

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 24 April 2012 at 6.30pm.

Present : Councillor McGregor (chairman)

Councillors: Banks, Brown, Matthews, Peacey- Wilcox, Walters and Wells

### **380 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Birch, Fuller, Jones, Sanderson and Wilcox

### **371 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### **382 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Banks declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the Toilet refurbishment, but had left the meeting before this item was covered.

### **383 BOLLARD AT FRANCKI PLACE**

Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest as she knows the owner.

Parking has again become an issue outside the chip shop (Corries Cabin) on the land just in front of the "Old Schoolhouse" building. This has recently been bought and the new owner has taken up the issue with the IW Council. Jeff Barrett from IW Council has contacted the Town Council to obtain their views. After some discussion it was agreed that:-

**RECOMMENDATION: The Assistant Town Clerk emails IW Council supporting their action of installing another bollard to prevent the illegal parking of cars but further matters in relation to bin storage needs to be taken up with the owners of the properties by the IW Council as this is a Highways issue and not a Town Council one.**

### **384 SIGNS AT ARTIC PARK**

One Constituent has contacted Cllr Peacey-Wilcox saying that the signs are difficult to understand. The signs were designed by local school children and do not have any official logo on them. After some discussion it was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: The signs stay in the places agreed by IW Council and that no further action is taken. Future dog signage should have the Town Council logo on them.**

### **385 OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND**

#### **a) Outdoor Table Tennis Table**

Sport England is offering 100% grants towards the supply of outdoor table tennis tables. Due to the deadline, an expression of interest has been lodged. It would have to be a steel table set on concrete.

**b) Outdoor gym equipment**

Again funding can be sought for the supply of outdoor gym equipment from Sport England. Three quotes have been obtained purely to look at budget costs, they range from £7,550 to £15,715. Much discussion took place regarding possible locations – Brunswick Road Play park (already maximum amount of equipment for the size of the park), Mornington Green (Village Green Status may exclude this type of project), Northwood Park (Owned by the Trustees – park not generally used for sport (apart from Bowls and Tennis) or Northwood Recreation Ground (mostly used for a variety of sports). Northwood Recreation Ground was selected as first choice, so it was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: To request permission from the IW Council that an outdoor gym be sited – requesting their advice as to locations within the Recreation Ground. If this is not possible, look at other options later.**

**386 CHRISTMAS IN THE TOWN**

There have been several requests to make the town more “Christmassy”. The Assistant Town Clerk has completed some initial research and this would be a very expensive project. It was also remarked that some of the landowners may not give permission for decorations to be hung from their shops. A previous proposal was that each shop provides a string of white fairy lights in their windows which could look very festive. After much discussion it was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: That Councillor Jones (as Town Council representative) contacts the Cowes Business Association for their suggestions and this could be worked as a joint project.**

**387 THE CUT**

£40,000 has been ring fenced from previous budgets to improve the ambiance of the Cut. This project will involve re-siting of the loading bay (outside the toilet block), block paving the whole area, adding trees, benches and art work. The original budget for this was £60,000 so with a reduced budget, the project needs to be scaled down. Work needs to be started before January 2014 to use the existing planning permission. As this is such a big project it was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: To call an additional Town Improvements meeting with this as the only agenda item and that Martin Hayles be asked to attend to contribute to discussions.**

**Councillor Banks left the meeting at 7.15pm.**

**388 BENCHES AT THE MUGA**

Four quotations have been obtained from:-

Earth Anchors	£275 plus VAT and delivery
Bollards Direct	£316 plus VAT and delivery
Lightmains	£420 plus VAT and delivery
Broxap	£299 plus VAT and delivery

**RECOMMENDED: That subject to any restrictions from the IW Council, two benches are bought from Broxap and a local company are sourced for the installation.**

A request has been made from the cleaner of the Skatepark and Play Area for an increase in salary to include cleaning the MUGA.

**RECOMMENDATION: That the salary is increased from £220 per month to £250.**

### **389 TOILETS AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND**

Economic Improvement Funding has already been agreed by IW Council, so the Cowes Town Council will only fund half the costs (ring fenced from 2011/12 budget).

Three quotations have been obtained from local builders to refurbish the toilets at Northwood Recreation Ground:-

	Option 1	Option 2
GJ Banks (IW) Ltd	£4149.10	£4368.80
John Groves(IW) Ltd	£5375.00	£5717.00
WH Brading & Son Ltd	£8141.00	£9013.00

Councillor Banks had left the meeting by this time.

Councillor Peacey – Wilcox left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**RECOMMENDATION: That G J Banks (IW) Ltd are awarded the contract to complete the works as scheduled on option 2**

### **390 CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL BUSINESS (CLLRS FULLER AND ROBINSON)**

A report had been circulated to all councillors ahead of the meeting. There were two main points which were noted in relation to the Town Council:-

- a) Accessibility – the provision of dropped kerbs throughout Cowes has been assessed by the IW Council in conjunction with Cowes Town Council and most of the work has already been completed since this report.
- b) There is an on-going problem with the pedestrianised part of the High Street with vehicles still trying to gain access after driving down Carvel Lane.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1 That a copy of the report is forwarded to the new Chairman of the Cowes Business Association.**
- 2 A letter is sent to IW Council requesting additional signage in Carvel Lane stating “NO VEHICLE ACCESS TO THE FLOATING BRIDGE OR THE CAR FERRY”, and copy of the letter sent to the Cowes Business Association.**

(Meeting ended at 7.50 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**