

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 7th June 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Walters (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Jones, Matthews,
Mazillius, Robinson, Sanderson and Wells.

PRESENTATION – COWES WEEK LTD

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Michelle Warner (Sales and Marketing Director) and Peter Dixon (Chairman, Cowes Week Ltd.) to the meeting; they had attended to outline the arrangements for AAM Cowes Week.

Michelle commenced by stating that AAM Cowes Week would have a 'Best of British' theme this year; following many special celebrations throughout the summer in support of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics, AAM Cowes Week as one of the longest running summer events in British sporting history would be ideally placed to position itself with the very best of British this year.

In support of the Best of British theme:

- Red, white and blue both ashore and afloat
 - Union flag incorporated on bow stickers and backstay flags
 - Union flag bunting throughout the town all summer with additional bunting provided to the temporary venues during the event

Screening of Olympic footage

- Olympic highlights on Event TV (Saturday 11th)
- Live broadcast of Olympic Closing Ceremony (Sunday 12th)

Traditional British performers shore-side e.g. Brass bands

Heroes and Legends Crew Party attended by the sailing Olympians from Weymouth
Olympian involvement

- Free entry for the first 10 ex Olympians (medal winners to bring medals with them)
- Majority of Skandia Team GBR to be in Cowes on Friday 17th August

Building on the success of the 2011 Family Day they aimed to create a street party feel to Cowes to achieve a Best of British celebratory atmosphere. Plans in place so far included

- Ondeck with support from Cowes Primary would again be providing fun activities for children at Cowes Yacht Haven e.g. colouring, painting and flag making competitions
- A special Family Day ticket price for the spectator boat service
- Island tourist attractions would again be invited to exhibit on The Parade for free
- Model boat racing off The Parade in early evening
- Street theatre and activities in support of the day
- On-the-water spot prizes awarded for families racing together
- Possible support from Cowes Town Council for additional activities around the town for families e.g. free face painting, balloon modelling, portrait drawing etc.

A Ladies Day would be held on Thursday 16th August. Cowes Week Ltd. were working with Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation to provide a fitting celebration of women in sailing at this year's regatta and a reception would be held to announce the winner of the Ladies Day trophy.

Although the UK edition of the Extreme Sailing Series would be held in Cardiff this year, CWL were working closely with Extreme 40 teams to ensure a presence in Cowes for these exciting boats; they were confident that some would participate in exhibition racing off the Green and they were still working to secure exhibition racing for other classes of boats too.

Michelle stated that the Red Arrows display team were unfortunately not available this year; however, alternative aerial displays were being sought for the opening Saturday and the Black Knights would again perform their parachute jump into the water off Trinity Landing on Tuesday, 14th August. The traditional end of event firework display had been secured again this year thanks to extended support from Aberdeen Asset Management with additional support from a number of other local organisations. Cowes Firework Committee (comprised of CTWT, CWL and IWC) had been formed as a new body to secure funds for the fireworks in the long term; surplus funds would provide a head-start for the display in the following year.

Cowes Week Ltd. were working with VisitEngland on a two day press trip for the international media on the Sunday and Monday of the regatta; the key messages of 'Get Away' (escape the Olympics) and 'Get Involved' (try an Olympic sport for yourself) would tie in well with efforts to promote the regatta to a broader audience.

A number of questions were then asked including:

Q. Would there be a 'park & ride' facility this year?

A. This had been discussed by the Shoreside Committee but no arrangement was in place at present.

Q. What were the direct benefits for Cowes from the event?

A. Sponsorship income was critical for holding this world class regatta. Sponsors had various ways of supporting the event; AAM would be bringing 750 guests who would all spend in the town. They also worked with local organisations such as the CBA who received sponsorship income from renting their flags and banner sites.

Q. It was nice to have a Family Day but one day was not enough.

A. The one family day had been arranged to showcase what was available for families; all of the shoreside activities throughout the week were arranged to embrace and showcase the regatta.

Q. How are entry numbers for the regatta compared to previous years?

A. Sailing regattas around the world had suffered with entries down; the entries so far for AAM Cowes Week were similar to last years entries at this stage although Cowes Week Ltd. were not complacent.

