

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 4 December 2014 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Jones, McNeill, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Spalding, Walters & Wardrop.

PRESENTATION: COWES WEEK PARADE VILLAGE 2015

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Beth Taylor (Taylor Events) who attended the meeting to outline plans for the Parade Village during Cowes Week 2015. Beth explained that her contract for the Parade Village expires after 2015 and she has asked the Isle of Wight Council for a two year extension to the contract. Beth put forward new proposals for the format of the Parade Village but these will only be able to come in to effect if she obtains the two year extension from the Isle of Wight Council.

Feedback from the Parade Village 2014 focussed on four key areas:

1. **Noise.** For 2015 Beth Taylor is proposing to close the Spinnaker Bar at 11pm which is one hour earlier than 2014. Acoustic music will be extended to 9pm on at least 3 nights. From 10.30pm to 11pm there will only be background music. Revised PA equipment will also reduce noise levels. An additional 'Parade Garden Bar' will be placed which will be a quiet area for sailors to relax, admire the views and discuss the racing.

2. **Toilets.** Currently Taylor Events are not contracted to provide extra toilets; they have however used a cleaning contractor to clean the existing toilets and this will continue. For 2015 they propose to install two toilet trailers – one at the Parade Garden Bar and one at the Spinnaker Bar.

3. **Open Space.** There were 60 extra seats provided in 2014; this will rise to 80 extra seats in 2015. One retailer felt shut off by the Parade Village so a gap was left for them at their back access. Next year they will have a larger rear area which they can use if they wish. Trinity Landing will be kept clear in 2015.

4. **Retail.** Retail units will be reduced to 8. Taylor Events are working with Cowes Business Association (CBA) to discuss retailers, local artists, local businesses who could take up these units. Taylor Events will offer discounts to any CBA members who take up retail units.

Beth Taylor concluded by saying that all these proposed changes can only take place if she is granted a two year extension to her contract and she wants Cowes Town Council to support the extension. If she does not receive the extension she will be unable to provide the extra toilets for 2015 but she will still ensure that the bar shuts one hour earlier i.e. 11pm. Beth Taylor will also continue to provide suitable events for families / children and extend these further where possible.

Following questions, the Deputy Town Mayor thanked Beth Taylor for attending. He welcomed her new proposals and said that he hopes Cowes Town Council can continue to give its point of view on the Parade Village.

6990 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond & Matthews.

6991 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillor Banks declared a Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 8b (647) as his company has tendered for the work concerned.

a) Councillor Jones declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 9d as he lives close to the tree in question.

b) There were no written requests for dispensation for disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

6992 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 November 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6993 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present, therefore no questions were asked.

6994 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. She confirmed that 'social housing' meant reduced rental housing. She also informed Councillors of two other matters.

1. Destination Management Organisation (DMO) reported that in 2013 15% of visitors came to the Island for the first time; day trippers spend an average of £36.00, overnight visitors spend an average of £177.00. DMO are looking at how they can work with ferry companies to make period return travel cheaper.

2. Wight Life Partnership are hoping to complete an audit of bed space on the Island – which could be very interesting.

Councillor Nicholson provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. He was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Fuller provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. With regard to the fourth bullet point on Page 3 – Councillor Fuller clarified that he had chaired the inaugural meeting of the Gurnard Playing Field Committee. When asked he said that the Isle of Wight Council Budget Roadshows had received mixed numbers of public attendees – Cowes had only one member of the public in attendance. He also confirmed that the percentage of planning appeals is slowly coming down.

Councillor Bertie provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. He was absent from the meeting and therefore unable to answer any questions. In relation to Market Hill it was mentioned that domestic refuse was strewn in this area following a burst rubbish bag. Councillor Bertie's report referred to a decision not to charge passengers on the Floating Bridge. It was clarified by Isle of Wight Councillors present that this is currently a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee to Full Council for their final decision.

6995 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Acting Sergeant Gary Knight attended the meeting and presented a report which was subsequently circulated to all Councillors. The report shows that two new cyclists have been stopped in the High Street. Their details were taken, verbal warnings given as well as an educational letter. If the same persons are seen cycling again during the prohibited time then formal action will be taken. The beat surgery has now been closed due to lack of interest; it would re-open if interest grew in this initiative.

6996 MATTERS ARISING

a) Response from Island Roads regarding a request for a skip and CCTV to be placed at St Mary's Road Car Park. (Min No 6976 refers).

The Town Clerk wrote to Island Roads requesting a licence for a skip; this request was passed on to Parking Services at the Isle of Wight Council. A site visit with an Isle of Wight Council Officer and Cowes Town Councillors took place on 3 December 2014. It was agreed to look into whether the existing configuration of recycling bins could be changed to accommodate a 6 cubic yard covered skip close to the rear of Spencer Rigging. The Isle of Wight Council Officer will check this out with the recycling refuse collectors and update Cowes Town Council in due course. A sign would need to be put in place to show that this is a public skip.

