



Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 4th April 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

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

As this was the last full meeting of the Town Council prior to the May elections, Councillor Banks wished to offer a vote of thanks to those members not seeking re-election; he made special reference to Councillor Sanderson who had served for almost twenty seven years, Councillor Wells a past Town Mayor who had served for thirteen years and Councillor Mazillius a member for four years. He stated that their input and local knowledge would be sorely missed.

6734 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

An opportunity was given for members of the public to ask questions but none were asked.

6735 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

- a). That concerns had been expressed by residents regarding the quality of pot hole repairs; this had been prior to the PFI contractor assuming responsibility for highways maintenance on 1st April.
- b). That residents had advised that dog waste bins had not been emptied for two weeks and in some cases were overflowing; following his intervention, they were emptied within 48 hours.
- c). That at the last LAG Meeting the following had been reported:
 - PC Lisa Paul had been talking to Gurnard Primary School regarding traffic on Baring Road.
 - Edinburgh Close and the Crossfield Estate seemed to be an emerging issue, which was of concern.
 - Dog Fouling was an issue in Pelham Road and on footpaths near to Lanes End School. Suggestions were made about promoting multi use dog/litter bins; was there scope to work with local schools and Town/ Parish Council's on a joint initiative?
 - PC Pringle reported there had been 6 house searches, with 4 arrests. Drugs remained a concern locally..
 - The insistence of the police targeting persistent offenders who make up 90% of offences.
 - Litter on the section of Arctic Road between cycleway and Newport Road.
 - Children's Society Wellbeing Survey findings, especially regarding happiness in school and concerns from Secondary School teenage girls on their appearance.
 - Domestic Abuse.
 - Operation Serenity and how the police were working with others in dealing with Mental Health Issues. Under S136 of the Mental Health Act, the Police can remove persons for their own safety. The Police were investigating what steps were in place beyond this happening?
- d). That he had dealt with other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

Councillor Mazillius referred to the following;

- a). That he thanked Councillor Banks and the Town Council for the very kind sentiments that had been expressed regarding those members not seeking re-election to the Council.
- b). That the Highways PFI contract commenced on 1st April; sixty five I.W. Council staff had been transferred to the contractor.
- c). That also on 1st April, the NHS Public Health team had transferred to the I.W. Council.
- d). That he had objected to the Hamlet Court planning application; it had been refused.
- e). That the asphalt plant planning application was still progressing; it would not be determined until after the May elections.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:

- a). That despite the Cowes Traffic Order having come into operation she continued to oppose the section of the Order that related to Newport Road.
- b). That she had attended a Medina Spectrum open day at Lanesend School; a number of different organisations had been present and over £500 had been raised for the school.
- c). That she had attended the Highways PFI Roadshow in The Cut.

(Councillor Wells entered the meeting at 7.07pm)

6736 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sergeant Mike Sizer had apologised that neither he, nor any of his staff had been available to attend the meeting; his written report had not been received in time for the meeting.

However, it was subsequently circulated to all members and referred to the following:

- a). That there had been a series of criminal damage incidents over the last weekend connected to youth anti-social behaviour. Investigations were continuing but affected areas ranged from Parklands Avenue, Crossfield Avenue, Baring Road and Worsley Road. To date police enquiries had identified 3 young persons whom they believed to be responsible for the damage. Investigations were ongoing.
- b). That in an unconnected incident 2 youths were arrested for theft of a motor vehicle in the Arctic Road area; they remained on bail.
- c). That working in partnership with Spectrum Medina Housing Group, Cowes SNT had provided significant evidence to the County Court in support of an application to seek an outright possession order on premises in Arctic Road; the occupant had been causing serious anti-social behaviour issues. The application had been successful resulting in an order to vacate the premises by 23/04/13.
- d). That a complex investigation conducted by SNT identified the person responsible for 13 counts of criminal damage to vehicles parked outside Park Court. Charges had now been laid in respect of all of these incidents and a male would appear in court in due course.
- e). That they were working in partnership with the I.W. Council on two Local Action Group priorities; drugs misuse and dog fouling.
- f). That since his previous report to the Town Council, police activity has resulted in the arrest of eleven persons for drug related matters in the Cowes area. Additionally several vehicles and houses have been searched under Misuse of Drugs Act legislation.
- g). That Council patrols in Pelham Road had identified no issues in respect of dog fouling. However, due to public concerns, enforcement patrol signage had gone up in Pelham Road; it would remain in place for two weeks.
- h). That the Cowes SNT welcomed PC Michelle Jackson to the team; he would introduce Michelle to Council members as soon as their duties permitted.

6737 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2013 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6738 MATTERS ARISING

a). Refuse problems (Min. No. 6732 refers)

The Town Clerk reported that he had written to the I.W. Council requesting they change the refuse collection day for Cowes from Thursday back to a Monday, circulated a general letter to local publican and takeaway shop owners and the Town Mayor had referred to the litter problem in his article in the Beacon magazine.

Mr. Love had responded for the I.W. Council stating that they were in the early stages of a procurement process for a new waste collection and disposal contract that would start in October 2015; the level of detail regarding where and when collections would take place would only be dealt with towards the latter stages of the contract negotiations. However, it was the intention to ensure that full account was taken of areas with a high level of second home ownership in any collection arrangements that were to be introduced as part of the new contract.

Mr. Love stated that the I.W. Council had looked into the option of returning Cowes to a Monday collection day but in order to do so would have had to change collection arrangements in other area and no effective and efficient way of doing this could be found without having a negative impact on those areas. It was also the case that changing collection to a Monday would not entirely solve the problem as black bag waste was only collected fortnightly. In areas where waste collections were on Mondays, a small number of homeowners continued to put black bags out for collection on a recycling week; the I.W. Council approach had been to work with the homeowners and the local member to try to tackle the problem. Ultimately, it was the responsibility of homeowners to ensure they place their waste for collection in the correct place and at the right time; this applied to second home owners in the same way as it did to everyone else.

Mr. Love concluded by stating that the I.W. Council had very few records of refuse problems in Cowes having been reported; however, as this was not the Town Council's experience he would be happy to get a member of the Waste Team to come to discuss the issues and any possible means of tackling those issues locally.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk accepts Mr. Love's offer and invites a member of the Waste Team to a future meeting of the Town Council.

b). Academy status, Lanesend Primary School (Min. No. 6733b refers)

Councillor Hall had circulated a written report for all members.

It stated that the Governors of Lanesend Primary School had met on 27th March to consider the responses from the initial stage of the consultation regarding whether or not the school should continue to explore the potential for becoming an academy school.

Following full consideration of all stakeholder comments, a vote was taken and a majority decision was that the Governors would proceed; the LA, Cabinet Member and Parents were informed of the decision the following day.

An application would be made to the Department of Education stating the intention of the Governors with a proposed commencement date of 1st September 2013.

This does not mean that the school would definitely become an academy, and by default it has now entered a further stage of consultation. The application could be rejected or the school could retract its application if it is felt that the conversion is not in the best interests of the school or the pupils.

b). Norwich City Concert Band (Min. No. 6691d refers)

The Town Clerk stated that confirmation had been received from the Norwich City Concert Band that they would be visiting the Island between 3rd and 5th May and that they would perform a concert on the bandstand on 4th May between 11am and 1pm; they required parking for their coach and thirty three seats for their band members.

The Town Clerk would arrange all necessary permissions and to engage a contractor for the movement of the required chairs.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Clerk be authorised to arrange all necessary permissions for the concert and to engage a contractor to for movement of the chairs; and
- 2). That the Town Council makes a donation of £100 to the Norwich City Concert Band.

6739 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 25th February 2013 were received.

b). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 11th March 2013 were received.

i). Horizon Plaque

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the artwork for the horizon plaque which had been produced by AFX Design.

ii). Bunting

RESOLVED

That the Town Council engage the services of Bison Entertainment to erect, maintain and at the end of the summer season remove, bunting in the town at a total cost of £1,000.

(The Town Clerk to enquire how frequently Bison Entertainments had been called out to damaged bunting and whether or not it would be possible to utilize different and higher fixing points).

c). Northwood Recreation Ground Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee held on 11th March 2013 were received.

i). Skatepark.

RESOLVED

That Top Mops be invited to submit a quotation for cleaning the skatepark, MUGA and Playbuilder areas in Northwood Recreation Ground.

(Councillor Fuller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item as his wife was employed by Top mops).

d). Cowes Business Association

Notes of the AGM of the Cowes Business Association held on 21st March 2013 were received.

Councillor Jones reported that the CBA had been negotiating to hold regular monthly Artisan Markets through the High Street.

