



Minutes of the meeting held of the TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Wednesday 29th August at 7.00pm.

Present: - Councillors Banks, Brown, Fuller, Jones, Matthews, McGregor, Robinson and Walters
Also present was Mr P Bertie (Chairman of Cowes Business Association)

409 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Wells

421 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meetings held on 3rd July may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

422 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

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

Councillor Jones advised that he had been unable to arrange a meeting of a subcommittee with members of the Town Council and CBA so had invited Mr Bertie to attend instead. Mr Bertie advised that following the success of the Jubilee window competition it has been decided to hold a Christmas themed one. This should provide lights in most of the windows of the shops with no cost to the CBA or Town Council. After much discussion it was agreed that a joint project to start organising lights for the town be started this year, with an on-going commitment to add to the lights each year. It was suggested that two garlands with white lights be purchased and sited near to the entrance of Red Funnel as a starting point, although it might be too late for this year. The long term aim would be to build up to 30 such lights throughout the Town. Further investigation of costs and possible sites will be necessary to start the project. After much discussion it was agreed that:-

RECOMMENDATION: - to commit £2,000 from each organisation to start investing in lights for the town. The town council commitment would be purely financial and advisory with the CBA taking the lead and responsibility.

Once the project is started, the CBA will contact the larger stores in the town for possible sponsorship.

Christmas Trees: - in past years, two large Christmas Trees have been sited at Franski Place and outside the Vectis Tavern. It was suggested that smaller trees could be dotted around the town. Upon investigation, only one other site (The Cut) has a sleeve already installed. It was discussed that outside the Vectis Tavern, a large umbrella has been installed where the Christmas tree is usually sited.

ACTION:- the Assistant Town Clerk to talk to the Vectis Tavern before the trees have been ordered to ensure the site is still suitable.

ACTION: - Councillor Fuller to contact Geoff Woodhouse at the IW Council to make enquiries about possible sleeves at the bottom of Market Hill and The Bandstand.

The Light of Love Carol concert was also discussed. This will take place on Friday 14th December. The Location will be decided after the location of sleeves has been decided, as it was decided that Franski Place and outside the Vectis are not suitable.

RECOMMENDATION: - that some smaller trees be purchased for this year and sited wherever sleeves have been installed.

424 TO UPDATE ON THE HORIZON PLAQUE (COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS)

Although there has been a lot of previous discussion round the design of the Horizon Plaque, Councillors felt that what has been provided so far does not meet the brief. Councillor Banks will circulate by email a couple of examples from Plymouth for councillors to discuss.

ACTION:- All councillors to look at the email and have definite ideas before the next Town Improvement meeting. In view of continued discussions to ensure the project is correct, the installation date will be deferred to next year.

425 TO UPDATE ON OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

Following last month's meeting, it was decided to obtain a further two quotations for fixed gym equipment.

Lightmains and Streetscape both gave quotations for a couple of different scenarios. Freshair Fitness - declined to quote saying that the movable equipment was suitable for the needs of Cowes Town Council.

Funding is available from "Britvic Transform Your Patch" for a total of £6,000 with the town council only needing to match fund for 10% of this. To obtain this funding the project must be started by the end of October and should be completed by the end of the year (weather providing).

Location – after consulting with Andrew McIntyre (IW Council Parks Officer) - the location needs to be Northwood Recreation Ground, and alongside the Playbuilder Park was agreed.

A lease must also be obtained from the IW Council.

RECOMMENDATION:- that the project goes ahead with funding from Britvic and the contract be awarded to Lightmains for a total of £6,791.25 plus VAT.

ACTION:- The Assistant Town Clerk contacts Andrew McIntyre for a site visit and Jason Doughty regarding the lease.

426 UPDATE ON THE BANDSTAND

This item was held over to the next meeting.

427 UPDATE ON THE CUT

Further to last month's meeting , three quotations to manage the work have been sought. GJ Banks declined to bid as they would wish to be considered for the works contract. The other two quotations obtained were Cowan Consultancy £4,885 and Martin Hayles £4,025.

RECOMMENDATION: - That the contract be awarded to Martin Hayles who had the lower bid and also has a lot of experience with the project already.

ACTION: the Assistant Town Clerk to confirm the date of the meeting arranged with IW Council Highways , as no work can start until the issue of the bollards has been finalised.

428 TO UPDATE ON DOG SIGNS

Meeting between Andrew McIntyre (IW Council Parks Officer), Neil Perry (IW Council Environment Officer), Lora Peacey-Wilcox (IW Council and Cowes Town Council Councillor) and Sue Waters (Assistant Town Clerk, Cowes Town Council) held on 24/07/12 at 1pm at Arctic Park

The meeting was held to discuss the removal twice of the “No Dogs Allowed” sign which was erected by Cowes Town Council. Neil conducted a survey of the park and there were only two small areas of dog fouling. In view of this decisions were taken:-

- 1 Neil to monitor the park on a weekly basis (not the same day each week) for a period of three months
- 2 Neil will ask the Dog Warden to check regularly as well.
- 3 If the situation of dog fouling increases – Cowes Town Council to consider new signage to educate dog owners about picking up after their dogs (but it must have the logo on it).

ACTION: - the Assistant Town Clerk to contact Neil Perry ahead of the Town Improvement Meeting in October to ask for a report of the dog fouling incidents.

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

The decision was taken last month to update all six maps within the town. One location has been completed – Trinity Landing. The maps at Market Hill are proving a problem as the bar at the bottom holding the map in has corroded. The other locations will also need the perspex replacing as well.

URGENT DECISION:- to employ DMR Engineering to resolve the problem of the bar for the Market Hill map at a cost of £50.

RECOMMENDATION:-

- 1 That the urgent decision to employ DMR be noted and approved.**
- 2 To replace the remaining three perspex’s for the other locations**
- 3 To employ DMR to resolve the problem of the bars for any of the other locations if required.**

Councillor Walters wished to say a big thank you to Councillors Jones and Mathews for all their hard work on the maps to date.

430 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- 1 The Wishing Well
- 2 The Bandstand (held over from this meeting)
- 3 The Flag Poles on the Parade
- 4 Finger Posts

Meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN