Trust was seeking expressions of interest from any tennis clubs or potential tennis clubs looking for a venue. Currently they had no means of collecting payment for using the courts and were asking that users put £2 per hour into any of the car park machines as this money came automatically to the Trust.

Unfortunately one of the park litter bins has been smashed and a replacement had be considered.

Councillor Thwaites had officially launched the new bowling season; the bowling club using the green had a very full fixture list including visiting Mainland teams.

Trustees Janet Allan with Ginnie Gledhill operated the Park maintenance plan and they very much appreciate the time and energy given by people in the community who have assisted especially with the flower beds notably the herbaceous border and planters. The grass has just been cut in line with the maintenance contract and the empty beds were due either to be filled in or planted shortly, according to an agreed plan.

#### **THE HOUSE**

Maintenance work on the outside of the House was now under way, mostly with volunteers. Simple maintenance on plasterwork was designed to improve the appearance of the house and some areas had been power-washed. The Morning Room refurbishment was now complete, the Library had been thoroughly refreshed and the kitchen improvements were nearly complete. The Trustees would be holding an OPEN AFTERNOON on 22 May for people to look around the house to see the work already undertaken.

#### **GENERAL**

Enquiries for events in the House were sought and bookings were being made. She had enquired why the I.W.Council had omitted Northwood House from its list of approved wedding venues in a recently republished events information brochure. The Carnival Committee would be organising a Picnic in the Park FUNDAY on 29 May which the Trustees were pleased to support and in Cowes Week they were planning to join in Aberdeen Asset Management's FAMILY FUN DAY on the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

### **b). Library Working Group**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Library Working Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were received.

**c). Annual Town Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were received.

**d). Town Improvements Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were received.

**i). Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Plaque.**

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council accepts the quotation from A.J. Wells & Son to re-mount the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee plaque on a plastic wood substitute and aluminium frame and then to the seawall on The Parade.

(Councillors McGregor and Wells declared personal and prejudicial interests as they were related to the owners of A.J. Wells & Son and they left the room for this item only)

**6471 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

- a). To consider whether or not the Town Council should invite nominations for a Community Award.
- b). Application for Street Trading Consent – ‘Jim’s Whippy’ for two ice cream vans.
- c). I.W. Council consultation regarding proposed changes to the waste collection arrangements.
- d). Renewal of Town Council membership to the BTCV.
- e). Details of miscellaneous correspondence.
- f). Urgent Decision – Wreath for ORP Blyskawica Commemoration.  
(\* Copies circulated to each member)

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council does invite nominations for persons considered to be worthy of receiving a Community Award;
- 2). That the Town Clerk has no objection to the grant of a Street Trading Consent or ‘Jim’s Whippy’;
- 3). That the Town Clerk writes to the I.W. Council notifying them that Councillors have been encouraged to respond individually to the consultation regarding waste collection arrangements;
- 4). That the Town Council renews their membership of BTCV in the sum of £35; and
- 5). That the urgent decision to purchase a wreath for the Town Mayor to lay at the ORP Blyskawica Commemoration be noted and approved.

**6472 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

It was agreed that the following items be placed on a future agenda:

- a). Town Maps (to Town Improvements Committee)
- b). Island Games (Councillor Matthews)
- c). 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the ORP Blyskawica defence of Cowes (Councillor Banks)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.18p.m.)

**CHAIRMAN**