

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 22 May 2012 at 6.30pm.

Present : Councillors: Banks, Brown, Jones, Matthews, Robinson, Walters and Wells
Non –voting Councillor Sanderson

391 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Councillor McGregor was asked to be Chairman again, which she accepted but requested the assistance of a deputy as she is now working full time and will not be able to perform duties during the working day. Councillor McGregor was elected as Chairman and Councillor Matthews was elected as deputy.

392 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Birch and Wells

393 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations were received from Councillor Banks regarding the toilet block in Northwood Recreation Ground, but his company has already been awarded the contract for repairs.

The following agenda items were taken next as councillors Banks and Jones needed to leave at 7.15pm.

394 CHRISTMAS IN THE TOWN

Councillor Jones reported that the Cowes Business Association meets on the first Monday of each month and a joint working project between them and the Town Council is on the agenda for next month. He suggested a small working group from each body to further discuss and then report back to their committees.

395 TOILETS AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

After much discussion with the IW Council, they have refused to fund the remedial repairs which would enable the block to be opened. The toilets are being vandalised and until these repairs are completed further deliration will occur costing the Town Council more money in the longer term. Once the full lease is in place, the Town Council will definitely have full responsibility for repairs

URGENT DECISION : - That G.J. Banks (IW) Ltd carry out the urgent repairs ahead of the contract which was awarded to them.

Lease : previously agreed that the lease can be signed without the aid of a solicitor.

RECOMMENDATION:- The Mayor and Town Clerk sign the lease on behalf of the Town Council.

Once this has happened, the full rebuilding cost of the toilet block needs to be added to the Town Council's Insurance Policy.

396 HORIZON PLAQUE

Councillor Mathews has conducted a survey among councillors and come up with the top 15 points of interest to include in the Horizon plaque. He will talk to the Graphic Designers (APEX Ltd) to produce a new design based on this. Councillors Banks, Matthews and the Assistant Town Clerk will meet after this to discuss.

397 JUBILEE PLAQUES

A sample of the lettering has been received from Delabole Slate Company which was not suitable. After much discussion it was agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk contacts Delabole again to request another sample showing the lettering with a deep incised cut (as per the order for Rosetta Cottage some years ago) which would show shadow lines and not require painting. This would then be show to both Councillors Banks and Mathews to ensure that this meets our requirements before the final order can be placed.

398 TOWN MAPS

Councillor Jones advised that the printers (formerly Yelf's) have not yet found the original art work for the maps. He will keep chasing to enable further quotations to be obtained.

399 THE BANDSTAND

Councillors were updated on the latest information from the IW Council which states "the awning on the face of it, would interfere with the rights enjoyed by those using the village green – however, can you let me have more details regarding the size of the awning – I need to understand how much it would cover – etc – how it would impact on the use of the village green".

Councillor Banks has completed some initial investigations and showed a design made from woven polymer which would cost approximately £42,000. One of the problems with The Bandstand is its location within the centre of a car park. The Bandstand was recently painted and the plaques polished for the Blyskawica commemoration event. Councillor Walters has spoken to the original architect (Andrew Hitt) who worked on a project some years ago to re-generate the bandstand. It was agreed that Councillor Walters will contact Andrew Hitt officially and provide a report to the next meeting.

Councillors Banks and Jones left at 7.15pm.

400 OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

Isle of Wight Council has agreed in principle for the installation of outdoor gym equipment at Northwood Recreation Ground either alongside the MUGA or by the Adventure Playground. Three quotes have been received ranging from £7,500 to £11,767.20.

Further questions need to be investigated such as who would take responsibility for on - going inspections and maintenance. IW Council fulfil this function for the Adventure Playground for a nominal fee of £1,500 per annum, but, they are not in a position to take on another contract of this nature. Clarification is required whether any further development of the Northwood Recreation Ground would involve taking on an additional lease of the land.

The Assistant Town Clerk was asked to contact Ventnor and Sandown Town Council to find out how they provide and manage these facilities as well as liaising further with IW Council and report back at the next meeting.

401 BOLLARD AT FRANCKI PLACE

Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest as she knows the owner of Corries Cabin. An email has been sent to the IW Council as instructed at the last meeting advising them that this is a highways issue and requesting that the IW Council deal with the owners of the business directly.

402 UPDATE ON THE BENCHES FOR THE MUGA

Two benches have been ordered from Broxap which meet the IW Council's specification. A local contractor needs to be sought to install them. It was suggested that John Groves Builders of Cowes are asked to install both the benches and the bin.

403 MEMORIAL CLOCK

Councillor Walters declared a personal interest as he is friends with the resident. A local resident has requested that she purchases, installs and maintains a clock in memory of her late husband. All expenses would be met by the resident. Concerns were raised about setting a precedent, but the Committee would be happy with a memorial bench instead.

After much discussion it was decided that:-

Councillor Walters will discuss with the Town Clerk offering the resident several alternative options:- A memorial bench, a clock at Northwood Cemetery or a form of memorial at St Mary's Church (all subject to the necessary agreements).

Councillor Sanderson left at 7.45pm.

404 GATEWAY TO COWES – FOUNTAIN YARD ETC.

Councillor Walters declared a personal interest as he is friends with a property owner in Fountain's Yard.

Fountain Yard is a major gateway to Cowes, with over 2 million foot passengers passing through and 10 buses an hour. The land is privately owned and therefore Cowes Town Council has no jurisdiction. The main owners are Red Funnel, Greene King, Southern Vectis and the Cowes Harbour Commissioners.

After much discussion, it was decided that a formal letter from Cowes Town Council should be written to Cowes Business Association advising that there is no jurisdiction and that due to the present ownership of the land, the situation is complex.

405 FOOTBALL HUT AT THE NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

A request has been sent to Council regarding the state of the outside of the Football Changing Hut in Northwood Recreation Ground. A reply has been received from them stating "the condition of the changing room building is picked up as part of the council's rolling programme of condition surveys, which are used to prioritise repair and maintenance works. These have to be planned on a priority basis due to the limited budgets available and I have raised your question with the relevant officers".

To await further response from the IW Council.

406 FINGER POSTS

It has been noticed that there are three finger posts showing the location of the Tourist Information Office which has now been closed by IW Council. Councillor Matthews offered to remove these on behalf of the Cowes Town Council.

407 SHOULD THE COUNCIL BECOME AN OFFICIAL ARTS COMMISSIONING PARTNER FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

As requested by the Town Council – the Assistant Town Clerk contacted the Arts Development Officer at the Isle of Wight Council. Her advice was that the possibility of using the grant funding to provide an awning for The Bandstand would not meet the set outcomes.

408 MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAY AREA

It has been brought to the attention of the Council that an area underneath the Zip Wire was very muddy (during the wet period) and that children were putting down pieces of wood to try and avoid it. It was decided that the Assistant Town Clerk raise this matter with the IW Council Parks Department as part of their Playbuilder Agreement.

(Meeting ended at 8.10pm)

CHAIRMAN