

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in the Community Hall at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 20th July 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Ellis, Jones, Mazillius, Robinson,
Sanderson, Walters and Wells.

Presentation – Age Concerns ‘Good Neighbour Scheme’

Councillor McGregor welcomed Mark O’Sullivan from Age Concern IW who had attended to report on their work to develop a Good Neighbour Scheme.

Mark stated that historically Age Concern had provided a shopping and befriending service but the funding has now been withdrawn by the I.W. Council; the two schemes would now be funded by Lloyds and a Comic Relief grant and combined to form the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Age Concern needed a minimum number of 15 volunteers within each area to make the scheme effective and several areas on the Island now have active schemes. Each volunteer had to be interviewed, CRB checked and provide character references; they were then received training before being considered ready to support older people. Tasks undertaken could range from prescription collections to dog walking; specialist volunteers might also provide such services as hair dressing and IT skills. In some areas, volunteers were already undertaking these type of tasks on an informal basis; however, there were distinct advantages of being part of the Age Concern scheme as volunteers would be covered by their public liability insurance. Additionally, maintaining a register of volunteers enabled Age Concern to match tasks to volunteers particularly when there was a surge in need and they could provide cover when necessary.

Age Concern IW was currently trying to promote a Good Neighbour Scheme for Cowes and currently 12 volunteers had enrolled. Mark stated that this type of scheme would allow elderly and more vulnerable residents to remain in their home and it would reduce their loneliness and sense of isolation. It was a preventative scheme that enabled residents to have less statutory support and it would engender a community spirit by encouraging residents to support each other.

Question: Would you explain the health and safety training for volunteers?

Answer: This was covered in the induction training and there would be ongoing volunteer support

Cllr Walters then thanked Mark O’Sullivan for attending the meeting to give such an informative presentation.

6493 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond, Matthews, Mazillius (entered the meeting at 7.52p.m.), Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox.

6494 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

6495 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brown had apologised for his absence.

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

a) The new Cowes High School and some of the problems experienced by local residents during the build. Following meetings with the contractors, he was confident that all issues would be satisfactorily resolved.

- b). That a Planning Breach of Condition Enforcement Notice had been served to a property owner on the Crossfield Estate who had erected a fence without consent; they had until 18th August to either comply or appeal the decision.
- c). That he had received a number of representations from residents opposed to the redevelopment of Cliff Cottage, 8 Cliff Road.
- d). That he had requested members of the Planning Committee visit the site where a 'chalet' had been erected in the rear garden of a property in Ward Avenue; the application was due to be considered by the Planning Committee in August.
- e). That he had received complaints concerning the planting of Eucalyptus and Willow trees on woodland between Baring Road and Princes Esplanade and the impact these trees may have upon ground stability in the area; he had asked both the Tree and Coastal Protection Officers to investigate.
- f). That he had dealt with a variety of other issues and complaints and attended numerous meetings during the last month.

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

- a). That she had received a number of complaints regarding overgrown gardens.
- b). Complaints regarding the accident 'black spot' at the Victoria/Mill Hill Road junction.
- c). Issues surrounding the possible closure of the speech, language and communication needs centre at Love Lane Primary School.
- d). Issues regarding the public slipway at Shepards Wharf.

6496 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sgt. Sizer reported as follows:

- a). That over the last seven week period, the police had experienced 38 incidents of anti-social behaviour emanating from Moira House including thefts, drug use and physical abuse. PC Minka Armitage had worked tirelessly to gather evidence that had enabled the police to obtain a Court Order to close the premises from 7th July - the Order would remain in place until 7th October. Medina Housing, who were the landlords for the property, had worked and co-operated with the police to obtain the closure order.
- b). That the police were experiencing to a lesser extent, anti-social behaviour problems from tenants of a flat in the High Street. They had been working with the landlord regarding an eviction notice; if that failed to work they would use the Disorderly Premises procedure.
- c). That there had been 18 incidents of theft from motor vehicles in Cowes in the last 60 days; it was essential that owners lock their vehicles and take all necessary precaution to prevent this type of crime.
- d). That an unreported serious assault at the Vectis Tavern had been 'picked up' via a PubWatch report. Despite the victim refusing to make a complaint, the perpetrators had been identified; one had been convicted of ABH and given a 18month suspended sentence and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to the victim. They were dealing with police colleagues on the mainland in respect of a second assailant.
- e). That the next Local Action Group meeting would be held on 21st July; it was likely that the Group would identify new priorities as current issues had largely been resolved.

6497 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Environment Officer was on holiday and therefore, not submitted a report.

6498 MINUTES

Councillor Matthews submitted a written statement referring to minute no. 6479 which recorded that 'other Councillors confirmed they had no contact (with Nick Duffill) either' – he should have mentioned that he had had some telephone contact with him. However, he had told him that he had to distance himself from any involvement with him or his associates with respect to Northwood House; he last rang in May and he had not had any contact with him since – nor any at all since 2009 with James Hagan-Sykes who was the author of the Camelot proposal for Northwood House.

