

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in the Community Hall at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 7th September 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Sanderson, Walters, Wells and Wilcox (8.12p.m.).

Councillor McGregor welcomed all those present at the September Town Council meeting and in particular Councillor Fuller who had recently been elected as a Town Councillor for the Cowes North ward; she also congratulated Councillor Walters following his recent marriage.

Presentation – Bus Shelter proposals Park/Granville/Terminus Road junction.

Councillor McGregor welcomed Kevin Burton from the I.W. Council who had attended to report on the I.W. Council proposals regarding a shelter and bus infrastructure improvements at the Park/Granville/Terminus Road junction.

Kevin stated that the old enclosed bus shelter had become the focus of anti-social behaviour and had been removed. Two options had been considered for a replacement shelter, Terminus Road and at the existing stop in Park Road. Following extensive consultation it had become apparent that neither option would be welcomed by residents.

The I.W. Council had therefore concluded that leaving the bus stop for buses to Newport in its existing position but without the installation of a shelter and proceeding with the infrastructure improvements which included widening of the pavement on the eastern side of Park Road and moving the bus stop for buses into Cowes to upper Terminus Road on the western side (this would create a further three car parking spaces) would satisfy the concerns for the majority of local residents.

Following much general discussion it was

RESOLVED

To change the order of the agenda and bring forward item 7c regarding this subject which would allow members of the public to comment of the revised proposals.

6504 REVISED PROPOSALS FOR BUS INFRASTRUCTURE, PARK ROAD

There was a large level of representation regarding the scheme; members of the public who commented were happy to accept the revised proposals providing they excluded the installation of a bus shelter.

Councillor McGregor confirmed that no shelter would be provided; the debate only centred on the widening of pavement, moving of bus stop to Terminus Road for buses into Cowes and the creation of extra parking.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council supports the proposals for the infrastructure improvements and the positioning of the bus stops at the Park/Granville/Terminus Road junction and agree with the I.W. Council that no replacement bus shelter be installed at this location.

Cllr Walters then thanked Kevin Burton for attending the meeting to give clarity regarding the I.W. Council proposals and for reassuring many very concerned local residents.

6505 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mazillius and Wilcox who would be late arriving.

6506 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public stated that she was surprised but pleased to see that the tourist information van was still at Fountain Quay following Cowes Week and she hoped that the Town Council would support the continued provision of tourist information as the van was well used by tourists. Councillor McGregor stated that it was a good thing to have a tourist information presence in the town, albeit a reduced service.

6507 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:

- a). The new recycling and waste collection arrangements that would start at the end of January 2012. Every household should have received a questionnaire regarding the changes; it was extremely important that householders fill in and return the questionnaire if they considered their properties to be unsuitable for a wheelie bin.
- b). Works were starting in the area around Sainsbury's in Newport; the finished result would be an extra traffic lane in Hunnyhill, at Sainsbury's and outside the Red Cross hall.
- c). That all the No Cycling signs had been removed in the High Street; she had ascertained that there was not a specific prohibition of cycling in the High Street and therefore they could not be replaced until a Traffic Order was in place.

Councillor Brown reported as follows:

- a). That a detailed consultation took place regarding recycling and waste collection arrangements; young people had been very positive about the changes and for dealing properly with waste.
- b). That the I.W. Council was on-budget for achieving their very difficult targets for the current financial year with the minimum possible impact on direct services.
- c). That he had received a large number of representations regarding the bus stop proposals at the Park Road/Terminus Road junction; he was confident that a correct decision had been reached in approving the infrastructure changes whilst also opting for no replacement bus shelter in Park Road.

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

- a). His election to the Town Council.
- b). The Cowes Community Bus which started in service on 5th September.
- c). That he was actively engaged with both Southern Water and the Environment Agency regarding the bathing water quality of local beaches.
- d). That he had been informed of an application to install a radio mast on the access road to Cowes Golf Club.
- e). That he had had a meeting with residents and the I.W. Community Club regarding fly tipping of rubbish on the site.
- f). That the Planning Committee had approved a chalet in the garden of 25 Ward Avenue which was visible from Crossfield Avenue; Planners did impose a number of conditions to ensure the buildings impact was reduced.
- g). That he had dealt with numerous other miscellaneous incidents during July and August.

Councillor Mazillius had submitted a written report referring to the following;

- a). That an Independent Inspector had been appointed to undertake the Island Plan Core Strategy Examination.
- b). That there had been a high drop out rate of volunteer drivers for the Community Bus Service and therefore, more were needed. He had passed the first three 'knowledge and perception' tests and was now under driver tuition on a 40' coach prior to his test.
- c). That residents should take care before agreeing to have electricity solar panels on the roofs of their properties; problems could arise if they wished to sell their houses unless the new owners agreed to continue to host the roof panels as per the original contract.

- d). That another marvellous AAM Cowes Week had been enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Its continued expansion and the increased presence of 'star' celebrities helped to publicise the Island as a tourist destination and brought much needed economic benefits to local shops and businesses.
- e). That residents should be aware of the need to ensure hedges are cut back at this time of year.
- f). That he was pleased to learn that a follow up test by the Environment Agency showed that the water quality at Cowes beach was of sufficient standard to pass the test after inexplicably failing in early August.
- g). That in respect of Library 'late return fines', there would be an amnesty until 3rd October for the late return of books and DVD's.

6508 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sgt. Sizer reported as follows:

- a). That Cowes would be losing PC Mark Thomas towards the end of November and his post would not be filled; he would be planning to negate the effects of this loss as much as possible.
- b). In the summer the police were set priorities by the Local Action Group; the priorities centred on car crime and anti-social behaviour.
- c). In respect of car crime, the main perpetrator had been sent to prison although he would be released shortly. Since this became a priority there had been a very low level of car crime in Cowes although two other people had also been successfully prosecuted for breaking in and taking away a car.
- d). That there had been a serious assault outside the Vectis Tavern some months ago; although the victim did not wish to support the police in a prosecution, it had been such a serious assault that he had eventually been persuaded to co-operate and the perpetrator had been sentenced to a year in prison.
- e). There was a robbery on Cowes Green during AAM Cowes Week; a relatively isolated incident.
- f). Compared to the previous year, crime statistics revealed that total reported crime was down by 28.4%, public order and assaults down by 23%, criminal damage down by 29.1%, vehicle crime down by 15% and house burglary down by 16.7%. Crime detection rates in Cowes were the best in the Island and Eastern Hampshire.
- g). That due to government cutbacks, the Hampshire force would have to make savings of between £40m – £50m by 2015.
- h). That glass had been smashed in a number of local bus shelters.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk writes to the Chief Constable stressing the Town Council's support for the local Safer Neighbourhood Team whilst also expressing concern at the loss of one officer from that team; the Town Council hoped that there would be no further reductions in the future.

(Councillor Wilcox entered the meeting at 8.12p.m.)

6509 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Neil Perry, Environment Officer had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- a). That generally everything was running well in Cowes; there had certainly been less graffiti to deal with.
- b). That he had carried out regular targeted patrols throughout July regarding fly tipping at St. Mary's Road car park.
- c). That on 5th September, together with his Senior Environment Officer, the Town Mayor and Councillor Walters they had inspected the bin area at St. Mary's Road car park; they had agreed not to consider any changes to present arrangements until after the general change over to wheelie bins in the New Year.
- d). That the bench at the bottom of Market Hill had been removed for repair; it would be reinstated within the next few days.

6510 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2011 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6511 MATTERS ARISING

a). Poll cards – Cowes North Ward (Min. No. 6499a refers)

The Town Clerk reported that he had written to the Elections Manager stating that when poll cards were requested for contested elections, they should be sent out much nearer to the election in the hope that this would encourage more electors to vote.

The response to this request had been that poll cards had to be sent out as soon as practicable; the cards had to include deadlines by which electors could apply for postal votes which was two weeks and one day before the day of poll meaning the cards had to be sent around three weeks before the poll.

b). Cowes Town Council Quality Status (Min. No. 6499b refers)

The Town Mayor referred to a previous decision that the Town Council should seek re-accreditation of their Quality Council status; the next Quality Accreditation Panel would be held in October which was not a feasible date for the Town Council bearing in mind the significant work required, they would therefore, be seeking to re-submit for the panel on 26th January 2012.

In checking the requirements for the portfolio it had become apparent that the Town Council should inform local residents of the annual meeting, including accounts, which in previous years had been achieved by taking out additional space in the local Beacon magazine. There may also be other limited expenditure incurred in the re-accreditation process.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council take additional space in the Beacon magazine for reporting the annual meeting and that the Town Clerk be authorised to incur any miscellaneous small items of expenditure in connection with the re-accreditation process.

(Councillor Hammond left the meeting at 8.50p.m.)

6512 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). Community Forum Transport Meetings

Notes of Meetings held on 27th July, 1st August and 5th September 2011 in connection with the Community Forum Bus Schemes were received.

It had been agreed at the meeting on 27th July that a Management Committee be established whose role would be to oversee the Co-ordinator and the work that he/she does. They should meet approximately 3 times a year and the Committee should consist of two representatives from Southern Vectis and one representative from each of the approved schemes.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ellis be nominated as the Town Council representative on the Community Bus Management Committee.

c). Green Towns Information Evening

Notes of a Green Towns Information Meeting held on 17th August 2011 were received.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council fully supports Cowes becoming a Green Town; and
- 2). That Councillor Brown be appointed as the Town Council representative to the Cowes Green Town Steering Group with Councillor McGregor as her Deputy.

d). Acquisitions Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Acquisitions Committee held on 30th August 2011 were received.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council amends Standing Order 1.1 to read that ‘Ordinary Meetings of the Council shall be held at 7.00pm on the first Thursday of every month unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting’; and
- 2). That the Town Council will in future hold their meeting at the St. Mary’s Church Hall.
(Councillor Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox declared personal and prejudicial interests as they financially supported St. Mary’s Church and left the room for this item)
(Councillor Banks declared a personal interest as he was Chair of the Friends of St. Mary’s Church)

e). Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1st September 2012 were received.

Requests for Grants:

a). Cowes Sports Football Club.

To assist with a project to tarmac an area of the football club car park.

b). Cowes Heritage.

Towards rental charges for Regatta House for their annual Heritage exhibition.

c). The Sea Cadets.

Towards the balance of funds required to enable the building of their new headquarters.

d). Association of Sail Training Organisations.

Funding of prizes for youngsters taking part in the annual sailing event.

e). Cowes Concert Band.

To assist with the funding of new band instruments.

f). Cowes Town Regatta Committee.

Towards the Cowes Town Regatta which is held during AAM Cowes Week.

g). I.W. Musical Competition Festival.

Towards the general running of the Festival including their Bursary Scheme.

h). Victim Support.

Towards the training of volunteers.

RESOLVED

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

	£
Cowes Sports Football Club	500
Cowes Heritage	200
I.W. Musical Competition Festival	50 (in future, the application form should be fully completed including section 4)

- 2). That a grant of £500 be made available to the Sea Cadets providing building works for their new premises commenced prior to the end of March 2012;
- 3). That the Town Council provides up to £250 towards ASTO prizes which should preferably be purchased in Cowes;
- 4). That subject to the receipt of a corrected application form, a grant of £250 be made available to the Cowes Concert Band provided their new instruments were ordered before the end of March 2012;
- 5). That as the Cowes Town Regatta had already taken place, no grant be awarded on this occasion. The Town Council recommends that the Regatta Committee make their grant application during April in future years; and
- 6). That no grant be awarded to Victim Support.
(Councillor Sanderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant application from the Cowes Town Regatta Committee as he was a member of that organisation.)

(Councillor Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant application from Cowes Heritage as he was the Treasurer of that organisation.)

(Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest in the grant application from the I.W. Musical Competition Festival as her daughter took part in the competition.)

