

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 1st March 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Matthews, Mazillius, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Sanderson and Wilcox.

PRESENTATION – UNITED KINGDOM SAILING ASSOCIATION (UKSA)

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Simon Davies (Director of Youth Development) and Simon Samuels (Head of Fundraising) from UKSA to the meeting; they had attended to outline the work they did at the Centre and their hopes for the future.

Mr. Davies stated that UKSA worked to provide solutions to issues that were important to society by

- Addressing important youth issues through the motivation of maritime activity
- Valuing high achievement and supporting those challenged through educational, social, financial and physical disadvantages
- Their focus was to provide inspirational and engaging routes to lasting positive outcomes for each individual including personal development, employment and education

UKSA had a philosophy of re-thinking 'charity'.

- They challenged the norms of charitable activity
- Partnerships provided better outcomes
- They sought the best outcomes for each young person and give the best return on investment for society
- They charged people who could afford their charitable journey
- They supported those who were disadvantaged by lack of finances
- They valued high achievement
- They believed that by providing the very best they gave their beneficiaries the best opportunities to achieve

But what made UKSA different? They believed it was not what you do but the way that you do it that formed the basis of their 'menu for success'. The skills that youngsters were taught would benefit them throughout their working life and UKSA invested over £200k annually in mentoring, support and guidance. UKSA considered partnership working to be of the utmost importance; by working with partners they could provide far better outcomes for young people.

Mr Davies explained that 1711 individuals from the Island had gone through a UKSA training programme in the last year and of those, 201 had been supported by grant funding from the £224k raised for supporting IOW activities. Attending their courses had been disability groups, schools, NEET's and young offenders. They also offered services including H2O clubs, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, career advice and swimming lessons for local school children. They employed 101 full time Island staff and utilised 24 mostly local volunteers.

UKSA strategy in the future was to increase their provision of the Island; they had a policy for a wider deeper reach of young people with targeted growth from groups including

- NEET's
- Hard to reach young people
- Young offenders
- Disabled groups
- Intervention projects for young people
- Young people with emotional issues
- Non standard education and young people excluded or at risk of being excluded from school

Finally, Mr. Davies stated that UKSA was working with IYWAC on a combined application in respect of the Community Asset Transfer for Cowes Youth Club.

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

Q. What does UKSA provide that IYWAC does not?

A. These organisations complement each other although there was some overlap.

Q. Would UKSA be able to offer services to benefit the police – perhaps involving their restorative justice scheme?

A. Yes, UKSA were already arranging talks with the Magistrates Panel but would be happy to discuss with Sgt. Sizer what else could be offered.

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

6587 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Birch, Hammond, Jones, Walters and Wells.

6588 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked about the Village Green application in respect of land at Northwood Park and the amended scheme for the Northwood House Trust.

The Town Mayor stated that the Town Council were awaiting details of the amended scheme prior to making comment and that the Village Green application was a agenda item for later in the meeting.

6589 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

a). That he had been dealing with a number of planning issues.

The appeal by a householder who had erected a fence in Charles Road had failed; they had been told that the fence was in breach of the open planned aspect of the Crossfield Estate and were advised to remove it before the end of May.

b). That the Island plan was likely to be approved by the I.W. Council on 21st March. Following this a revision of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) maps were due to be published; it was likely that land between Pine Tree Close and Lammas Close would be removed from the maps as available housing land.

c). That two community bus services each day would be diverted from Cockleton Lane to serve Rew Street and Hillis Corner; details of the timetable for the new service commencing on 2nd April were given.

d). That he had requested the resurrection of the resident liaison meetings with contractors at the Cowes Enterprise College and the school reorganisation team following further complaints about hours of work.

e). That for the third year, the Independent Group on the I.W. Council had formulated an alternative budget to the ruling group; he itemised the areas where differences occurred.

f). That he had dealt with numerous other miscellaneous incidents during February.

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

a). That the I.W. Council was in line for a Government grant of nearly £1million to improve the Island's Fire and Rescue Services. Part of the grant would be used to finance the transfer of the control room function to more advanced and resilient facilities hosted by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. Three control room staff were due to transfer to Surrey as part of the move which was scheduled to take place on 4th March.

b). That the Highways PFI contract had progressed to a final two bidders – Wight Highways Partnership and Vinci; they would be invited to enter the final procurement stage with the Council expected to announce the successful bidder in June. This would lead to final negotiations before a contract is signed in October for the commencement of works in April 2013.

- c). That the new household waste arrangements were bedding in well as residents appreciated the advantages of separating the recyclable element in the household waste. The I.W. Council would now draft a detailed and financially sound new contract for the start of a procurement process in the new fiscal year; the new waste contract would commence in 2015.
- d). That the Island Plan Core Strategy was expected to be approved by the I.W. Council on 21st March after which the Planners would make a detailed appraisal of those SHLAA sites put forward to meet housing demand for the next 15 years.
- e). That he had enquired of the Council's Legal Department about delays in dealing with the Town Council's lease of land for the new MUGA.

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

- a). Various meetings with I.W. Council staff regarding changes to the local youth service including the future of the building and a request for a 'time line' for those changes.
- b). Various meetings regarding the proposed Cowes Traffic Orders in an attempt to negotiate changes.
- c). That she was still receiving complaints regarding dog fouling.
- d). That she had attended the open meeting arranged by the Cowes Business Association.

6590 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sgt. Sizer reported as follows:

- a). That crime statistics continued to be very good with total reported crime down by 25%.
- b). That there had been a spate of incidents of damage to motor vehicles particularly in Pelham Road and adjacent routes in that direction out of the town. He would be instigating additional patrols in these areas and had also requested the installation of mobile CCTV cameras until the problems were solved.
- c). That he would like to be kept informed of any events being organised to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee particularly in respect of street parties etc.
- d). That he wished to make the Council aware of CountryWatch which was formally launched on the Island in August 2010; this was a scheme to target intruders at rural establishments and farms and was similar to the PubWatch and ShopWatch schemes.

6591 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk submitted a short written report from the Environment Officer referring to the following:

- a). That February had been a busy month with many teething problems following the changes to the waste collection service including residents putting the wrong bags out on the wrong weeks; the situation was now easing.
- b). That there had been a small amount of graffiti in the area probably emanating from younger children.
- c). That there had been a marked increase in the amount of dog fouling particularly in the Moorgreen Road area; the Senior Dog Warden was aware of the problem and was organising additional patrols.
- d). That other general patrols were regularly being carried out in the Cowes area.

6592 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd February 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6593 MATTERS ARISING

a). Public Convenience cleaning contract (Min. No. 5582d refers)

The Town Clerk reported the I.W. Council were close to appointing a contractor for an interim period of nine to twelve months to undertake the toilet cleaning contract including the lock-up round. It would however, take until the middle of March before previous cleaning schedules and lock-up rounds could be fully reinstated. Until then, cleaning would continue to be undertaken by local contractors on a daily schedule for principle locations and alternate daily schedule for the remainder.

b). Training (Min. No. 6528 refers)

The Town Clerk reported that it was a priority under the Quality Council scheme that Council's identified specific areas where training could be provided to enhance their performance; Mrs. Sue Chilton could deliver in-house core councillor skills training or Chairmanship training for the Town Council in a condensed form over 3 x 2 hour sessions for a cost of £300. She could also tailor 2 hour sessions on specific topics such as 'roles and responsibilities', agenda setting and procedures at meetings at a cost of £100.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk arranges an initial 2 hour training session for Councillors covering 'roles and responsibilities'.

6594 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). Supporters of Cowes Library Group

Minutes of a Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 16th January 2012 were received.

c). Shoreside Committee of Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor Banks presented a verbal report on a meeting of the Shoreside Committee of Cowes Week Ltd held on 2nd February 2012; he referred to the following:

- a). The attempted registration of Cowes Week as a trade name for Cowes Week Ltd.
- b). That attempts were being made to reduce costs to competitors at AAM Cowes Week – although entry fees would be maintained they would be offering 20% 'early bird' discounts and discounts on berthing fees and crossings to the Island through Red Funnel discounts.
- c). That sponsorship of the event had been confirmed beyond 2012.

d). Meeting with the Island Sailing Club

Notes of a meeting with the Secretary of the Island Sailing Club held on 2nd February 2012 were received.

e). Marketing of Cowes

Notes of a meeting of local groups regarding the marketing of Cowes held on 2nd February 2012 were received.

f). Public Meeting regarding St. Faith's Church

Notes of a public meeting regarding St. Faith's Church held on 6th February 2012 were received.

g). Cowes Business Association

Notes of a meeting of the Cowes Business Association held on 7th February 2012 were received.

h). Cowes Local Action Group

Notes of a meeting of the Cowes Local Action Group held on 8th February 2012 were received.

i). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 22nd February 2012 were received.

i). MUGA

The Town Mayor reported that a number of the requested changes to the lease for land for the MUGA in Northwood Recreation Ground including the extension of the contractual term to 25 years had been accepted by the I.W. Council; some changes however, had not been agreed.

An additional clause had also been added to the effect that the Town Council must maintain the area of land between the new MUGA and the skatepark. However, the Recreation and Public Spaces Manager had agreed to tarmac this area at a cost of over £6,600; the Town Council would merely have to agree to litter pick as required.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to sign the amended lease on behalf of the Town Council for land for the MUGA in Northwood Recreation Ground;
- 2). That the Town Clerk be authorised to release the sum of £325 to the I.W. Council in respect of their legal and surveyors fees regarding the lease;
- 3). That the Town Council agrees a maximum £200 sum for the official opening and for a sign for the MUGA; and
- 4). That the Town Council increase their public liability limit of indemnity from £5 million to £10 million.

ii) Northwood Recreation Ground toilets

RESOLVED

That the Town Council 'ring fence' £3,300 from the 2011/12 budget as match funding towards the cost of the toilets refurbishment.

iii). Picnic benches

RESOLVED

That the Town Council accepts a quotation from Lightmain in the sum of £1,920 for the supply and installation of two picnic benches in Northwood Recreation Ground.

The Town Mayor then stated that an urgent decision to replace some of the woodchip under items in the play park had been taken on Health & Safety grounds; the woodchip had been ordered from Woodend Enterprise at total cost of £225 plus VAT.

RESOLVED

That the action taken by the Town Clerk of replacing woodchip at the playpark be noted and approved.

j). Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 22nd February 2012 were received.

i). Dog/litter bins, Northwood Park

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council renews their contract with Urbaser for dog/litter bin emptying in Northwood Park for the financial year 2012/13 based on the existing schedule for emptyings; and
- 2). That the Northwood House Trustees submit a formal grant application at the earliest opportunity for new combined dog/litter waste bins for Northwood Park for installation immediately prior to the commencement of a new contract in April 2013.

ii). Applications for grant

a). Northwood House Trustees

Toilets – To fund the summer opening of the toilets adjacent to the tennis courts.

Community Hall – To undertake maintenance works and cover the shortfall in letting fees.

Childrens Play Area – To renew the see-saw.

b). Cowes Town Regatta Committee

Towards the Regatta which is held during AAM Cowes Week.

(Councillor Sanderson declared a personal interest in this item on the grounds he was a member of the Regatta Committee)

c). The Apex Church

To provide catering equipment for Drop-in a facility for the lonely and elderly and for children's equipment for Noah's Arc a facility for carers with their toddlers.

(Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest in this item on the grounds that she knew many of the Trustees at the Church)

RESOLVED

- 1). That subject to proof of purchase, £1,500 be made available to the Northwood House Trustees during the financial year 2012/13 for funding towards the replacement of the see-saw in the children's play area of Northwood Park;
- 2). That a grant of £200 be made to the Cowes Town Regatta Committee;
- 3). That a grant of £500 be made to the Apex Church Group; and
- 4). That no grant be made to the Northwood House Trustees in respect of their applications for the toilets and the community hall.

iii). Preparation of accounts

RESOLVED

That Bright Brown, Chartered Accountants be appointed to undertake the preparation of the Town Council's accounts for the financial year 2011/12.

k). Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee held on 22nd February 2012 were received.

Councillor Mazillius had circulated to all members, details of the arrangements for a Charity Concert to be held at the Event Centre, Cowes Yacht Haven on Friday 1st June as a part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations. All artistes would be expected to perform without charge but in respect of the I.W. Youth Orchestra and I.W. Youth Concert Band they would inevitably have significant overheads to fund. Therefore, as he was suggesting that two charities be chosen to benefit from the concert he would recommend the Island Music Service with the second being chosen by the Town Mayor; she would report to the next meeting her chosen charity and requested Town Councillors contact her with any suggestions they may have.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council fully supports the initiative to hold a Charity Concert to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee; and
- 2). That the Town Council purchase 800 celebratory mugs from Nigh & Sons at a cost of £2.75 each plus VAT for issue to pre and primary school children in Cowes.

l). Youth Adviser Scheme

Notes of a meeting regarding a youth adviser scheme were received.

A number of suggestions had been made as to the potential for allocating young people to work alongside the Council.

Following discussion on a number of options it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Council supports the principle of youth adviser involvement in their activities particularly in respect of the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee and as appropriate, the Town Improvements Committee.

(Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 8.42 p.m.)

6595 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). *Request for double yellow lines, Rogerson Close.
- b). *To consider whether the Town Council should liaise with the I.W. Council in support of Mainsail's continued involvement on The Parade during AAM Cowes Week.
- c). *To consider whether or not the Town Council should comment on an application for the registration of land at Northwood Park as a town or village green.

- d). Details of the I.W. Sports & Recreation Council AGM to be held at the Riverside Centre at 7.30pm on 8th March and to approve the renewal of the Town Council's affiliation to that body.
- e). Payment of the Assistant Town Clerks membership subscription to the SLCC and the payment of course fees for 'Working With Your Council'.
- f). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

* Copies circulated to all members

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council has no comment to make in respect of the request for additional double yellow lines in Rogerson Close;
- 2). That Mainsail be notified that the Town Council appreciates all of their past efforts in connection with AAM Cowes Week but cannot support their bid over any other in what is an I.W. Council competitive tendering process;
- 3). That the Town Council requests an extension to the 9th March date for the receipt of objections to the application for the registration of land at Northwood Park as a town or village green. If they are unable to negotiate an extension, Councillors will be requested to make their own representations by the due date ;
- 4). That the Town Clerk be authorised to renew the Town Council's affiliated membership to the I.W. Sports & Recreation Council; and
- 5). That the Assistant Town Clerks membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks and her 'Working With Your Council' course fees be paid by the Town Council..

6596 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED

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

6596 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Town Clerk expressed concern that on a number of recent occasions, and particularly in respect of Planning Committees, insufficient members had attended the meetings for them to be quorate in accordance with Standing Order 15.10. The Planning & Licensing Committee comprised all members of the Town Council; as a quorum was one third of its members it required 6 members to attend. If the committee comprised 10 – 12 members only 4 would be required to attend. Councillor McGregor stated that it was important that all members participate fully and whenever possible, attend meetings of which they were members; she suggested that at the Annual Meeting the Town Clerk provide attendance details of all the main committees as well as those for full Council meetings.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the following members serve on the Planning & Licensing Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2012:
The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Banks, Birch, Brown, Jones, Matthews, Mazillius, Robinson, Sanderson and Wells.
- 2). That the Town Clerk provides at the Annual Meeting, member attendance details for all of the Town Council's main committees.

6597 COWES TRAFFIC AND RESIDENTS PARKING ORDERS

Members had received details of amendments that had been proposed in the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) Traffic Regulation Order No. 1 2012 and the I.W. Council (Residents Parking Places) Order No. 1 2012.

Some local members had met with the I.W. Council officer who had agreed to revise certain proposals and re-submit them. The remainder were considered and it was

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council supports the proposals in respect of the Cowes Traffic Order for Consort Road, Maxted Close, Nelson Drive, The Parade, York Street, Park Road, Pelham Road, Highfield Road, Park Road near Place Road and Baring Road/Crossfield Avenue;
- 2). That the Town Council supports the proposals in respect of the Residents Parking Places Order for Consort Road, Granville Road, Terminus Road, Market Hill junction with Sun Hill and Union Road;
- 3). That the Town Council requests further discussion in respect of the Residents Parking Places Order relating to Denmark Road and Terminus Road near Carvel Lane before commenting on these two parts of the Order.

6598 MAYORAL SPONSORSHIP EVENT

The Town Mayor reported that prior to the end of her term of office she intended to participate in a charity tandem parachute jump in aid of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice; any sponsorship in aid of this worthwhile cause would be appreciated. Full details could be found at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RebeccaMcGregor1>.

6599 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following items be included on a future agenda:

- a). ORP Blyskawica commemoration (Councillor Banks)
- b). Residents Parking Bays, West Hill Road (Councillor Mazillius)
- c). Neighbourhood Plans (Councillor Fuller)

(The proceedings terminated at 9.37pm)

CHAIRMAN