



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 2 October 2012.

Present: - Councillor McGregor (chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Matthews and Wells

431 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones and Walters

432 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

433 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

434 UPDATE ON THE OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

Lightmains have been contracted to provide and install the equipment. The lease is currently under way. The location is behind the changing rooms adjacent to the Playbuilder Park. The grant of £6, 000 is waiting to be drawn down on completion.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to contact the Mayor to ensure that this project is mentioned in his beacon article.

RECOMMENDATION: Once the lease has been agreed by full Town Council, the Mayor and the Assistant Town Clerk have the authority to sign the grant paperwork on behalf of Cowes Town Council.

435 UPDATE ON THE BANDSTAND

Councillor Banks had prepared a written report about the history of the project. The Bandstand is not well used by the public and the consideration of an awning was first suggested in 2005. Some research was completed, but when the Village Green status was announced in 2008, further investigations were undertaken with IW

Council about how this would affect the project. Following a letter from IW Council Legal Services, it was established that a temporary awning would be allowed. It would need permission from IW Council and Planning Consent. The main problems with the Bandstand are not just associated with the weather; there is also the problem of car parking and uncomfortable seating. If Cowes Town Council went ahead with the project, some £60,000 to £100,000 would be required plus on-going maintenance and insurance costs. After much discussion it was decided that Cowes Town Council should not consider an awning for the Bandstand as a stand-alone project but to work with IW Council to consider a long term project for the re-development of the Parade into a tourist attraction with enhanced seating, paving (possibly cobbles) and a range of shops and restaurants.

ACTION: Councillor Wells to contact IW Council – Cllr George Brown, John Metcalfe and Stuart Love to discuss the long term future of the area and to seek possible funding streams (e.g. EU funding) for any project.

436 UPDATE ON THE HORIZON PLAQUE

Councillor Matthews had provided a list of items that could actually be seen from the Parade, confirming this is the essence of a Horizon Plaque. The list looking from west to east is: Royal Yacht Squadron, New Forest National Park, Fawley Oil Refinery, Calshot Tower, Southampton Water, Brambles Bank, Trinity Landing, Lee-on-Solent, Spinnaker Tower, Old Castle Point (East Cowes), Springhill Convent, Columbine Works, New RNLI station. There will be gaps, so it was suggested that the Cowes Town Council Crest could be the centre piece and other historical features (such as the Blyskawica, Ark and Dove etc.) could also be used – this could be discussed and agreed after a main design drawn up.

RECOMMENDATION: The list supplied by Cllr Matthews of items to go on the Horizon Plaque should be the final list and a panoramic view design produced by A.F.X Design

ACTION: Councillor Matthews will talk to AFX Design to ascertain whether any further costs likely to be incurred for producing a panoramic view type Horizon Plaque.

437 UPDATE ON THE CUT

A meeting had been arranged with Councillor McGregor (Chair of Town Improvements, Sue Waters (Assistant Town Clerk), Kevin Burton (Highways, IW Council), Iain Thornton (Highways, IW Council) and Martin Hayles (appointed project manager for The Cut). Cowes Police and Cowes Business Association were also invited to attend. After much discussion, IW Council advised that there is no money in their budget to pay for the lowering/raising of the bollards and that no other

towns on the Isle of Wight have bollards to impose the pedestrianised areas of High Streets. The also advised that all roads and pavements on the Isle of Wight were now going to be upgraded maintained by the PFI project. This could have financial implications for anyone upgrading areas (such as The Cut).

RECOMMENDATION: To delay any further discussion on the project until advised by the Isle of Wight Council Highways department about the full financial implications of the PFI project.

438 UPDATE ON FESTIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TOWN

Councillor Jones was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update about the joint project of Christmas Lights between Cowes Business Association and Cowes Town Council.

The Town Improvements Committee previously discussed several smaller Christmas trees spread throughout the Town rather than just the two large ones which have traditionally been sited outside The Vectis Tavern and in Franski Place. The Assistant Town Clerk has contacted the manager of The Vectis who is a happy for a tree to be located there as usual. There is a sleeve in The Cut, so quotes were sought from SSE for two additional sleeves on The Bandstand and at the bottom of Market Hill. This will cost £919.70 per sleeve.

RECOMMENDATION: That one additional sleeve is installed this year at the bottom of Market Hill and the second one will be discussed next year.

As the Town may be decorated for Christmas the summer bunting will need to be removed. A quote for removal of the bunting from Bison Entertainment who installed the bunting has been obtained for £500. They have already had to take down a section outside Hurst's which came down in the strong winds at a cost of £50 which will be taken from the quotation given to remove all the bunting.

RECOMMENDATION: That Bison Entertainment is commissioned to remove the bunting after the October half term holiday in preparation for the festive lights at a cost of £450.

439 THE WISHING WELL

This item was held over to the next meeting.

440 THE FLAG POLES ON THE PARADE

This item was held over to the next meeting.

441 THANK YOU TO BILL ROGERS

Councillor Jones had advised that a resident of Cowes (Bill Rogers) had grown 120 wallflowers on his allotment which he has donated to the town as well as planting them.

ACTION: The Mayor to write a formal letter of thanks to Bill Rogers.

442 FINGER POSTS

Councillors Jones and Matthews have been trying to remove redundant signs (eg. the Police Station and Tourist Information) from the seven finger posts in the town. This has proved very difficult as the fixing has become tarnished and will not turn.

RECOMMENDATION: That DMR Engineering are appointed to loosen the finger posts and the redundant items be removed up to a maximum cost of £400.

Meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN