



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Monday 28 January 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present: - Councillors Banks, Brown, Matthews, Robinson and Walters

465 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Fuller, Jones and Wells.

466 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

467 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

468 The Bandstand

Councillor Wells was unable to attend the meeting but had advised that the IW Council would consider a joint project. It was agreed that until the P.F.I. contractor is able to answer questions regarding the cost implications of any new projects, no further action would be taken.

469 The Horizon Plaque

The final art work has been taken to The Parade by Councillor Matthews and AFX Design who discovered that the balustrade is not square.

Martin Hayles has provided a quotation for his work to obtain Planning and Listed Building consent plus a survey of the location and providing sketch drawings indicating plaques, plan, elevations, sections and detail sheet at a cost of £450 plus VAT plus the cost of planning permission.

Estimates for the work to produce the plaque have been sought from:-

| Name | Medium | Price |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Fitzpatrick Woolmer | | No price yet received |
| Signs Express | Aluminium | £4261.11 |
| Sign Industries Ltd | Stainless Steele | £1775.00 |
| Delabole Slate | Slate | £2872.00 |
| AJ Wells | Enamel | £3500.00 |

Further costs will be incurred for the production of a backing plate and installation.

RECOMMENDATION: That Martin Hayles be appointed to obtain the necessary permissions as per his quotation of £450 plus VAT.

ACTION: That an estimate is obtained for the production of a stainless steel backing plate.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk continues her discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish if there is a grant available to fund the project.

470 Festive arrangements for the town

Councillor Walters attended the last meeting of the CBA and acknowledged that he had been premature in suggesting that monies would be returned to them. It is the view of the Council that we adhere to the original agreement and hold onto the balances ring fenced exclusively for the CBA use. He also asked them for an input on any project that would enhance the town for consideration. It was agreed that the CBA are taking full responsibility for the festivities and the only input from CTC will be financial.

471 The Town Clock and Well, Shooters Hill

Councillors Banks submitted a written report which was circulated ahead of the meeting. This report provides an idea to demolish the well and place a mains powered new clock in its place. Again the uncertainty of which items are included in the PFI contract are causing problems for undertaking any projects which involve the Highway. The IW Council has still not confirmed ownership. Until ownership has been confirmed CTC cannot take any further action.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to forward the email sent to IW Council to the Highways P.F.I. team and awaits a response.

472 The Flag Poles on the Parade

The Isle of Wight Council have not yet commented on the suitability of this project, so it will be carried over to the next meeting.

473 Summer Bunting for 2013

A figure of £3,500 has been set aside in the budget for this item. The cost of erecting and taking down the bunting amounts to £1,000 so £2,500 is left for the purchase of bunting. Various prices have been sought ranging from £720 to £3,062.50. Samples have also been sought which were shown to councillors. Bournemouth City Council was also contacted and they suggested another supplier who was also asked to supply a sample and quotation. Following extensive investigation's it was:-

RECOMMENDED: That 2,500 metres of bunting is purchased from Party Packs at a cost of £1,987.50.

474 Street Furniture

The finial and new finger arm have been received from Leander Architectural. Unfortunately the wording on the finger arm was misspelt and a new one has to be made, which has now been ordered. Cowes Harbour Commission has agreed to pay for the arm once the spelling has been corrected.

Quotes have been obtained to repaint all the existing finger posts in the town and the bottom of the Town Clock which amounted to over £3,000. Councillors decided that this was too expensive to pay at this time, especially as the future maintenance could become under the P.F.I. contract.

ACTION: The Finial to be installed by Councillors Matthews and Robinson.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the contractors to request an estimate just to re-paint the bottom of the Town Clock.

475 The Cut

Following the meeting of the Mayor with the officers from the P.F.I. contract, there is still no confirmation of costs for the on-going maintenance of any new projects, so it was decided that:-

RECOMMENDATION: That the £40,000 previously ring fenced for this project is put back into reserves for any future Town Improvement, but this item could be considered at a later date.

476 The Future of the computers in the Town Council office

A grant was obtained from the IW Council in May 2008 for the purchase of additional computers for the Town Council office which were intended for public use. Unfortunately, the office is too small for this to happen.

RECOMMENDATION: That one of the four computers is used by the Town Clerk and the remaining three plus the desks they sit on are offered to any charity or charitable organisation.

477 ROSPA inspections of the Skate Park and MUGA

The annual safety inspection of the Skatepark and the 1st annual inspection of the MUGA are required this summer.

RECOMMENDATION: That both projects have their annual inspection this summer carried out by ROSPA Playsafety Limited at a cost of £130.00 plus VAT for both sites.

478 Mornington Green Planting Scheme

Councillor Fuller submitted a report which has been circulated ahead of the meeting. Several trees on the Green were felled by IW Council when one of the Poplars become unsafe. IW Council will be replanting once they have monitored the ground movement and saturation levels. Councillor Fuller has undertaken a letter drop to all residents in the area, but to date has only received three response, none of which mention the trees. Residents are concerned about the pond and that water is now running down the road which when icy is a considerable hazard.

RECOMMENDATION: The Assistant Town Clerk refers this matter to the Cowes Community Partnership who are currently working on a project within the Morning Woods and were responsible for "infilling" the pond.

479 Land at the bottom of Market Hill

There is a large area of open space next to the almshouses currently for sale. This would make an excellent community facility if it was grassed with benches and flower beds added. There is a tree there which has suffered some damage but is alive and thriving.

ACTION: That Councillor Walters continues to have dialogue with the land owner on behalf of Cowes Town Council to investigate the possibility of the council purchasing the land for community use as a possible town improvement project.

480 Toilets

There is a toilet block at the bottom of Park Road in the grounds of Northwood House which has been boarded up for over two years. After some discussion it was agreed that:

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk writes to the Trustees of Northwood House to see if they would consider selling the toilet block to Cowes Town Council with the aim of re-opening the facility for community use as a possible town improvements project.

The Toilet block at Northwood Recreation Ground is currently being refurbished by G.J. Banks Ltd. SSE has contacted all Town and Parish Councils on the Isle of Wight advising them to agree to a new fixed contract. There are offering both a one year and two year contract. After some discussions it was agreed that:-

RECOMMENDATION: That the Assistant Town Clerk signs a one year contract on behalf of Cowes Town Council for the supply of electricity to the toilet block for one year from 01/03/13.

Meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN