

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 6pm.

Present: Councillor McGregor (chairman)

Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Matthews, Walters and Wells

In attendance: (Non-Voting) Sanderson.

359 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones and Peacey - Wilcox

360 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 30th January 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

361 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Skatepark fence and the Picnic benches and left the room for these items.

362 UPDATE OF PROJECTS IN NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

- MUGA

Councillor McGregor advised that the contractors will be starting on 27/02/12, aiming to complete in 2 weeks, This is providing the lease from the IW Council is confirmed by then. The solicitors from Cowes Town Council and IW Council are in regular contact and a 25 year lease has been agreed. Martin Hayles will visit the site on a daily basis. Councillor Banks will liaise with him to ensure all in order.

An official opening was discussed – possibly in early April. It was suggested that a local sporting celebrity be asked to open the event – possibly Lee Bradbury, Danny Briggs or Keith Newbury. Councillor McGregor advised that Pete Almond and the young people who play basketball should also be invited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 A maximum of £200 would be set aside for the opening ceremony which will include a plaque.
- 2 The Town Council increases its Public Liability Insurance from £5,000,000 to £10,000, 000.

- Toilets

An application has been made to EIF, IW Council advised that £6,500 will be required to bring them up to standard. All agreed they need to be opened in time the official opening of the Muga.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Town Council ring fence £3,300 from this year's budget towards the cost of toilet refurbishment.

- Skatepark Fence

Three quotes have been obtained ranging from £2,400 to £5,800. Confirmation that all the quotes are for the same specification will be obtained and brought back to the next meeting.

- Picnic benches

Again EIF has been sought. 3 quotes have been obtained. G Banks £1,550 for the concrete pads plus £1,660 for two benches making a total of £3,200, Lightbown's £1,050 for the pads plus £870 for the benches making a total of £1,920 and Broxap quoted £1198 for the benches with no quote for the concrete pads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lightbown's quote to be accepted.

363 AWNING FOR THE BANDSTAND

IW Council granted the bandstand Village status which restricts the type of work which can be completed. An awning is described as a temporary structure should be allowed. It would remain in place all year. Councillor Banks advised that some companies have offered to visit the site and provide a free quotation. It was agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council (John Metcalf) to obtain clarification that this will be allowed before obtaining any quotes or looking at possible designs.

364 HORIZON PLAQUE FOR THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Town Clerk has engaged a Graphic Designer as agreed by the Town Council (AFX Design) who should have produced a design for consideration by the end of the month at the agreed cost of £500. Much discussion took place regarding the original Victoria Plaque which was replaced by a previous council. A new plaque had been made by A.J. Wells, but it was agreed that the font and design were not in keeping with the previous design. It was agreed that quotes would be obtained both for the new plaque and the original one in various mediums, such as enamel, stone, slate etc. and bring back to the March meeting.

Councillor Wells declared a personal interest in this item as he has undertaken some unpaid work for AFX Design.

365 REPORT REGARDING MORNINGTON WOODS

A number of complaints have been received from residents surrounding the Mornington Woods car park. Mornington has Village Green Status, but, the car park appears to be used by a building contractor for storage. Richard Day (Chairman of Cowes Community Partnership) who has lead a working party to upgrade the woods has met with Lee Matthew from the IW council but is awaiting a response. Councillor Fuller is also involved in resolving the issue.

366 ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS TO ENHANCE THE TOWN

Due to lack of time, this item was moved to the next meeting.

367 REPLACEMENT OF TOWN MAPS

One quote has been obtained from Biltmore for £260 for the design plus £100 each for 8 new town maps (this would not include fixing in the frame or positioning in the town). It was agreed that another 2 quotations need to be obtained for the next meeting to enable further discussion to take place.

368 NEW PROJECTS TO BENEFIT THE TOWN

Councillor McGregor has received an email from the Community and Baptist Churches offering volunteers to complete a community project in Cowes on the 15th July 2012. It was decided to advise them to contact the Northwood House Trust.

Other projects which could be discussed in the future were suggested to replace/renew the bollards in Cowes High Street, additional Victorian Lantern Lighting for the High Street and maybe some additional play equipment for other parts of the town. It was agreed that all suggestions should be sent to the Assistant Town Clerk ahead of the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

CHAIRMAN