Councillor Banks then thanked the guests for attending to give such a thorough and in-depth update; the appraisal had been most welcome and had underpinned his confidence that the regatta was in safe hands with Cowes Week Ltd..

6632 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Birch, McGregor, Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox.

A question was asked regarding the last attendance of Councillor Wilcox; it was agreed that the Town Clerk would seek to clarify the position regarding his absences.

6633 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public referred to the asphalt plant planning application; he stated that despite the fears and a significant number of objections to the application from local residents, they had received no apparent support from the Town Council.

The Town Mayor stated that the Town Council had met with the applicants and a summary of that meeting was on the Town Council website. In the meantime, the Planning Case Officer had raised many serious concerns with the applicant regarding the application; the Town Council would be waiting for the response to those concerns prior to submitting any formal reply to the Planning authority.

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

- **Planning Updates**

The I.W. Council Planning Committee and Licensing and General Purposes Committee were to merge following recent changes in legislation. One aspect of the change would be the compulsory need for members of the new Regulatory Committee to attend site visits prior to deliberating on applications; this would ensure that applications were properly evaluated by members before making their decisions.

The application to alter planning conditions at 25 Ward Avenue had been deferred. He had received many complaints regarding the application for the proposed asphalt plant at Medina Wharf and he had been chasing up Planning Compliance matters at Cowes Enterprise College, Mornington Mews and at Planning Committee raised a question on behalf of residents concerned with aspects of development at the Moorings, Egypt Hill.

- **Transport matters**

He had a very constructive meeting with Debourne Manor Drive residents, on the issue of resurfacing and undertaking minor repair works to this unadopted private road.

Following the rainfall this month he had reported the need for removing debris from the pavement on Park Road, asked for action following a damaged man hole cover in Princes Esplanade and had requested that care be taken when replacing the paving slabs outside Egypt House on Egypt Esplanade.

Officers have also inspected and action taken in Charles Road, Baring Road and Crossfield Avenue following complaints being made concerning road surface damage. He had requested action was taken in Crossfield Avenue to clean wheels from construction traffic leaving the site for the new Cowes Enterprise College and on Princes Esplanade over the depositing of mud on the public highway.

He had had discussions with officers over the use of Public Slipways, the better utilisation of Mornington Road Car Park by residents living nearby in Queens Road and Cliff Road and of contractors parking in Baring Road.

- **Environmental matters**

He had attended 2 meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; the first followed a call-in for the new Waste Contract when members challenged whether the Council was getting best value.

The second meeting involved the Committee looking into the potential disposal of I.W. Council sites. Of local interest was Cowes Youth Club in 2012/3 and Parklands in year 3 (2014/5). Before the disposal of Parklands was considered he would be working to ensure there was widespread consultation with stakeholders.

At the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Panel, IW Councillors were updated on Rights Of Ways when he had asked about target-setting the reopening of ‘closed’ rights of way; Car Parking (car parking permits are still being included within the Parking Review!); Fire Service and utilisation of the Economic Improvement Fund.

He could also report that Cowes Beach received a mandatory pass from the Marine Conservation Society.

In the last month he had also reported longer term repairs to the public toilet’s on Princes Esplanade, actioned an enquiry regarding loose dogs in Northwood Recreation Ground, followed up an issue regarding Southern Vectis’ issuing of tickets, offered advice to residents of Ward Avenue on the proposed Jubilee Event in Northwood Park and took up an issue on behalf of neighbours regarding fly-tipping at the IW Community Club

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

a). That the Diamond Jubilee concert had been a tremendous success; it will have raised almost £2,000 for three very worthwhile local causes. Councillor Mazillius thanked the very many people and organisations that had made the event possible and who had contributed so much towards it. In

particular he praised the professionalism of the two Conductors/Directors of Music and the young musicians both on the night and during long rehearsals; those fortunate enough to attend would surely endorse those comments.

b). That Following a long and complex procurement process the preferred Highway PFI contractor had now been selected. The Eurovia Roadstone consortium had agreed to deliver the seven years road building and 18 years maintenance programme from 1st April 2013. One of the undoubted strengths of their bid was their existing experience in Island road maintenance, their plans to carry out complex engineering works to maintain the operation of the Military Road and other "in danger" roads and their programme of road drainage where either none presently existed or where the existing systems were not operating effectively.

