



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Monday 17 December 2012 at 6.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Banks, Brown, Jones, Matthews, Walters and Wells
Councillors Cowan and Sanderson were also in attendance but non-voting.

Before the meeting started, a new chairman had to be elected following the resignation of Councillor McGregor from Cowes Town Council.

Councillor Walters was duly elected as Chairman of this committee.

455 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

456 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

457 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

458 The Bandstand

Councillor Wells has not been able to arrange a meeting at this time. He is still keen to arrange a meeting and will endeavour to this in the New Year.

459 The Horizon Plaque

The final art work has now been completed and compared with the photographs taken by Councillor Matthews. With one or two minor exceptions this was agreed by the councillors. The next step is to obtain estimates for the work to be completed. Three quotations will now be sought. Councillor Banks will provide the Assistant Town Clerk with some suitable contractors. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent will be required for the project. Martin Hayles was previously engaged to carry out this work, so will have all the relevant history.

ACTION: that three quotations are sought for the making of the Horizon Plaque.

RECOMMENDATION: That Martin Hayles be asked to provide a quotation to obtain the relevant permissions.

460 Festive arrangements for the town

There has been much discussion about the Christmas Trees which were purchased for the town this year. Two trees were donated and another two purchased from Haylands Farm. Unfortunately the donated trees did not look as good once removed from the garden and had to be replaced. The two from Haylands Farm were quite small, but the decision was made by the Town Improvement Committee to have four smaller trees rather than two large ones. Red Funnel donated a large Christmas Tree, which was installed at the bottom of Market Hill for the Lights of Love Concert. The cost of the four original trees was £60 only as two were donated. £240 will be paid to Shide Trees to replace them.

For next year Red Funnel has offered to donate one Christmas Tree to both West and East Cowes. Sponsorship could be considered, also additional tree decorations as the lights on them are only effective at night. Councillor Jones will continue to liaise with the Cowes Business Association on this project.

Lessons need to be learnt from this year – that saving the town money does not work with this particular project. The incoming council will need to consider this item early in their term.

The solar panel Christmas trees were installed having been bought by the Town Council and match funded by the Cowes Business Association. These have proved to be unsatisfactory as the solar panels have not worked. Funding for these lights was raised from both Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association at £2,000 each. The lights only cost £2,000 so it was :-

RECOMMENDATION: That £1,000 is returned to Cowes Town Council balances and £1,000 be returned to the CBA.

461 The Wishing Well

Councillor Hammond was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email confirming that the Cowes Carnival Committee want to keep it, but have no funds to restore it. CTC are still awaiting a confirmation from IW Council that they still have ownership of the well. Cowes Carnival Committee did spend some funds in 2006 restoring the well with an opening ceremony. After much discussion it was:-

ACTION: That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts Mark Downer at IW Council advising that the local business would like to have the well demolished and see what their reaction is.

462 The Flag Poles on the Parade

Councillor Banks prepared another report with updated costings which are estimated to be a total of £8,000 plus VAT. It was discussed that there could be revenue from this project and that it would enhance the area. It was decided that this project might be worth exploring and that:-

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the IW Council to see if they would agree to Cowes Town Council undertaking this project before undertaking planning, listed building consent etc.

463 Summer Bunting for 2013

Cost of putting up the bunting, taking it down and maintenance for the season £1,000.00. The full town council has agreed to set aside a figure of £3,500 from the budget for next year's street decorations.

Quotations have been received from Nylon Bunting from Charnwood - £2,000.00 (as they advised that premium bunting was required due the location, The Cotton Bunting Company £5,900.00, Grapefruit Limited £3,062.50 and Hampshire Flag Company £2,067.00

Following last month's meeting, samples were sought from all four companies. Councillors talked about the guarantees and whether it would be best to spend a larger amount for bunting that might be able to withstand several seasons. It was decided that:-

ACTION:

- 1) **The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the Hampshire Flag Company to see how long their bunting should last.**
- 2) **The Assistant Town Clerk contacts Bournemouth City Council to see who their contractors for bunting are.**

464 Street Furniture

Town Maps – all the maps have now been replaced. An invoice has been raised from DMR engineering which does not detail the breakdown between the work on the town maps and the finger posts. Councillor Matthews will contact DMR engineering to get this resolved.

Councillor Banks declared an interest as his company has provided a quotation for the refurbishment of the finger posts, and left the room.

Finger Posts: There have been several arms taken off as out of date, what should happen to them?

ACTION: Councillor Matthews can take them to the local scrap yard.

Three quotations have been sought for the repainting of the existing arms :-

Moss Hayman	£2,895
Delux	£1,950
GJ Banks	£4,225

In light of the PFI project, and how this impacts on the maintenance of street furniture, it was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting. The Mayor was attending a meeting with the PFI contractors the following day and hoped to obtain some clarification regarding on-going maintenance.

Councillor Wells left at 8.05pm.

Councillor Banks re-entered the meeting.

Community Notice Board – The Supporters of Cowes Library have requested either an additional notice board or a key to have access to the Cowes Town Council notice board. Discussion took place about the wall where the notice boards are placed not belonging to the town council. Also considerations for matching notice boards.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Council to contact the supporters of the library advising they cannot have a key to our board, but they could consider having their own board on the wall alongside the Town Council one, and apply for grant towards the cost from CTC.

Meeting ended at 8.10pm.

CHAIRMAN