The Town Clerk made a request for CCTV to be placed in the St Mary's Road Car Park area. A re-deployable CCTV camera was put in place on Monday 1 December 2014.

b) Response from Councillors following a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council regarding Parade Village. (Min Nos 6969 and 6978a refers).

Following meetings with Isle of Wight Council Officers, Elected Members and Beth Taylor; and following Beth Taylor's presentation tonight, outlining the proposed changes for 2015. Councillors discussed whether to support the extension of Taylor Event's contract for a further two years i.e. to 2017, with the proposed changes as presented. A vote was taken and one Councillor voted against supporting the extension.

RESOLVED

Cowes Town Council have no objection to the Isle of Wight Council extending the contract to Taylor Events for the Parade Village for a further two years subject to the specified changes, as related by Beth Taylor of Taylor Events at this meeting, are put in place.

6997 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE AND MEETINGS

a) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library AGM held on 10 November 2014 were received.

b) Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee held on 17 November 2014 were received.

i) Shelter on the Seafront

Cllr Banks advised that the Isle of Wight Council have given verbal permission for the project, and so has the Crown Estates. The gas easement deed cannot be found, but should not cause a problem as the structure will not have foundations. Before final costings can be obtained, planning permission must be sought. A quotation has been received from M. J. Hayles for obtaining the planning permission at £325 plus VAT, plus £97.50 plus VAT for the Planning fee.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council engage M.J. Hayles to obtain planning permission at a total cost of £422.50 plus VAT.

ii) Legal Agreement & Repairs for the Wishing Well

The legal agreement has not yet been received from the Isle of Wight Council, as they are awaiting information from Island Roads. A quotation has been obtained from John Groves to complete the safety repairs for the doors and the seat at £614.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council accept the quote from John Groves for £614.00 plus VAT to complete the repairs on the grounds of public safety.

iii) Memorial Bench

A price has now been obtained from Island Roads for the installation and maintenance of a bench on the highway - £2,500 until the end of the PFI contract (2038). This is considerably more than previously agreed under the bench policy. The bench policy was reviewed and now needs to be amended in light of this new information. Cllr Banks (who wrote the original policy) will amend it to show the Island Roads price.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Cowes Town Council amend the Bench Policy to incorporate the Island Roads price for benches on the highway.
- 2) That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts the family explaining the problem with Island Roads, advising them of the price for the chosen location, but also advising that the original price would stand if the bench was located on private or Isle of Wight Council land (such as Northwood Park or Northwood Recreation Ground).

iv) Bunting in the Town

Following the problems with the bunting installation in 2013, none was installed this summer by the Town Council. The total cost for 2013 was £2,987.50 for the bunting and installation.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council do not purchase any bunting for Summer 2015.

Councillor Banks left the meeting at 8.06pm for the next item.

v) Tenders for the Cleaning of the Plaques on the Bandstand

An advertisement was placed in the IW County Press requesting tenders for the cleaning of the plaques on the Bandstand. G. J. Banks was the only company to submit a tender. Their quote was for:- Initial Cleaning £885.50 plus VAT, then an annual clean £485.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council contract G.J. Banks to provide an initial clean at £885.50 plus VAT and an annual clean of £485.00 plus VAT.

Councillor Banks returned to the meeting at 8.11pm.

vi) Broken Dog Waste Bin at Northwood Park

At the last Town Council meeting, Cowes Town Council agreed to take responsibility for the dog waste and litter bin maintenance and emptying at Northwood Park. Two of the dog waste bins have broken lids, which are allowing rain water into the bin.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council will make arrangements for the replacement of the broken dog waste bins.

c) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 20 November 2014 were received.

d) Cowes Harbour Commission Stakeholder Meeting

The Notes of the Cowes Harbour Commission Stakeholder Meeting held on 26 November 2014 were received. The notes contained a number of ideas that were discussed regarding the future of the harbour. If Councillors have further ideas please share them with Councillor Corby.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council endorses Cowes Harbour Commission's proposals for the future of the harbour including the proposed shore based projects and enhancement of the water front.

6998 COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Councillor Nicholson raised for discussion Community Wellbeing which he reported is a national movement which is gaining momentum. This will address shortcomings, deprivation and anxiety in all its forms. Town & Parish Councils could become a conduit to bring organisations together as Public Health is shifting wellbeing away from health services. Difficulties that individuals face should be addressed before they become a problem. Police are also being asked to consider the same issue as crime can be caused by financial, medical or mental health problems. Cowes Town Council has a responsibility to the community. Councillor Nicholson continues to meet with agencies i.e. Public Health and Age UK to discuss this matter.

RESOLVED

Community Wellbeing will be an agenda item for the January 2015 Town Council meeting. Councillor Nicholson will provide a background paper explaining how Cowes Town Council can move this matter forward.

6999 TIMING AND CALLING OF MEETINGS

Councillor Banks presented a paper on the timing and calling of meetings; also representation at outside meetings. The paper stated that there have been instances of meetings being called which can be at more convenient times; whereby meetings are not being called through the offices of the Town Clerk or whereby the calling of a meeting and its representation has not been approved by the Council. The aim of the paper was to regulate meetings in the interest of good and appropriate practice.

RESOLVED

1. That where practical all meetings are convened as evening meetings.
2. That where practical meetings are grouped for discussion on a single evening.
3. That all meetings must be arranged through the offices of the Town Clerk.
4. That meetings can only be called by the Chairman of the Council or the Chairman of the respective Sub Committee or Steering Group.
5. That any representatives of the Council must be first approved by the Full Council or relevant Sub Committee or Steering Group.
6. That a working group is established to discuss the current structure of Committees to consider some amalgamation. The working group will include the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the Council, Chairmen of all Sub Committees and the Town Clerk.
7. That amendments to Standing Orders are on hold until any restructure of Committees.

7000 THE MAYORAL CHAIN

Councillor Banks presented a paper for discussion to determine whether there should be the inclusion of those names of past Cowes Town Councillors prior to 1999 when the regalia was presented to the then Town Mayor, Cllr. John Leigh. Also to determine whether there should be provided, concurrently with the above if so approved, the making of an additional 6 no. blank cartouche,(nameplate plaques), affixed to the front of the chain; and to determine whether the council requests the reversal of the nameplate where sited on the reverse of the chain.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council make no changes to the Mayoral Chain until this becomes necessary when all blank cartouches have been used.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at 8.40pm for the next item.

7001 PROPOSED TREE CARVING

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox presented a paper regarding a proposed tree carving of a 350 year old oak tree in Old Shamblers Copse, Newport Road, Cowes. A request has been made for Cowes Town Council to take on the maintenance of the project and support the project financially by helping to pay towards the carving which is estimated at approx. £3,000. Island Roads will contribute approx. £350 which would have been the cost to them for cutting the tree down. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox will also be seeking funding via various other groups.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council underwrites, up to a value of £3,000, for the carving of the oak tree as detailed by Councillor Peacey-Wilcox.

Councillor Jones returned to the meeting at 8.49pm.

7002 COMMUNITY BUS PARTNERSHIP

Councillors Ellis & Fuller reported that from January 2015 Cowes residents are due to lose the No 32 community bus, which operates on a Monday, for a period of approx. three months. Councillors Ellis & Fuller have requested that Cowes Town Council agree to release money held in the 'Bus Account', managed by Northwood Parish Council, to enable the No 32 community bus to continue from January 2015 for approx. three months. The Saturday service is also under threat and the question of whether the Town & Parish Councils could fund this service was mentioned; costs for the Saturday service are awaited from Southern Vectis.

RESOLVED

Cowes Town Council support the use of the money held in the 'Bus Account' to enable the No 32 Monday community bus service to continue for approx. three months.

7003 COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

Councillor Walters explained that the existing Emergency Flood Plan leaflet had become out of date and stocks of the leaflet are depleted. It is proposed to re-print the leaflet using up to date contact details etc.

RESOLVED

Councillor Walters will obtain a quote for the re-print of the Emergency Flood Plan leaflet.

7004 SOLENT GATEWAY

Councillor Banks presented a paper for discussion. Through the offices of the Town Clerk, who had been contacted by John Roseveare of Parose Projects, which is the company writing and presenting the bid, Councillor Banks was asked to have a meeting to introduce the scheme. Cowes Town Council had been named as one of the stakeholders which the bidding agent, Parose Projects, had been scheduled to contact. On the 25th November Councillor Banks met with John Roseveare to discuss the scheme and a request for electronic copies of the scheme was made, but to date it had not been received. John Roseveare is willing to make a presentation to Cowes Town Council if so requested.

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council request a presentation from John Roseveare of Parose Projects regarding Solent Gateway.
2. That Cowes Town Council consider giving support for the scheme following the presentation.

7005 APPOINTMENT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A nomination was sought for the Isle of Wight Association of Local Authorities Executive Committee following the resignation of Councillor Fuller.

RESOLVED

That Councillor David Walters is Cowes Town Council's representative on the Isle of Wight Association of Local Authorities Executive Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

7006 PROPOSED OFFICE CLOSURE

The Town Clerk presented a paper in relation to a proposal to close the Town Council office during the period between Christmas and the New Year i.e. Monday 29 December 2014 to Friday 2 January 2015.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council office will be closed from Monday 29 December 2014 to Friday 2 January 2015. Measures will be put in place to inform residents of the closure.

7007 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous correspondence was circulated to all Councillors.

7008 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following items be included on a future agenda:

1. Presentation from the Royal Yacht Squadron to talk about their forthcoming bicentenary - January 2015.
2. Community Wellbeing - Councillor Nicholson – January 2015.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.03pm)