A Town Council informal meeting with Eurovia's Agents to question them about their planning application for an asphalt plant on reclaimed land next to Medina Wharf had established that much thought and planning had taken place before that site was chosen. Everyone concerned understands the issues and concerns raised by the application; indeed, the Case Officer has highlighted many of these issues and concerns in a long letter that would require detailed answers before the application could progress. Those concerns, in part at least, reflected the many residents contributions posted online on the planning website. He felt sure that this would assist in re-assuring cynical residents that because the applicants were now the chosen PFI contractors, the planning decision would be a foregone conclusion! Nothing could be further from the truth; he knew that the application would be decided strictly on planning grounds. To think otherwise would be to completely misjudge the professionalism not only of the officers concerned and the input from their independent professional advisers eg Natural England and The Environment Agency but also the Planning Committee members who would not be swayed into a decision by anything other than a thorough and completely detailed report from officers with clear cut commentary and recommendations on the many issues raised in this complex case.

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

- a). That residents in Fraser Close had reported Japanese knotweed growing in their properties; as it was not on I.W. Council owned land, they had no powers to remove it or to enforce the removal..
- b). That there had been many concerns from residents across the Island with regard to the planning application for the asphalt plant.
- c). That residents had requested the I.W. Council consider replacing double yellow lines with a single yellow line between 47 and 73 Newport Road.
- d). That she had listened to concerns from residents regarding the proposals for Love Lane School.
- e). That she had met many local people during the Jubilee celebrations; this had provided a good communication route for them air their concerns.

Councillor Brown had submitted a written report referring to:

- a) That he had attended over 30 formal meetings between 10th May and 6th June. Almost all had been in his capacity of I.W. Council Deputy Leader or Cabinet Member for the Economy.
- b). That the physical movement of offices in County Hall and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee holidays had reduced the available hours during the month; however, he could report that significant progress had been made on a number of issues relating to the Island's economy.

6635 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

PCSO Lisa Paul and Lotte O'Sullivan attended to report as follows:

- a). That Sgt. Sizer wished to apologise for his absence; he was at the Newport Station providing training for 12 new Special Constable recruits, one of whom would be an additional Special for Cowes.
- b). That the Safer Neighbourhood Team wished to congratulate Councillor Walters on his election as Town Mayor.
- c). That we were now well into the events season; all the police planning of events was now handled by the Eastern Area Events Planning team based at Portsmouth.

- d). That the SNT priorities remained issues of drug dealing and criminal damage.
- e). That although still under investigation, an arrest had been made in respect of the recent spate of graffiti around the town.
- f). That Newport, with help from Cowes officers were dealing with the recent break in at McGregors barber shop
- g). That the next LAG meeting would be on 20th June at 6pm. Councillor Wells agreed to attend as the Town Council's appointed representatives were unavailable.

6636 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

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

- a). That there had been relatively few incidents in Cowes over the last couple of months.
- b). That a bollard had been knocked over in Terminus Road opposite the Pier View – Highways had been instructed to re-fit it.
- c). That Highways had also been instructed to repair block paving outside of Sainsbury's store on Shooters Hill.
- d). That all the toilets in the town had now received their monthly power wash.
- e). That the bench at the bottom of Market Hill had now been re[paired and refitted.
- f). That the Watch House Lane and Thetis Wharf public slipways had now been re-opened.
- g). That there had been a few issues with waste at various properties but these had been resolved.
- h). That the street cleaners were aware of forthcoming events in Cowes and as always would keep the town clean.
- i). That the waste bin to the west side of the Royal Yacht Squadron had been replaced.
- j). That a town 'walkabout' on 30th May had not identified many local issues.

Councillor Hammond reported that refuse had littered York Street and Mill Hill Road earlier that day; the problem was primarily caused by second home owners putting their rubbish out before their allotted time. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the July meeting.

