

Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held in the Cowes Town Council offices, Baring Chambers, Denmark Road, Cowes at 6.30pm on 7th July 2011

PRESENT:

Cllr Wells (Chairman)

Cllrs McGregor, Banks, Birch, Sanderson, Robinson, Jones and Cllr Linda Brown

319 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Matthews, Walters, Peacey-Wilcox, Wilcox

320 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Banks declared a prejudicial interest in Dog Hitching Posts as his company has quoted for this work.

321 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 318ii altered: "did not attend" amended to "did not attend in allotted time period"

Minutes of meeting were then signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

It was reported that the Stone shop is prepared to supply a background and surround of marble or similar for the Victoria Parade Plaque. Cllr Wells will pick up the plaque from AJ Wells.

322 UP DATE ON PROJECTS

i BASKETBALL COURT

Cllr Wells reviewed the status quo of the project.

Cllr McGregor has spoken with Peter Almond who suggested that the basketball court be constructed as a MUGA as this would increase flexibility and that lighting would be an asset. It was suggested that Town Council speak with young people again to get their view.

Councillors felt that lighting the court could prevent any insurance liability. MUGA requires a lesser lighting standard than a basketball court. The planning application has only provided for two flood lights. Use of the court would be limited without lighting.

Councillors discussed the need for a booking system. It was suggested that bookings could be done through the town clerk if needed at a future date.

Cllr Banks declared an interest and left the room at 6.50pm.

The financial shortfall is around £13,500 based on the lowest quote to date (Imphouse). A new quote from a national contractor of £51,432 is around £4,000 lower. This means that the shortfall is still £9,500. At the last meeting it was suggested that £20,000 be moved from The Cut project.

CTC is put the project out to competitive tender as it will cost more than £50,000. Need to go back to Architect to do new specification with lighting and will need to get advice on the status of the planning permission.

Grants have until end of March 2012 to spend Hampton Trust funds. Crime Prevention grant requires clarity as after 30th September 2011 when the grant closes. Will need to request funds by this date.

RESOLVED

That a booking system be implemented only if proven necessary.

RECOMMENDED

That up to £20,000 of funds are transferred from The Cut and up to £5,000 from this year's New Projects budget is allocated in order to permit the project to go ahead.

To re-tender the project with the architect and request him revise the specification to a MUGA with lighting and ensure that the project remains as a two stage project to accommodate the need to archaeological needs of the site and that the architect liaise with the IW Council Planning Department on any project changes.

To advertise a tender in the Isle of Wight County Press.

That we write to Crime Prevention grant to request funds by 30th September 2011.

7.28pm Cllr Banks returned to the meeting.

ii TOILETS AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the Mayor had signed the cleansing contract as required by the IW Council and that the IW Council will be undertaking an electoral test for this year and funding this test. IW Council have been informed that CTC have just funded this following a fire in the toilets.

CONDITION REPORT

This was received by the sub-Committee but is incomplete due to lack of access to the cleaner's cupboard.

RESOLVED

That once the report is completed and approved by the sub-Committee it is sent to the IW Council.

iii PICNIC BENCHES

Public have been seen using the recreation ground for picnics and that the benches would be a useful addition.

Cllr Banks researched picnic tables and found some for around £750 hot dipped galvanised steel benches. They would then need setting in concrete bringing the total to around £1,000 per bench.

Discussion took place over the materials of the bench and it was agreed that steel provided a good all round material. Not painting the benches would reduce the maintenance and is easier to clean off graffiti. Cllr Banks offered to write a full specification.

That Cllr Banks write a specification and the Assistant Town Clerk obtain quotes for submission to the finance committee.

iv THE CUT

Cllr McGregor reported that the Mural is now completed and a great credit to all involved.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that she has requested quotes and that these represent the full scale project which may be scaled back.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Town Clerk contact the tendees to state that this project is being held back at the present.

v SCHEDULE OF MAINTENANCE

Cllr Jones submitted a condition survey to the committee. A couple of additions were made. (2 Park Benches require repainting and picnic benches on Mornington Road in unknown condition).

Some of the maps are up to date but others do not reflect the health centre.

RESOLVED

That the Cllr Robinson contacts the householder in Baring Road to discuss the obscured Cowes sign.

That the Mayor contact former Cllr King to discuss him undertaking some of the

maintenance work which has been highlighted, if needed to advertise the position via the Mayor's column.

That the schedule of maintenance forms the basis of future maintenance.

That Cllr Jones will contact Paper Pallet to discuss town maps.

Cllr Banks left the meeting at 7.37pm

Vi DOG HITCHING POSTS

Two quotes were received by the committee a third supplier had originally quoted but had not confirmed that his quote was for supply and installation and so this was disregarded.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Town Clerk confirms that quote is for two posts and that work will be done strictly to specification.

RECOMMENDED

That Andy Newbald install two posts one by the bin and bench facing the large grassed area and the other at the other end of the play area.

Cllr Banks Returned to the meeting at 7.48pm

vii ROSPA REPORT ON THE SKATE PARK

An executive summary of the ROSPA report was circulated and it highlighted two problems with the skate park. Cllr Banks suggested to JA Dempsey and Mountjoy as potential tenderers to rectify the problem of the transitioning where the ramp has sunk into the ground.

RESOLVED

To ask the skate park cleaner to close the tube ends.

That the Assistant Town clerk contacts the above contractors to get quotation and specification for the remedial works.

Future Agenda Item - Town Maps – Cllr Banks

The Meeting closed at 8.01pm.

CHAIRMAN