



Minutes of the meeting held of the TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 3rd July at 6.30pm.

Present:- Councillors Fuller, Jones, Matthews, McGregor, Robinson and Walters.

409 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Banks, Birch and Brown.

410 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd May and 29th may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

411 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

412 TO UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS IN THE TOWN FOLLOWING THE CBA MEETING (COUNCILLOR JONES)

Several emails of Christmas lights for sale and hire have been forwarded for discussion. A meeting has been arranged with a small committee from both the Town Council and the Cowes Business Association to discuss how to take this item forward. They will report back to the next Town Improvement Meeting.

413 TO UPDATE ON THE TOILETS IN THE NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

The lease has been signed to take on full responsibility for the toilet block, the building has been added to the insurance for the full rebuilding cost of £110,00 which has resulted in an additional premium of £198.42.

G. J. Banks limited are now going to schedule in the refurbishment work following the decision to have the toilet block locked at 6pm each evening after a spate of expensive vandalism has occurred. It was suggested that a sign be placed advising why the toilets are now being locked earlier (which could be designed by the students of Cowes Enterprise College), but in the first instance, P. C. S. O. Steve Oatley be approached to talk to the users of the facilities at Northwood Recreation Ground to remind them that they can telephone "101" to report anonymously any further acts of vandalism. It was also suggested by a resident to consider the installation of CCTV – this is a very expensive option. So it was agreed that this item would be taken to the next LAG meeting for further discussion as the Safer Neighbourhood Team has authority to erect temporary CCTV in problem areas.

414 TO UPDATE ON THE HORIZON AND JUBILEE PLAQUES (COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS)

Councillor Matthews has been talking to the graphic designers about the Horizon Plaque. The latest design is still not quite as requested, so it will be left on the table at the Council office for members to make comments.

The Jubilee plaques have been received and are with G. J. Banks ready for installation. Unveiling curtains have been borrowed from the National Health Trust but are not the right size, so:-
URGENT DECISION: - New blue velvet curtains will be bought or made, together with a new curtain pole, and councillors will devise a method of installation.

415 TO UPDATE ON THE TOWN MAPS (COUNCILLORS JONES AND MATTHEWS)

The copy right issue has been resolved so the maps can now be produced. Councillors Jones and Matthews will check over the final version. They have also conducted a survey of the existing frames and perspex coverings. All eight maps will need updating, three require replacement perspex and several of the frames require a coat of paint. The costs will be £50 for the new artwork plus £70 for each map to be produced and the perspex at £31.53. All costs are plus VAT.

In view of the Queen's visit:-

URGENT DECISION: - to purchase two updated maps and replacement Perspex for the two notice boards on the Parade, and paint for the frames, plus

RECOMMENDATION: - to purchase an additional six maps and one perspex to replace all the notice boards in the town, plus paint the frames where necessary.

416 TO UPDATE ON THE GATEWAY TO COWES – FOUNTAIN YARD E.T.C.)

Following last month's meeting, the format of a letter has been agreed and will be sent to Mrs Sue Rogerson. Councillors agreed that although the CTC has no jurisdiction to enforce any action within the Fountain Yard, as it is the gateway to Cowes it would be useful to convene a meeting with all interested parties. This has been an issue for several years, as although it is in private ownership, there is a public right of way across it.

RECOMMENDATION: - to convene a meeting with Cowes Business Association, Red Funnel, Green King, Cowes Harbour Commissioners and the other private owners after the busy summer season.

417 TO UPDATE ON PROJECTS AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

Outdoor Gym

At last month's meeting it was agreed to contact local councils to enquire as to the maintenance costs for their equipment. This has not been a successful process, so an alternative was sought. After taking professional advice from a Fitness Instructor, a suggestion of fixed (no moving parts) was considered. One quote has been obtained so far which is cheaper than the other equipment. There is a possible funding source but the project would need to be started before the end of the year. Solent Groundworks (who managed the Adventure Play Park) have access to the funding on our behalf and have offered to project manage. Much discussion took place regarding possible siting of a project so:-

RECOMMENDATION: - That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts Andrew McIntyre at the IW Council to consider alternative locations such as Moorgreen Reservoir, the open space in St Mary's Road or Mornington Green.

RECOMMENDATION: - That another two quotations are sought for the fixed outdoor gym equipment.

Councillor Fuller left at 7.25pm.

Outdoor Table Tennis Table

Unfortunately the CTC bid for funding was not successful this time.

Litter Bin for the MUGA

A litter bin has been bought, installed and emptying arranged.

Benches

Two backless benches have been bought and installed.

ROSPA Report

Following discussions with Northwood Cricket Club concerning the possible risk to users of the MUGA from stray cricket balls a report from ROSPA was requested. The report advises this is a "low risk" but feels that high netting could help but the situation should be monitored.

RECOMMENDATION: - Councillor Matthews will contact the cricket club who have been informed of the contents of the ROSPA report and request that they keep a log of any cricket balls being hit into the MUGA .

418 TO UPDATE ON DOG SIGNS

The Dog Signs have been removed from Artic Park totally now and this has been reported to the Police. The sign was designed following a competition amongst local school children for the Adventure Play Area which says "No Dogs Allowed". In Artic Park dogs are allowed on a lead so the Signage conflicts with that erected by the IW Council. The CTC signs have no official logo on them. Following last month's meeting, The Sign Company has been contacted and a quote of £60 plus VAT to update all three signs with the CTC logo on them has been obtained. Much discussion followed about the conflicting signage.

RECOMMENDATION: - The Assistant Town Clerk contacts Andrew McIntyre at IW Council to arrange another site visit to ensure that the signs in Artic Park are correct.

419 UPDATE ON THE CUT

Following last month's meeting, letters have been sent to three companies requesting quotations to project manage the project. Only two have so far been received.

A meeting will be arranged in September between Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and IW Council (Highways Department) as recommended at last month's meeting to discuss the issue of the bollards before the project can be started.

420 VICTORIA ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

A letter has been received by a member of the public asking for support for a pedestrian crossing in Victoria Road. Discussion resulted in:-

RECOMMENDATION:- The Assistant Town Clerk to email IW Councillor Mr G Brown and the Highway department to check about the feasibility of this.

The Meeting ended at 7.45pm.

CHAIRMAN