RESOLVED

That subject to the inclusion of Councillors Brown, Ellis and Hammond in the list of attendees, the Minutes of the Meetings held on 8th June 2011 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6499 MATTERS ARISING

a). Vacancy – Cowes North Ward (Min. No. 6484b refers)

The Town Clerk reported that two nominations had been received to fill the vacancy for a Town Councillor in the Cowes North Ward and therefore, an election would be held on Thursday, 28th July 2011. In accordance with Town Council instructions, poll cards had been issued and polling on the day would take place in the Cowes Library.

Councillor Birch recommended that poll cards should be sent out much nearer the date of the election rather than at an early stage in the process – the Town Clerk would inform the Electoral Services Manager of this request.

b). Cowes Town Council Quality Status (Min. No. 5958a refers)

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's Quality Parish status expired in September 2011 after a 4 year period and questioned whether or not they should seek re-accreditation; this would entail the Town Clerks completing a new portfolio outlining details of the work of the Town Council. Although there were few material benefits, Quality status would demonstrate that the Town Council was effectively and properly managed which would instil greater confidence and credibility in the eyes of the local community and the principal authority.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council seeks re-accreditation in the Quality Parish Scheme

c). Queens Diamond Jubilee (Min. No. 6420d refers)

Councillor Wells reported that together with a representative from the CBA he had met with the I.W. Council Events Team to discuss the options for a shoreside programme of events to run alongside the Sailing Regatta (organised by Cowes Yacht Clubs) to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee during the weekend of 2nd – 4th June 2012. The I.W. Council had prepared a draft agreement (similar to that they use for Cowes Week) which could be the basis for putting the proposal out to tender in order to run the Shoreside Events on The Parade on a no fee basis. The Town Council/CBA would have responsibility for the tender process and for appointing a relevant operator.

Councillor Wells would like to form a sub-committee comprising members of the Town Council and CBA to agree the terms of the specification and the tendering process.

RESOLVED

That the sub-committee to oversee the shoreside activities for the Queen Diamond Jubilee celebrations will comprise Councillors Banks, Ellis, Robinson, Walters and Wells plus representatives from the CBA.

(Councillor Mazillius entered the meeting at 7.52p.m.)

d). Office accommodation (Min. No. 6429d refers)

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that a number of items of furniture had been obtained from the I.W. Council; however, certain items had not been available including phones, a small vacuum cleaner, H&S posters, first aid kit ect.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase any necessary furniture/equipment required for the new office up to a total value of £200.

6500 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

The Town Council received and noted a report from the Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust.

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.

b). Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee held on 10th June 2011 were received.

c). Library Working Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Library Working Group held on 20th June 2011 were received.

RESOLVED

That the Cowes Town Council Library Working Group hold a Public Meeting to constitute the Supporters Group.

d). Bus Working Group

The Notes of the Driver Assessment Days held on 1st and 2nd July 2011 were received.

The Town Clerk also submitted a copy of a letter written by the Clerk to the Bus Working Group to the Cowes Medical Centre; it was seeking to negotiate a reduced fee for the medical examination that each volunteer driver had to undergo.

e). Acquisitions Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Acquisitions Committee held on 6th July 2011 were received.

f). Town Improvements Committee

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

i). Basketball Court

RESOLVED

- 1). That up to £20,000 of the 'ring fenced' funding for The Cut be transferred to the Basketball project;
- 2). That up to £5,000 from the 2011/12 New Projects budget be allocated to the Basketball project;
- 3). That the Town Council re-tender the project with the architect requesting he revise the specification to a MUGA with lighting and that he liaise with the Planning Department regarding the change but that it remains a two stage development to accommodate the requirement for an archaeological survey of the site prior to commencement;
- 4). That the Town Council advertise in the I.W. County Press inviting tenders for the project; and
- 5). That the Town Council writes to the Police requesting the release of a Crime Prevention grant prior to 30th September 2011.

(Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the grounds he was a potential tenderer for the project and he left the room for this item)

ii). Dog Hitching Posts, Northwood Recreation Ground

RESOLVED

That the Town Council accepts the quotation from A. Newbold Groundwork Services for the supply and installation of two dog hitching posts in Northwood Recreation Ground for the fixed price of £145 plus VAT.

(Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the grounds he had submitted a quotation for the work and he left the room for this item)

g). Northwood House Sub Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group held on 18th July 2011 were received.

6501 FLY TIPPING, ST. MARY'S ROAD CAR PARK

Councillor McGregor reported that the Environment Officer had responded to concerns regarding fly tipping in the St. Mary's Road car park by stating that bi-weekly checks were undertaken and refuse removed if necessary. He advised that the ENO and designated Council staff were the only people who should search refuse for evidence as to who had fly tipped the rubbish.

As the Town Council had highlighted a particular concern the I.W. Council would evaluate the problem on a daily basis for the coming weeks and report back on their findings.

Councillor Robinson stated that he had reported a similar problem that existed in The Arcade which was a gateway for visitors to the town; the I.W. Council would be contacting local residents to remind them not to fly tip in that area.

6502 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a). Details of Urgent Decisions regarding Street Trading Licence for The Proper Pasty Company (IOW) Ltd. (*No objection*) and Sally Phillips for hair wraps during AAM Cowes Week (*No objection*)..

b). Details of the annual Town Mayors reception.

c).*i) Application to vary a premises licence at Bamboo Garden, 7 Mill Hill Road and for a premises licence (amended) for 62 High Street.

*ii). Application for a Street Trading Consent for Pricille Varillon of OC Third Pole Ltd T/A Extreme Sailing Series Race Village, Egypt Point.

d). Reimbursement of the Town and Assistant Town Clerks subscriptions to the I.W. branch of the SLCC in the sum of £10 each.

e)*To consider a request for further yellow line parking restrictions in Arctic Road.

f)*To consider whether or not the Town Council should support the 'Green Town' initiative.

g)*To consider supporting the Leiston Town Council proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act.

h). The Town Clerk's attendance at the National Conference of the SLCC in Reading between the 14th and 16th October.

i). An opportunity for members to review their Register of Financial and Other Interests.

j)*Details of accounts and petty cash payments for the period April to June 2011.

k). 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 the Town Council objects to the application to vary a premises licence in respect of Bamboo Garden on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance. They are concerned by the lateness for the sale of alcohol particularly the 0200hours for AAM Cowes Week and by the possibility of alcohol being sold without a food order and therefore merely being purchased for consumption on the streets;

3). That the Town Council has no objection to the amended application for the grant of a premises licence for 62 High Street;

4). That the Town Council has no objection to the grant of a Street Trading consent for the Extreme Sailing Series Race Village, Egypt Point;

5). That the Town and Assistant Town Clerks subscriptions to I.W. branch of the SLCC be reimbursed by the Town Council;

- 6). That the Town Council supports the request for further yellow line parking restrictions in Arctic Road;
- 7) That Councillors McGregor and Walters will attend the Cowes steering group meeting for the Green Towns initiative and report back to the Town Council;
- 8). That the Town Council notes the proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act from Leiston Town Council;
- 9). That the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to be held in Reading between 14th and 16th October 2011 and that his reasonable expenses and conference fees be met by the Town Council; and
- 10). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period April to June 2011 be noted and confirmed:

BT	Telephone & Broadband	45.43
IW Council	CCTV Licence Fee (Min No 6265a)	3,540.00
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
CAODS	Grant (Min No 6450a)	450.00
Cowes Open Bowls	“ “ “ “	400.00
R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f and 6387c)	220.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
Northwood Hse Charity	Hire of hall	32.00
Carroway	Final account for new play park (Min No 6290b)	1,755.07
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
IW Council	New bench (sponsored by Mrs Effemey)	760.80
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
Wight Business	Stationery	57.23
Bay Tree Florist	Wreath – Blyskawica Commemoration (Min No 6471f)	24.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min Nos 4999f & 6387c)	220.00
Marghams	Skatepark paint	83.04
BT	Telephone and Broadband	46.08
Northwood Hse Charity	Hire of hall	35.00
BTCV	Membership fee (Min No 6471d)	35.00
DMR Engineering	Repairs to skatepark fence	132.00
Sula Products	Councillor nameplate	15.00
BT	Telephone and Broadband	46.03
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Nash Fabrication	Cleaning plaque, The Bandstand	100.00
Bright Brown	Preparation of accounts 2010/11 (Min No 6440c)	400.00
Bright Brown	Internal Audit works (Min No 5364g)	300.00
Aon Insurance	Insurance (Finance Min No 367)	1,933.26
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f & 6387c)	220.00
Playsafety	Annual Inspection of skatepark (Min No 6442c)	162.00
Ryde House Nursery	Compost	33.54
Forest View Nursery	Flower basket arrangement and installation	762.00
IW Junior Basketball Club	Grant (Min No 6485d)	500.00
St Mary’s Church	“ “ “ “	500.00
IW Beacon	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Mark Weldon	Watering charges	738.00
Jane Popov	Expenses re mural, The Cut	346.06
Petty Cash Payments January to March 2011		
John Groves (IW)	Rollers and trays – skatepark	5.55
R. Hendey	Postage April – June	4.84
R. Hendey	Travelling “	52.47

Hursts	Office cleaning materials	7.35
JCB Imaging	Convert tape recording to disc	24.00

6503 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

- a). CCTV (Councillor Walters)
- b). ORP Blyskawica Commemoration 2012 (Councillor Banks)
- c). AAM Cowes Week (Councillor Banks)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.30pm)

CHAIRMAN