(Councillors Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox declared personal and prejudicial interests in the application from the Sea Cadets as they financially supported that organisation and ASTO as the Rotary Club of which she was a member, supported them and they left the room for those items)

(Councillor Wells declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from ASTO as he was still listed as a Committee member on their headed paper)

f). Northwood House Sub Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group held on 5th September 2011 were received.

g). Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee held on 5th September 2011 were received.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council applies for a Road Closure for The Parade between Watch House Lane and a line from the western end of the bandstand to the eastern end of the Royal London flagpole mast. The Road Closure to run from 31st May to 7th June 2012 to allow 2 days either side of the programme of events for setting up/dismantling; and
- 2). That the Town Clerk be authorised to advertise seeking ‘expressions of interest’ from prospective tenderers to run the shore side programme of events.

6513 CCTV

Councillor Walters stated that the Town Council had paid, and continued to pay via the annual licence fee, a significant contribution towards CCTV for the town; however, when the Town Council had been discussing matters affecting the High Street including civic and planning issues, he had sought to view CCTV footage but had been refused access. He had been given the impression it was purely for police use.

Councillor Wilcox referred to the Human Rights Act and the general public’s right to privacy; this was confirmed by Sgt. Sizer who stated that the rules and regulations around surveillance were incredibly complicated and that there was no automatic right to view footage even for the police. Councillor Walters confirmed that there had been an acceptable outcome; when local residents had complained to him about noise and the overflow of customers into the High Street late at night the CCTV Manager had agreed to forward that concern to his team to monitor the area in question. The CCTV Manager had agreed to contact the police and/or the licensing department to discuss the way forward if there appeared to be a problem.

6514 ORP BLYSKAWICA COMMEMMORATION

Councillor Banks reported on the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the defence of Cowes by the Polish destroyer ORP Blyskawica to be held between 4th – 7th May 2012; a full programme of events had been planned by the organising committee for both Cowes and East Cowes. Funds for the event were being sought from various bodies and Red Funnel had already agreed to play a major role in assisting with travel costs, publicity ect. Nevertheless, further funding would be required before the Society could ‘firm up’ on many of the arrangements. In previous years, the Town Councils on either side of the Medina had agreed to underwrite the events and Councillor Banks questioned how best to submit an application to seek to secure a commitment from the Town Council to underwrite the 2012 commemoration.

RESOLVED

That the ORP Blyskawica Organising Committee submit their request for the Town Council to underwrite the 2012 Commemoration event on the official Town Council grant application form. (Councillors Brown, Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox left the meeting at 9.32p.m.)

6515 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED

That in accordance with SO 9.1.8, Standing Orders were suspended to enable the remaining items of business listed on the agenda to be transacted.

6516 AAM COWES WEEK

The Town Clerk had circulated to all Members, copies of a paper which had been prepared by Cowes Week Ltd reviewing AAM Cowes Week 2011.

The report was received and noted.

6517 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a). Details of Urgent Decisions as follows:

- i) Street Trading Licence for Dominos Takeaway (*No objection subject to conditions*)
- ii) Premises Licence for Bamboo Garden (*No objection following alterations to application*)
- iii). Isle of Pink Breast Cancer Campaign (*No objection to decorations and banners*).
- iv). Consultation document regarding a Protocol between Town and Parish Council and the I.W. Council (*No objection but questioned what happens to those Parish Councils that are not members of IWALC*)

b). Details of the I.W. Playing Fields AGM.

c). *Consultation regarding the PCT proposals for developing Safe and Sustainable Acute Services in the South Central Region.

d)*Details of the Isle of Wight PCT decision regarding NHS (Pharmaceutical Services).

e). Notification of the Cowes Library Information Evening on 14th September at 7pm.

f). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

g). Request from Cowes Youth Forum for use of skate park for SK8 Event to be held on 24th September.

(Councillor Fuller declared a personal interest in a) above as he was a member of the I.W. Council licensing committee)

(Councillors McGregor and Wells declared personal interests in item g) above as they were both members of the Cowes Youth Forum)

(* 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 respond individually to the PCT consultation; and
- 3). That the Town Council approves the use of the skate park for the SK8 Event on 24th September and agrees to extra cleaning of the adjacent toilets on that day.

6518 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

a). The future format for I.W. Councillor and other reports (Councillor Walters)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.47pm)

CHAIRMAN

