

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Ellis, Fuller (7.53p.m.), Jones, Matthews, Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Sanderson, Walters, Wells and Wilcox.

### **PRESENTATION – ISLAND YOUTH WATER ACTIVITIES CENTRE (IYWAC)**

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Mike Acton (Centre Manager) and Martin Bean (Vice Chair of Trustees) from IYWAC to the meeting; they had attended to outline the work they did at the Centre and their hopes for the future.

Mr. Acton stated that IYWAC operated from the former Youth Club hut, a small wooden building in Arctic Road where they catered for water activities including dinghy sailing, paddle sports, yachting and powerboating. They were supported by the course fees they charged, their own fundraising activities, donations and grants and they worked with schools/youth groups, the disaffected, disadvantaged, disabled and with individuals. They were able to offer courses to 'After School Clubs', in yacht racing, Duke of Edinburgh's awards, instructor training; several of their staff had been employed following the successful completion of their training at the centre.

They would again be offering a full programme of activities during the year including:

- Queens Diamond Jubilee Regatta
- ASTO London to Portland race
- Celebration events for London 2012
- AST small ships

However, they were constrained in their work by the facilities they could offer; there were insufficient toilet and shower facilities and the changing rooms were too small and not of sufficient standard. The Trustees had resolved to improve this situation in 2012 possibly by seeking use of part or all of the Youth and Community Centre that was now surplus to I.W. Council requirements; to this end had lodged an Expression of Interest for a Community Asset Transfer.

A number of questions were then put to Mr. Acton including

**Q.** What does IYWAC provide that UKSA does not?

**A.** There was obviously some overlap – IYWAC did work more with Island youngsters, were a cheaper option than UKSA and it was also important that youngsters had a choice.

**Q.** Was there more of a youth club feel for the youngsters using IYWAC?

**A.** Yes, particularly with the arranged activities on Thursday and Friday evenings when 24 youngsters attend on a regular basis throughout the summer months; there was also a waiting list for these sessions.

Councillor Walter then thanked the guests for attending to give such a detailed presentation.

He stated that from his own experience the care and sensitivity shown to youngsters while they were at sea had been obvious. The important programme of activities offered by IYWAC was of great benefit not only to the town and the Island generally but more importantly to the many youngsters that received the Centre's help.

### **6576 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Fuller had apologised that owing to another engagement he would be late attending the meeting.

## 6577 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

## 6578 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

- a). That following meetings with Highways and representatives from Cowes Enterprise College a crossing point would be positioned opposite the entrance to the new school in Crossfield Avenue adjacent to The Green and a proposal for a crossing in Ward Avenue had been circulated for consultation.
- b). That following requests from residents it was hoped that two community bus services a day could be diverted from Cockleton Lane to serve Rew Street and Hillis Corner.
- c). That he has not received any complaints regarding the changes to the waste collection and recycling arrangements.
- d). That the Independent Remuneration Panel had proposed that I.W. Councillor Allowances would be frozen for the coming year.
- e). That he had received a number of complaints over delays caused by the roadworks on the main Cowes – Newport road.
- f). That he had dealt with numerous other miscellaneous incidents during January.

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

- a). That in respect of the Economic Improvement Fund it was possible that there would be unused balances from other Town and Parish Councils which could be applied to those Councils showing an excess of valid projects.
- b). That he wished to thank motorists and bus passengers for their patience whilst substantial repairs were ongoing on the main Newport – Cowes road; the work was due to be completed by 10<sup>th</sup> February..
- c). That the issue of large trailers parked on busy roads had been raised by residents; the police had inspected two particular instances and advised that they were parked legally and could not be the subject of enforced removal.
- d). That the Friends of Cowes Library would be holding a variety of events on 4<sup>th</sup> February to mark National Libraries Day.
- e). That the new waste collection and recycling arrangements had commenced; he had dealt with only a few teething problems. It was essential to recycle as much household ‘rubbish’ as possible not only for the environmental advantages but because it would save severe environmental penalties from landfill deposits.
- f). That he had been working on the viability of a Jubilee Charity Concert at the Yacht Haven Event Centre on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee; details were well advance for what could be a landmark concert and full details would be presented in the coming month.
- g). That he also dealt on a regular basis with the numerous enquiries from residents reporting road damage, uncut hedges, dog fouling, planning and other council service queries.
- h). That the Liz Earle company was to build a new factory in Ryde that could eventually lead to employment for up to 500 people.
- i). That the NHS Trust had dropped a proposal to move the centre for all vascular surgery to St. Mary’s; it would remain at two hospitals, the Queen Alexandra at Portsmouth and at St. Mary’s..
- j). That although changes to the Blue Badge regulations had necessitated a fee increase from £2 to £10 it was now a much more complicated procedure for their issue.

**Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had submitted a written report referring to:**

- a). That there had been numerous complaints regarding dog fouling around areas at Arctic Park and Gordon Road. She had requested the Dog Wardens increase the frequency of their patrols in these areas. She also hoped that the Town Council could expedite the dog signs that had been agreed for Arctic Park.