6740 SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

The Town Clerk reported that in accordance with Standing Order 10.1, four Members had given written notice that they wish to have the following re-visited and possibly reversed or altered:

a). The decisions taken under minute no. 6729c

'That the Town Council accepts the quotation from Top Mops in the sum of £3,456.66 to have the toilets cleaned twice a day and locked each evening from Easter to the end of September plus one clean per day to the disabled toilet for the remainder of the year'.

Councillor Brown and other members stated that as the Town Council had installed the skatepark, MUGA and playpark in Northwood Recreation Ground as amenities for family use they had a responsibility to provide toilet facilities all year round.

Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council alter the decision taken under minute no. 6729c and accept the quotation from Top Mops in the sum of £3,851.60 to keep the toilets opened and cleaned in both winter and summer; and
- 2). That the Town Council monitors and records incidents of vandal damage at the Northwood Recreation Ground toilets to enable more informed decisions to be taken for future years.

b). The decision taken under minute no. 6729b

- 1). *'That the Town Council's original offer to the NHCT Co. Ltd. of £6,312 EIF grant for refurbishment work to the Nunnery Steps remains available until the end of 2013 and would be released when work to the Steps was completed to the required specifications'; and*
- 2). *'That the Town Council is unable to make any additional funding available towards the project'.*

The Town Mayor reported the sad news of the death of Mr. David Christie, Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

Following discussion, it was agreed that it would be disrespectful to debate the Nunnery Steps in these sad circumstances.

RESOLVED

That any discussion regarding the EIF grant towards refurbishment works to the Nunnery Steps be deferred to a future meeting of the Town Council.

6741 DOG FOULING PROBLEMS

The Town Mayor referred to the ongoing problem of dog fouling in the town; this had been identified by the Local Action Group as one of their top three priorities to be addressed.

Members agreed that educating dog owners of their responsibilities and warning them of the dangers of not picking up dog litter was key to the problem; nonetheless, as there were already many warning signs it was not thought that additional signing would be of benefit.

Councillor Fuller stated that financial penalties may well deter; however, he had been informed that no fixed penalty charges had been issued in 2012/13.

RESOLVED

That as the Dog Warden service had transferred to Island Roads from 1st April, the Town Clerk should write to them expressing the Town Council's concerns on this issue and asking their plans for addressing the problem.

6742 OUTER HARBOUR PROJECT

Councillor Walters submitted a report to update members regarding the Outer Harbour Project, a copy of which had been circulated.

It referred to the original concept of building an outer breakwater that could make Cowes a truly sheltered harbour to benefit Cowes and East Cowes and also facilitate future development of the Medina River. The initial cost of the project was estimated at £6.9 million with the Harbour Commission, SEEDA and a Marine Developer making equal contributions to the cost.

The subsequent economic climate and other factors had an adverse effect on the marine developer's willingness to proceed; the 300 berth marina was put on hold along with their financial contribution. It was still intended that SEEDA and the Harbour Commission would deliver the project with the developer's contribution coming at a later stage.

However, a change of government brought new thinking into Whitehall and SEEDA was restructured to become the Homes and Community Agency. Although the breakwater, marina and development off SEEDA owned land in East Cowes had originally been a SEEDA idea, the Homes and

Community Agency had different priorities. The Harbour Commission had to take a more proactive role to keep the project moving as the Homes and Community Agency unlike SEEDA did not have the ability or wish to manage the project. There was no clarity in their position regarding available funding and the disposal of their property in East Cowes, notably the Columbine Shed; the I.W. Council and the local MP became involved in an attempt to clarify the whole issue of buildings and funding that had been promised to the Island and what the community needed to do to secure it. There was a distinct possibility that the promised SEEDA funding would be lost and that the Harbour Commission might have to consider other alternative methods of securing the required finance for them to proceed.

Further information would be circulated when a response was received from the MP regarding the Homes and Community Agency assets and future proposals.

6743 PARKING AVAILABILITY

Councillor Walters referred to the parking difficulty for local residents around the town and questioned how their difficulties could best be addressed; many roads were congested by cars being parked by commuters travelling to the mainland while the Park Road car park remained underutilised. Councillor Fuller stated that the I.W. Council was responsible for parking strategy on the Island; the Town Council should work with them to take ownership of future policy for Cowes.

It was agreed that the Town Council should offer to work with the Northwood House Charitable Trust Company regarding their underutilised car park and also the I.W. Council on their future parking strategies for Cowes.

