

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in the Community Hall at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 8th June 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Birch, Jones, McGregor, Matthews, Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Sanderson, Walters and, Wilcox

Presentation – ‘Mainsail’ regarding The Parade Village for Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week.

Councillor McGregor welcomed Mr. Joe Hall and Richard Walters from Mainsail who had attended to report on the details of The Parade Village for AAM Cowes Week.

They stated that the Parade Village had grown over the last few years and improved its presentation and content. Mainsail was aware of difficulties around the venue being both a business centre and a residential area; however, the event was free to enter, inclusive and family-friendly. Mainsail had been involved in the Parade Village since 2002 and was self-funding and received no public subsidy. Richard Walters was heading-up the event this year and liaising on fireworks. There would be branding opportunities and retail outlets on the Esplanade, with a minimal number of units and a ‘sail-in’ movie on the fireworks night. The area from Egypt Point would be dressed with branding and flag poles to add value to the spectacle and there would be the usual live music on the bandstand. The Red Arrows were likely to perform on Saturday 6th to start the week off and conclude with the fastnet race on the Sunday 14th; there would be a family day on Sunday 7th with the traditional fireworks on Friday 12th.

The plans for the Village were similar to other years although they had given further consideration to parking and noise issues. The I.W. Council had arranged for town centre streets to be kept clean and litter picked on a continuous cycle throughout the week and litter bins would be supplemented by wheelie-bins on the Parade; there would also be a major clean up after the fireworks from East Cowes through to Gurnard. Household waste collection would take place as usual during the event.

Licensing hours were the same as last year – the bar shuts at 12.01am (with 30 min drinking up time). The Village build would commence on 29th July and everything would be cleared-up by 17th August. In response to a question regarding the floral displays after the event, Mr. Hall stated that there was a commitment for them in early September; however; he could see no objection to about a dozen of the displays remaining in place provided they could be watered regularly.

Following a number of further questions, Councillor McGregor thanked the two representatives from Mainsail for giving such an informative and interesting presentation.

6478 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox.

6479 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. P. Taylor asked whether the Town Council would re-affirm their commitment to keep Northwood Park free of development in the light of the recent proposal from Camelot?

Councillor McGregor stated that the Town Council considered the parkland a priority; this had been confirmed in their response to the Northwood House consultation and their stated support for the Village Green application.

Councillor Brown had obtained a copy of the proposal document from Camelot; they claimed to have been in contact with the Town Council and the Town Mayor.

Councillor Wells stated that in 2009 when he was the Town Mayor he had been asked to show Nick Dufield (from Camelot) around Northwood House by the Northwood House Trust; he had had no contact with them since that time and other Councillors confirmed that they had had no contact either. Councillor Wells suggested that it might be appropriate to convene a meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group to consider these issues.

RESOLVED

That a meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group be convened prior to the next meeting of the Town Council in July.

6480 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Fuller had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- a) The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) – the I.W. Council received 891 representations; 313 related generally to the SHLAA whilst 289 related to specific sites in the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood area.
- b). Baring Road – as a result of considerable disruption for residents following commencement of developments at Essex House, The Moorings and at the new Solent Heights (formerly The Brambles) a traffic scheme has been implemented to lessen the impact. Damage to the road outside Solent Heights, Egypt Hill has been repaired and continues to be monitored by Highways.
- c). I.W. Festival – he had been happy to support the proposal to increase capacity for the Festival from 69,999 to 89,999 as both Police and Highways considered the site adequate to cope with 100,000 and Environmental Health endorsed steps the organisers had taken to finish earlier and reduce noise nuisance.
- d). Residents parking – local residents in Cliff Road and Queens Road had requested free use of the Mornington Road car park during the winter. Last winter the total revenue collected from the car park totalled only just over £1,000.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox submitted a written report that referred to the following:

- a). A 'leak' from the Victorian Fountain on Princes Green – the I.W. Council had sanctioned the work to have it rectified.
- b). That the public slipway in Medina Road had been closed by Southern Water while they replace a holding tank. As they had a statutory right to do the work, the I.W. Council were powerless to intervene so she had contacted OFWAT.
- c). That following complaints from residents she had managed to have a number of overgrown hedges cut back on H & S grounds.
- d). That she had received a number of responses in respect of parking permits which she would forward to the next meeting of the I.W. Council Scrutiny Committee.
- e) That she had contacted the Crown Estate in an attempt to resolve a residents issue in Fraser Close/Arctic Road.

Councillor Mazillius submitted a written report referring to the following:

- a). that the I.W. Council had now entered the procurement phase of the Highway PFI; they were in negotiation with three international companies to identify a suitable service provider for this long-term contract. The process would lead to the selection of a preferred bidder in Spring 2012 with work commencing one year later.
- b) That the consultation in respect of the Island Plan – Strategic Housing Land Allocation Assessment (SHLAA) had ended with over 95% of representation (289 out of 313) relating to Cowes/Gurnard/Northwood sites. It was expected that a new SHLAA would be published in August in which changes to the proposed identified sites will have been made. Such changes would in fact be narrowly based on owners withdrawing, identification of issues affecting the sites such as flooding, ground instability, village green status etc.

The actual planning merits eg "outside the existing development envelope" or zoned as "agricultural land" would not be decided at that stage. Those considerations would firstly depend on the Planning

Inspector approving the Core Strategy, the papers for which will be sent to him on 24th June with an expected determination by end of January 2012.

Once that had been done, the Council would move to the Area Action Plan (AAP) process which was expected to last through 2012 to early 2013. It was during that process that further consultation would take place on the SHLAA sites as amended. All of the responses on those sites and the AAP generally would then be further considered by the Planning Inspector whose decision would be expected towards the end of 2013.

c). That the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood Forum were on track with the joint proposal for a Community Bus Service. As soon as the bid had been accepted by the I.W. Council they would move to the rigorous driver selection process under Southern Vectis.

d). That he had assumed Cabinet responsibility for Community Safety; he was being specifically briefed in respect of this year's Isle of Wight Festival and could report that additional CCTV cameras had been sited along Fairlee Road.

He had noted a reduction by 10% in all crimes on the Island for last year compared to the previous year with a particularly pleasing 21% reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents. However, there were increases in sexual offences - up 14% (19 offences), domestic abuse - 15% (60 offences) and there is an alarming increase in the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population of 15% (736 admissions). It was believed however that improvements to the recording of admissions was contributing to this upward trend. Cowes and district crime continued to reduce through the excellent efforts of the local neighbourhood policing team

The I.W. Council were working closely with health, community and police partners to address these issues as part of the new Community Safety Plan which would be presented to Full Council on 15th June.

6481 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sgt. Sizer reported as follows:

- a). The occupants of two premises were causing problems in Cowes. The police were at point of imposing new legislation on occupants although this was proving to be a complex and lengthy process; the landlords of the properties were also running their own eviction processes.
- b). That he had received reports of speeding in Newport Road at its junction with Mill Hill Road. Speed checks would be undertaken and when similar checks were carried out in Parlance Road 24 people had been charged in a 6-7 hour period.
- c). That he had requested the probation service provide people on probation or restorative justice to deal with litter on Gurnard Beach
- d). That there were no real policing issues at the Rib-ex event; he was in the process of finalising his plans for the Round the Island race.
- e). That he had received reports about drug misuse in the pubs; the police had undertaken an operation involving a drugs dog, and with police officers searching and swabbing people / places. Fifty six swabs had been taken with 3 positive for cocaine in the two venues searched; the police plan to repeat this operation.
- f). That although it had to be ratified, it was probable that the Cowes Police Station would close; however he could confirm that Cowes would retain its police presence with officers being re-located to a as yet to be determined venue

When questioned about a fire in the Ladies toilets and Northwood Receptions Ground, Sgt. Sizer stated that he had not been aware of that incident.

Councillor Walters questioned whether landlords should make sure that drinks were in plastic containers if customers went outside into the street to smoke and took their drinks?

Sgt. Sizer stated that unlike Newport, Cowes didn't have a dedicated Premises Order which prevented alcohol being consumed in public areas. Landlords should ideally ensure that alcohol was drunk on

their premises and SIA staff when employed, should also be challenging customers. It was good practise for landlords to use plastic containers during large events; ultimately it was the landlord's responsibility.

6482 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Environment Officer had submitted a written report stating that he had had 3 incidents of graffiti, the worst was in The Cut toilets.

The seawall on The Parade had been repaired and painted (*Councillor McGregor stated that this work had not yet been completed but that it should be within the next week*)

Finally, there was an on-going issue of waste being put out too early by residents prior to their collection days.

6483 MINUTES

Councillor Wells apologised for not declaring a personal interest when the election of Councillor McGregor as the new Town Mayor took place on 4th May – he only thought after the meeting that as she was his daughter he should have done so.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4th May 2011 and 16th May 2011 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6484 MATTERS ARISING

a). Northwood House Consultation

Councillor McGregor submitted two emails from the Northwood House Trust in response to the specific questions which the Town Council had asked around the security and expressions of interest.

They both confirmed that their security guards were SIA registered and the Door Supervisor trained.

The Trust had received expressions of interest from several organisations although none were recent enquiries; the interested parties had been advised that the Trust were not in a position to progress the enquiries but would hold them on record until the position changed.

Councillor McGregor was concerned that hostility was building between the Town Council and the Trustees and a degree of misinformation existed; she would like to build a better relationship with them and questioned whether a regular meeting with their Chairman would be of benefit.

Councillors agreed that any meetings should only be at the request of the Trustees and then that the Town Mayor be accompanied by at least one other Councillor.

b). Vacancy – Cowes North Ward

The Town Clerk reported that ten electors from the Cowes North Ward had requested a election to fill the vacancy on the Town Council; if more than one nomination was received an election would be held towards the end of July. The Elections Manager had questioned whether or not the Town Council would require poll cards to be issues if the election was contested.

RESOLVED

That should the election be contested to fill the vacancy in the Cowes North Ward the Town Council would require poll cards to be issued.

6485 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

The Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- The consultation and the application for Village Green status for the park.

- That 300 people had visited the house at an open day on 22nd May and the house was opened again when the Carnival Committee held their Picnic in the Park on 29th May.
- Work continued on the fabric of the house with the emphasis on the exterior and kitchen areas.
- Urgent tree maintenance work had been undertaken, some flower beds planted and others turfed.
- The Trustees wished to develop the old putting green area as a dog free picnic area and they were seeking sponsorship to fund improvements to the fencing
- Use of Park Road car park was increasing – income to the Trust considerably exceeded receipts generated prior to the new arrangements.
- Parking would be available for AAM Cowes Week and the NatWest Island Games.
- The receipt of an outline business proposal from Camelot Group – they had been advised by the Charity Commission that they were not currently in a position to progress the proposal.

Finally, Mrs. Thwaites outlined her reasons for resigning from the Council; she also requested how members wished her to continue to report to the Council.

It was agreed that Mrs. Thwaites be requested to continue to supply a written report whenever there was anything of significance to report.

The full report is attached to these minutes and the most recent report to the Town Council can also be viewed at www.northwoodhouse.org/news.

Councillor Walters referred to a statement from the Northwood House Trust that they had been advised by the Charities Commission that ‘currently they were not in a position to progress such expressions of interest as we have to agree significant changes to the Trust itself due to the withdrawal of the I.W. Council as beneficiary’; this would imply that the people of Cowes were the beneficiary of the grounds. The Northwood House Trust would need to amend the Deed of Gift document to exclude the term ‘beneficiary’ if they wished to allow any development on any of the parkland.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk writes to the I.W. Council requesting that they notify the Town Council prior to agreeing any changes to the Deed of Gift document with the Northwood House Trust.

b). Library Working Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Library Working Group held on 24th May 2011 were received.

c). Bus Working Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Bus Working Group held on 14th May 2011 were received.

Councillor Wells stated that the Town Council Working Group had suggested relatively minor changes to the bid proposal from the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood Forum; as the bid had already been submitted, these minor changes were not included.

Councillor Wells had subsequently met with Mr. Morgan-Huws (SVOC) who recommended that at this stage it would be best to have the application and bid approved and then consider changes to it at a later date; if the recommended route was accepted it would be relatively easy to alter it if necessary, in response to public comment.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council approves the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood Forum bid to establish a community bus service; and
- 2). That the Town Council approves the draft route that had been submitted.

d). Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 1st June 2011 were received.

i). Annual audit and final accounts for 2010/11

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Internal Auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2011 be received and noted;
- 2). That the appointment from 1st October 2010 of the Assistant Town Clerk on an annual salary of £5,169 be approved;
- 3). That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor; and

4). That the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

ii). Applications for financial assistance.

a). St. Mary's Church.

Towards the cost of rescuing and installing into the Church a tombstone dated 1657 recording the first known burial in Cowes.

b). I.W. Junior Basketball Club.

To assist with a shortfall in funding over the coming 2 years as other awards and grants had come to an end.

c). Cowes Week Ltd.

Towards the cost of staging the traditional end of AAM Cowes Week firework display in 2011.

RESOLVED

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

	£
St. Mary's Church	500
I.W. Junior Basketball Club	500

(Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in a) above as his company had quoted for moving the tombstone and he left the room for this item)

(Councillor Hammond declared a personal and prejudicial interest in b) above as her grandchildren were members of the basketball club and left the room for this item)

2). That as Cowes Week Ltd. had secured a Title Sponsor for 2011, the Town Council does not consider it should support funding the fireworks at this stage.

e). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 7th June 2011 were received.

Councillor Wells reported that the Committee had questioned whether or not the basketball court would still be required bearing in mind the facilities that would be provided at the new High School.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council would go back to the Basketball Club, who had originally made the request for the court, to ascertain their views.

6486 ORP BLYSKAWICA COMMEMORATION

Councillor Banks confirmed that 70th anniversary arrangements between 4th and 7th May 2012 of the Blyskawica's defence of Cowes were well underway. The Polish navy had confirmed it would bring a warship, 'Wodnik', to the event bringing three former crew members of the Blyskawica to the Island and a Polish naval orchestra of 36 musicians would also attend.

Although full details of the event were still being planned, it would be a full and meaningful event with involvement of churches and schools and would include an exhibition on the Blitz, a parade in Northwood Park and a service on The Parade.

6487 THE ISLAND GAMES

Councillors McGregor and Matthews reported that they had met with representatives from the Island games Committee and the Yacht Haven to ascertain details of closing ceremony that would be held in Cowes; a full report of the meeting was circulated to all members. Up to 4,000 competitors and officials would parade from Princes Green through the town to the Yacht Haven on 1st July for the official closing ceremony with many Island schools producing carnival elements for the parade. Cleansing plans following the closing ceremony were still unclear and were ongoing.

There was no expectation that Cowes Town Council would be involved in the ceremony within the Yacht Haven which would be by invitation only.

6488 THE OUTER HARBOUR PROJECT

Cllr Walters reported that the Outer Harbour Project was estimated to cost £6.9 million; the intention was that £2.3million would be provided by each of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), the Harbour Commission and a developer. However, the Harbour Commissioners had indicated that the SEEDA element of the project was now questionable which would place the whole project in doubt.

Design, planning and other preparatory work had already cost in the region of £750,000.

The local M.P. would continue to lobby central government in an endeavour that they allow SEEDA to release the funds.

6489 ISLAND BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Councillor Walters reported that he had attended a business breakfast at which there was a ‘brainstorming’ session regarding the Island Economy and future developments for the Island; the quality of the discussion had been very high. It had been attended by a number of dignitaries including the Leader of the I.W. Council and the Council’s various Directors; they were all wishing to formulate a framework as to how the Island’s economy would move forward.

Councillor Walters agreed to circulate detailed notes of the meeting to all his fellow Councillors.

6490 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a). Details of Urgent Decisions regarding Street Trading Licence for American Ices, Dominos Takeaway and the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) (Traffic Regulation) Order No. 1 2011.

b).*Details of IWALC/CTP training events.

c).*To consider the following applications for Premises Licences:

i). Red Funnel Terminal Car Park

ii). Harbour Office Car Park, Town Quay (No. 71506)

iii). Extreme Sailing Series Race Village, Egypt Point (No. 66677)

and Street Trading Consent as follows:

i), The Esplanade, Cowes (No. 82904)

d) Notification of a consultation regarding NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) determination of Controlled Locality.

e).*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

(* Copies circulated to all members)

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;

2). That members notify the Town Clerk if they wish to attend any of the IWALC/CTP training events;

3). That the Town Council objects to the application for a Premises Licence for the Red Funnel Terminal car park Town Quay on the grounds that they do not wish to see a proliferation of marquee bars in the town and because the proposal could lead to possible congestion problems in the area, and they object to the application in respect of the Harbour Office car park on the grounds that they do not wish to see a proliferation of marquee bars in the town and because the proposed hours exceed those of other similar establishments; and

4). That the Town Council has no objection to the application for a Premises Licence for the Extreme Sailing Series Race Village, Egypt Point or the application for a Street trading consent for The Esplanade.

6491 RESOURCED PROVISION CENTRES IN MAINSTREAM PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the I.W. Council School Reorganisation Team which stated that they were reviewing the provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They wished to replace the speech, language and communication needs centre at Love Lane Primary School with two centres, one at Broadlea Primary School (moving to the Lake Middle School site) and the other at Greenmount Primary School (moving to Mayfield Middle School site). Comments in respect of the consultation were required to be submitted by Friday, 1st July.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk responds to the consultation recommending that the I.W. Council reconsider the location of the two centres to have one in the East Wight and one in West Wight.

6492 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following item be placed on a future agenda: *(The Environment & Neighbourhood Officer would be invited to attend the meeting).*

(The proceedings terminated at 9.40pm)

CHAIRMAN