6637 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6638 MATTERS ARISING

a). Medina Valley Action Plan (Min. No. 6610a refers)

The Town Clerk submitted correspondence from Ollie Boulter, the Planning Policy & Conservation Team Leader regarding the Town Council's involvement in the preparation of the Medina Valley Area Action Plan (MVAAP), a copy of which had been circulated to each member. This was obviously a very important issue; however, members were not entirely clear what was expected of them.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact Mr. Boulter requesting he give a presentation to the Town Council to outline the proposals and to advise as to how the Town Council could best assist in the preparation of the MVAAP. They would then form a small Sub Group to develop the way forward.

b). Parking signs, Westhill Road (Min. No. 6609b refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a response from Highways which stated that all the signs and carriageway markings met the requirements of the Traffic Signs Manual and that any contravention would not be rescinded on the basis of the signage on site.

c). Future of Love Lane Primary School site (Min. No. 6631a refers)

Councillor Mazillius reported that approximately 80 people had attended a public meeting in Cowes regarding the I.W. Council consultation in respect of the proposed re-location of the two pupil referral units, Thompson House, Blackwater and Clatterford Tuition Centre, Carisbrooke to the former Broadlea Primary School and Love Lane Primary School sites; both the proposed centres would provide alternative school provision for children who for various reasons, had been excluded from mainstream education. He stated that he had been disappointed by the quality of the presentation given by I.W. Council officers; however, it had been clear that the proposals had exposed a huge amount of public anxiety bearing in mind the site already housed the Little Love Lane pre school and nursery and a Sure Start centre for young children.

Councillor Wells stated that the community should recognise the need for this type of facility; he was not aware of any particular concerns about the Clatterford Centre from residents in that area.

Councillor Ellis stated that parents were not necessarily against the proposal but they did need to know how the authority would ensure safety for other pupils and those assurances were not given by officers at the public meeting.

Councillor Mazillius urged local residents to respond to the consultation; any representations would be considered prior to the publication of revised proposals and he pledged to arrange a further public meeting if the I.W. Council decision was to proceed with the scheme.

d). Charity Commission Consultation, Northwood House (Min. No. 6630 refers)

The Town Mayor referred to a number of points that had been suggested by members in respect of the Charity Commission consultation regarding the scheme for the new governance of Northwood House and park; these observations had been circulated to all members.

The Town Clerk had not received confirmation that an extension to the consultation period which expired on 4th June would be granted by the Charity Commission and he had therefore submitted the observations as a provisional response to the consultation by the Town Council.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council endorse their provisional communication to the Charity Commission in respect of Northwood House as their official response to the consultation.

6639 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 30th April 2012 were received.

c). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Improvements Committee held on 22nd May and 29th May 2012 were received.

i). Toilets, Northwood Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the urgent decision of appointing G.J. Banks (IW) Ltd. to undertake urgent repairs at the toilet block prior to contract work that had been awarded to them be noted and confirmed; and
- 2). That the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to sign the lease for the toilets on behalf of the Town Council.

ii). The Cut.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council arranges a meeting with the Cowes Business Association, Highways Department of the I.W. Council and the Safer Neighbourhood Team in an attempt to resolve on-going issues surrounding the 'rise and fall' bollards in the town;
- 2). That the Assistant Town Clerk liaise with the Highway Department in an attempt to reduce the £1,000 fee for a Traffic Regulation Order that will be required to move the loading bay in The Cut; and
- 3). That the Town Council seeks quotations from suitable professionals for the drafting of a specification for a phased approach to the scheme at The Cut, prioritising the relocation of the loading bay and the block paving and for the project management of the work and to oversee the tendering process.

d). Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Queens Diamond Jubilee Sub Committee held on 29th May 2012 were received.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Mazillius for all his hard work in bringing to fruition a successful and enjoyable Diamond Jubilee Charity Concert; the concert had raised almost £2,000 to be shared by three very worthwhile local organisations.

The Town Mayor also thanked Councillor Brown for arranging the planting of an oak tree to mark the Jubilee and for agreeing to maintain and water it for the next twelve months.

e). Finance Committee

The Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 30th May 2012 were received.

i). Annual audit and final accounts 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Internal Auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2012 be received and noted;
- 2). That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor; and
- 3). That the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2012 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

ii). Applications for grant.

a) Cowes Medina Bowling Club

To assist with costs associated with the replacement of the boundary fence.

b). Cowes Week Firework Committee

Towards the costs of the firework display to mark the end of AAM Cowes Week.

c). The Sea Cadets

To assist with costs of building their new headquarters at Whitegates.

RESOLVED

- 1). That a grant of £400 be made available to the Cowes Medina Bowling Club providing work to replace their boundary fence commenced prior to the end of March 2013;
- 2). That the sum of £400 from the special events budget be gifted to the Cowes Week Firework Committee;
- 3). That a grant of £500 be made available to the Sea Cadets providing building works on their new premises commenced prior to the end of March 2013; and
- 4). That the balance of £1,700 in the grants budget and £3,600 in the special events budget be kept in reserve pending future applications which may be received.

(Councillors Ellis and Hammond declared personal interests in c) above on the grounds that the Carnival Committee provided storage space for one of the Sea Cadets ribs).

6640 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a).*To consider the I.W. Council (Parking Places) Order No. 1 2012.
- b).*To consider the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) (Traffic Regulation) Order No. 1 2012.
- c). To consider a request from members of the public for Town Council support for a pedestrian crossing in Victoria Road.
- d).*To receive notice of a proposed consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 regarding the Navitus Bay Wind Park.
- e). To appoint a representative to attend events to commemorate 150 year anniversary of Cowes – Newport Railway.
- f). To consider what further action can be taken to prevent dogs from the Big Park/Little Park play area of Northwood Recreation ground.
- g).*To receive details of miscellaneous correspondence.

* Copies circulated to all members

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council has no objection to the I.W. Council (Parking Places) Order No. 1 2012;
- 2). That the Town Council has no objection to the I.W. Council (Various Streets, Cowes) (Traffic Regulation) Order No. 1 2012;
- 3). That the request for Town Council support of a pedestrian crossing in Victoria Road be referred to the Town Improvement Committee for further consideration;
- 4). That members respond individually to the consultation in respect of the Navitus Bay Wind Park;
- 5). That Councillor Matthews represent the Town Council at the 150th anniversary commemoration events of the Cowes-Newport railway; and
- 6). That the problem of dogs in the Northwood Recreation Ground playpark be referred to the next meeting of the Northwood Recreation Ground Sub Committee.

6641 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Town Clerk reported that the Localism Act 2011 brought a number of changes to the Ethical Standard arrangements, including a requirement that all Town & Parish Councils adopt a new Code of Conduct and have the new arrangements in place by 1st July 2012. Although it was for individual councils to adopt their own code, the I.W. Council had drafted a code including a procedure for dealing with complaints against members which they hoped would be shared by all as a standard Isle of Wight version. The draft may be subject to change when detailed regulations were published. It was also a requirement under the Act to publicise the adoption of the Code of Conduct so as to bring the adoption to the attention of persons living in the area.

RESOLVED

- 1). That subject to any final amendments that may arise following the publication of the regulations, the Town Council agrees to adopt the Code of Conduct and procedure for dealing with complaints against members as drafted by the I.W. Council; and
- 2). That the Town Clerk be authorised to publicise the Town Council's adoption of the new code.

6642 CIVIC GIFTS

The Town Clerk submitted a quotation as follows from C.H. Munday Ltd. (a copy of which had been circulated to each member) for the supply of either hand painted or screen printed wall shields that would be suitable as civic gifts.

Initial resin mould	£195 plus VAT
Hand painted shields – single	£ 35.50 plus VAT and delivery
- 5 shields	£ 31.45 each plus VAT and delivery
- 10 shields	£ 29.50 each plus VAT and delivery
- 25 shields	£ 28.20 each plus VAT and delivery
Screen Printed shields – Minimum quantity 25	£ 21.95 each plus VAT and delivery

The Town Mayor then reported that the recorder for taping meetings was faulty; it should either be repaired or replaced.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase 25 shields subject to the receipt of a satisfactory sample shield.
- 2). That the replacement of the tape recorder be referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.20pm)

CHAIRMAN