(Councillor Mazillius left the meeting at 8.22pm)

6744 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). Details of, and to appoint a representative to, a Southern Water stakeholders workshop to be held at the Priory Bay Hotel, Seaview on 15th April..
- b). *Details of accounts and petty cash payments for the period January to March 2013 (to follow).
- c). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.
- d). Information regarding Town & Parish Council elections on 2nd May.
- e). Invitation from the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica to a 71st Anniversary Commemoration of the defence of Cowes by the Polish destroyer ORP Blyskawica to be held on the bandstand, The Parade, on 5th May at 1.30pm.

(* Copies circulated to all members)

RESOLVED

- 1). That Councillor Hall represent the Town Council at the Southern Water stakeholders workshop on 15th April; and
- 2). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period January to March 2013 be noted and approved:

		£ . p
AFX Design	Payment for design of Horizon Plaque (Min. No. 6583b)	280.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
SLCC	Town Clerks membership fee (Min. No. 6700d)	145.00
Community Action IW	Grant for Optio Car scheme (Min. No. 6699f)	500.00
BT	Telephone	48.02
Thompsons Plant	Christmas trees (Min. No. 6660b)	230.76
DN Associates	Office Rent (Min no 6397b)	615.00
DMR Eng.	Repair town map frames (Min. No. 6660b)	481.00
Cowes Business Assoc.	Associate membership (Min. No. 6711a)	15.00
Berry Electrical	Replace light fitting – Northwood Rec. toilets	63.91
I.W.A.L.C.	Membership fee 2012/13) (Min. No. 6707b)	150.00

R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S Waters	Salary	344.75
Shorelines	Councillor nameplates	35.00
I.W. Music Centre	Grant from QDJ Charity Concert (Min. No. 6607g)	1,000.00
R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
WBS	Stationery	26.41
SSE Contracting	Christmas tree lighting (Min. No. 6660b)	1,286.94
Southern Electric	Northwood Rec., toilets	28.01
I.W. Council	Parking permit Assistant Town Clerk (Min. No. 6555c)	40.00
Cowes Business Association	Erection of Christmas trees (Bison Ent.)	150.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
SLCC	Registration fee CiLCA (Min. No. 6722b)	150.00
Information Commissioner	Renewal of registration (Min. No. 6722c)	35.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No. 6630e)	250.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	344.55
Wight Business Services	Stationery	20.54
Broxap	New bins, Northwood Park (Min. No. 6699f)	1,194.65
Party Packs	Bunting (Min. No. 6720a)	1,987.50
BT	Telephone	15.74
M.J. Hayles	Preparation of planning application for horizon plaque (Min. No. 6720a)	450.00
I.W. Council	Planning application fee horizon plaque (Min. No. 6720a)	192.50
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Gurnard Parish Council	50% cost of litter bin emptying	86.00
Urbaser	Emptying bins, Northwood Park (Min. No. 6594j)	1,140.00
Vaughtons	Councillor medals (Min. No. 6689c)	742.83
Friends of ORP Blyskawica	Grant for 2012 Commemoration event (Min. No. 6730c)	3,000.00
Stocksigns	Signs for Northwood Rec. toilets	114.09
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
G.J. Banks (IW) Ltd.	Refurb of Northwood Rec toilets (Min. No. 6630c)	4,107.10
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
SLCC	Asst. Town Clerks membership fee (Min. No. 6733c)	100.00
Leander Architectural	Finger post finial and arm (Min. No. 6699b)	401.54
Southern Electric	Electricity charge for christmas and decorative lighting	664.67
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	344.55
HMRC	NI & Tax (Jan. to March)	1,144.87
St. Mary's Church	Hire of hall	136.25
Jack Green Builder	Installation of bins, Northwood Park (Min. No. 6699f)	1,200.00
Viking Office Supplies	Stationery	42.97
R. Hayman	Clearance and disposal of broken planters	47.50
Petty Cash Payments April to June 2012		
Post Office	Stamps	4.30
Post Office	Postage	13.20
Post Office	Stamps	14.40
B & Q	Bedding plants	18.00
SLCC	Branch membership x 2 (Min. No. 6733d)	20.00
Micron	Upgrade for office computers	22.99
Shorelines	Engraving of Community Award plaque	15.75
Royal Mail	Collection of letter	1.41

Post Office	Stamps	19.20
R. Heney	Travelling	46.27
R. Heney	Postage	13.50

(The proceedings terminated at 8.30pm)

CHAIRMAN