- b). That works to the cycle track had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> February; the four separate phase of work would take approximately 5 weeks to complete.
- c). That because it was at risk of flooding, Cowes was one of seven areas chosen for a three year project under the heading Coastal Community – adapting to change.
- d). That a local company had signed a contract to manufacture 4 further vessels for use in the Off Shore wind turbine industry.

#### **6579 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

**Sgt. Sizer had apologised that neither he nor any of his team had been available to attend; he had submitted a written report as follows:**

- a). That PC Minka Armitage had had a major operation on 31<sup>st</sup> January; she was currently recovering at home and likely to be absent from work for a few months.
- b). Crime statistics for Cowes in 2011 compared to 2010 were:
  - Total reported crimes had fallen from 681 to 518 (down by 23.9%)
  - Public order from 178 to 155 (down by 12.9%)
  - Criminal damage from 178 to 95 (down by 46.6%)
  - Vehicle crime from 64 to 35 (down by 45%)
  - House burglary from 29 to 22 (down by 24.1%)

The detection rate for all crimes in Cowes was well above the Constabulary average with approximately 30% of all reported crime being detected.

It was agreed that the Town Mayor would send a card conveying the Town Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery to PC Minka Armitage.

#### **6580 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

The Town Clerk had been unable to contact the Environment Officer and therefore no report was available.

#### **6581 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **6582 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a). Assistant Town Clerk (Min. No. 6566a refers)**

The Town Clerk reported that seventeen applications had been received for the post of Assistant Town Clerk; the sub group had met earlier that day and had selected a shortlist of six candidates for interview on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

##### **b). Cowes War Memorial (Min. No. 6572c refers)**

The Town Clerk had circulated correspondence from a local resident requesting his grandfathers name (Michael Nolan) be added to the Cowes War Memorial; he lived in Shide, had been injured in 1916 at the Battle of the Somme but had not died until 1947.

Councillor Banks had stated that the local was memorial recorded only the names of Cowes residents at the time of conflict. Also, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission did not record names on memorials unless injuries sustained in conflict led to the death of that person within a two year period of the injury being sustained.

Additionally, the Town Council had to determine who was ultimately responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial. It now sat on private land in Northwood Park and had been cared for by successive local authorities.

Finally, the Royal British Legion had requested the Town Council re-consider the addition of a wire around the memorial to prevent the poppy wreaths being blown over; this idea had been considered by the Town Council at their March 2011 meeting and had been rejected.

Councillor Banks offered to install a piano wire around the memorial.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Clerk writes to Michael Nolan's grandson detailing the reasons for the request for the addition of his grandfathers name on the Cowes War Memorial being refused;
- 2). That the Town Clerk writes to the I.W. Council with a copy to Councillor Brown in a attempt to clarify ongoing responsibility for the war memorial; and
- 3). That the Town Council gratefully accepts the offer from Councillor Banks to install wire around the memorial.

**c). Quality Status re-accreditation (Min. No. 6566e refers)**

The Town Mayor stated that the portfolio in respect of the Town Council's re-accreditation as a Quality Council had now been submitted to the Adjudication Panel and together with the Town Clerk she had attended an interview on 26<sup>th</sup> January; following a number of searching questions, the panel had elected to recommend the Town Council retain their Quality status. They were particularly impressed with the consultation work the Town Council had undertaken with local schools in respect of the various projects that had been undertaken. The Chairman of the panel had requested he be permitted to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to present the Quality Parish certificate.

**d). Public Convenience cleaning contract (Min. No. 5450b refers)**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the I.W. Council Principal Waste Contract Officer which stated that the company operating the public convenience cleaning contract had gone into administration and their staff had been made redundant on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 1.00p.m. He was endeavouring to find an alternative contractor; in the meantime he had been in discussion with Island cleaning companies to assess whether any had surplus capacity to undertake 'emergency' cleans to keep open as many toilets particularly in principle towns. Those toilets taken over by Town and Parish Council's may not be cleaned and they should therefore, be monitored for possible hygiene issues.

Councillor Mazillius was able to give an updated position; he stated that negotiations with an Island based cleaning company were at an advanced stage and that an announcement should be made in the next week.

**f) Enhancement scheme, Park/Granville/Terminus/Union roads junction (Min. No. 6504 refers)**

The Town Mayor stated that the I.W. Council were proposing to undertake footway widening and enhancement works at the junction of Park/Granville/Terminus/Union Roads commencing on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February; the works were scheduled to last for a period of 4 weeks and they were seeking Town Council support for the scheme. The works were in accordance with the proposals outlined by Kevin Burton at the September 2011 Town Council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council fully supports the proposals for the footway widening and enhancement works at the junction of Park/Granville/Terminus/Union Roads.

**g). Cowes Week Ltd. (Min. No. 6573 refers)**

Councillor Walters referred to Town Council's decision at the January meeting not to support Cowes Week Ltd. with their application to register Cowes Week as their trade mark; he requested that the Intellectual Property Office be notified of that decision.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk notify the Intellectual Property Office of the Town Council decision not to support the Cowes Week application to register Cowes Week as their trade mark.

## 6583 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](http://www.northwoodhouse.org/news).

### b). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were received.

#### i). Economic Improvement Fund

##### **Northwood Recreation Ground Improvements**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • MUGA (shortfall on funding required)                       | £11,500 |
| • Toilets (total repair works required £6,581)               | £ 3,290 |
| • Replacement skatepark fence (total cost £5,800)            | £ 2,900 |
| • 2 Picnic benches adjacent to play area (total cost £3,210) | £ 1,605 |

##### **Nunnery Steps, Northwood Park**

- |                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Refurbishment (total cost £12,624) | <u>£ 6,312</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|

(Confirmation of match funding by the Trust and a commitment to deliver the project had been received from the Trustees)

TOTAL	£25,607
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### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That Cowes Town Council applies for £25,607 from the Economic Improvement Fund;
- 2). That the Nunnery Steps project be included with the projects identified for Northwood Recreation Ground in the overall bid for Economic Improvement Funding;
- 3) That the Town Council seeks the approval of all I.W. Council members for Cowes for all of the projects to be submitted for Economic Improvement Funding prior to submission of their application; and
- 4). That should insufficient funding be forthcoming, the I.W. Council be requested to seek the advice of the Town Council as to which of the projects should be trimmed in order to meet the allocation. (Councillors Fuller, Mazillius and Peacey-Wilcox as I.W. Councillors, declared personal interests in this item)

#### ii) Queens Diamond Jubilee

### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council agrees in principle to the proposal for the installation of a horizon plaque on The Parade to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee; and
- 2). That subject to a maximum cost of £500, the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint a local graphic designer to produce a scale drawing of a suitable horizon plaque.

#### iii). MUGA

The Town Mayor reported that M.J Hayles Architectural had been required to prepare revised drawing and amend the specification and schedule of works in respect of the tender for the MUGA at an additional charge of £573 plus VAT

### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council approves the additional payment of £573 to M.J. Hayles Architectural in respect of the additional work required to the MUGA tender document.

## 6584 SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The Town Clerk reported that in accordance with Standing Order No. 10 a written notice bearing the names of four members of the Town Council had requested that in light of additional information, the Council reconsider their decision in respect of the accessibility crossing point on The Parade.

The Town Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter from Kevin Burton (Highways and Transport) which stated that he had re-visited The Parade to evaluate alternative options for the crossing. The suggestion from the Town Council that the crossing be moved to the north closer to the Royal Yacht Squadron was not suitable as its location would require the mobility impaired to transit the western footway across an access to a block of flats. A crossing further north would also expose pedestrians to the risk of two way traffic at a point where visibility to the south would be restricted by the natural layout of the building line. Furthermore, the proposed works would have no material impact on the AAM Cowes Week infrastructure.

Councillor Banks outlined a variety of reasons in favour of his original suggestion that the crossing be moved to the north of the I.W. Council proposed site.

Following much discussion it was

### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Clerk forwards all of Councillor Banks comments to Kevin Burton prior to requesting a site visit with him to finally agree the most appropriate site on The Parade for a disability access crossing point; and
- 2). That the Town Clerk notifies all Councillors of any arrangement so that those able and wishing to attend are able to do so.

## 6585 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a). To consider whether or not the Town Council supports the Community Asset Transfer application from IYWAC in respect of the redundant Cowes Youth Club premises.

b). The renewal of the Town Council's registration with the Information Commissioners Office under the Data Protection Act 1998.

c). \*To consider and comment on the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) (One Way Traffic) Order No. 1 2012

d). The appointment of ROSPA for the 2012 Annual Skatepark Inspection.

e). \*Notification from the Diocese of Portsmouth in respect of the St. Faith Parish Church and to consider any views or proposals that the Town Council may have in respect of that building

f). Notification of a follow-up meeting for local businesses; this will be held at the Cowes Yacht Haven Events Centre on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 6p.m.

g). \*A proposal to install a zebra crossing in Ward Avenue

h). \*Details of miscellaneous correspondence

(Councillor Walters declared a personal interest in item c) above as he was a personal friend of the owner of the property who would be affected by the Traffic Order)

### **RESOLVED**

1). That as the Town Council is unaware of other expressions of interest that may be submitted in respect of a Community Asset Transfer of the Cowes Youth Club premises, they make no declaration of support regarding IYWAC's application at this stage;

2). That the Town Clerk be authorised to renew the Town Council's registration under the Data Protection Act 1998;

3). That the Town Council supports the changes outlined in the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) (One Way Traffic) Order No. 1 2012;

4). That the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint ROSPA to undertake the annual inspection of the skatepark; and

5). That the Town Council supports the I.W. Council proposal for the installation of a zebra crossing in Ward Avenue.

**6586 FORMER TOWN CLERK**

Councillor Mazillius referred to the sad news of the recent death of John Pearcey, the former and founder Clerk of Cowes Town Council whose funeral would be held in St. Mary's Church at 1p.m. on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that the Town Mayor would send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Pearcey on behalf of the Town Council.

Members stood to observe one minutes silence as a mark of respect.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.16pm)

**CHAIRMAN**