

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 6th November 2014 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Fuller (7.34pm), Jones, McNeill, Matthews, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Spalding & Walters.

### 6972 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis, Hammond & Wardrop.

Before proceedings commenced Councillor Banks read out a thank you card from the retired Town Clerk, Roger Hendey.

### 6973 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Brown and Walters declared that they are Members of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

### 6974 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 2nd October 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 6975 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**Q.** A member of the public residing in Alexandra Road raised the issue that the Isle of Wight Council is proposing to cease collecting rubbish from outside houses in Alexandra Road and Coronation Road. Rubbish would need to be taken to the top of Bellevue Road by the householders who include elderly residents and parents of small children. A petition has been raised and a copy was handed over to the Town Clerk.

**A.** It was explained that the collection of rubbish is mandatory but not necessarily from the front of properties. The problem relates to health and safety in regard to the instability of the refuse lorries on the unmade roads whilst lifting the wheelie bins. A solution would be to provide clear sacks to residents for the purpose of disposing of recyclable rubbish.

#### RESOLVED

Cowes Town Council will write to the Isle of Wight Council expressing concerns about the blocking of the roads / pavements if rubbish is assembled at the top of Bellevue Road and suggesting the replacement of wheelie bins with clear sacks for properties in Alexandra Road & Coronation Road.

**Q.** A member of the public who is a volunteer for the Mornington Wood project gave details of works that need to be undertaken at Mornington Wood i.e. removal of Japanese Knotweed & clearing of brambles. Also required is a storage area for tools and a proposed identification board / sign.

**A.** The cost implications for the works to be undertaken will be covered under the separate agenda item 10b. The volunteer group are requested to supply a list of tools, and type of storage locker required, to the Town Clerk for consideration.

6976

## REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was asked if she was a Cabinet Member of the Isle of Wight Council; she advised that this was not the case. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox reminded those present that there is an Isle of Wight Council budget meeting taking place on Tuesday 18 November from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at UKSA, Arctic Road, Cowes. This is an opportunity for people to have their say on how funding is spent / saved.

Councillor Bertie was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report in advance of the meeting which was circulated to all Councillors. The issue of fly-tipping at St Mary's Road, as mentioned in the report, was highlighted at the meeting. Regular reports are made to Island Roads but problems persist; the siting of a skip may help.

### **RESOLVED**

Cowes Town Council will apply to the Isle of Wight Council for a licence to place a skip at St Mary's Road Car Park; and request that CCTV be installed in this area.

Councillor Fuller provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Fuller was asked who pays for any overturned Isle of Wight Council planning appeals. Councillor Fuller explained that every appeal is different and costs are not always awarded. Recently there has been a drop in the success of planning appeals. Councillor Fuller will continue to re-iterate that Cowes Town Council want to change their waste collection day from Thursday to Monday.

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

6977

## REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A report was not available at the meeting but was subsequently received on 10 November 2014 and circulated to all Councillors.

6978

## MATTERS ARISING

### **a) Meeting with Isle of Wight Council to discuss Parade Village (Min No. 6969 refers)**

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that the meeting has been scheduled for 2pm on Tuesday 11 November 2014 and any further written complaints should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by 7 November 2014. The Isle of Wight Council confirmed that no decisions will be taken until after this meeting.

### **b) Response from Cycle Hire Shop regarding cycling in the High Street (Min No 6949 refers)**

The Town Clerk read out the response from Top Gear Hire. They state that they do encourage cyclists not to cycle in the vicinity of the town but cannot be accountable once cyclists have left the shop. They state that signage is the biggest issue and should be looked at and they suggest some cycle specific signage. Cowes Town Council has two 'Cyclist Dismount' signs on order.

**c) Response from Northwood Parish Council regarding a possible change of waste collection day (Min Nos 6953d & 6966d refers)**

The Town Clerk read out the response from Northwood Parish Council. Northwood Parish Councillors considered the possibility of switching their waste collection from Monday to Thursday. They were really not happy and felt the status quo should remain. Cowes Town Councillors Fuller and Nicholson were not at the meeting where this was discussed so were unable to put the case for Cowes Town Council.

**d) Concerns regarding fly tipping at St Mary's Road Car park (Min No 6964 refers)**

A local resident has provided details of a solar compactor bin suggesting that this could be situated in areas within Cowes including St Mary's Road Car Park. Questions were raised about who would pay for the bins and the emptying. Councillor Fuller reported that there have been pilot areas where these bins have been trialled but the Isle of Wight Council had not shown any interest in the scheme. It was agreed to investigate this option further; Councillor Fuller agreed to pass on any information he held to Cowes Town Council.

**e) Reconsideration of dates for 1. the Annual Town Meeting and 2. The Annual Town Council Meeting.**

The Town Clerk reported that Northwood House was not available on the date set for the Annual Town Meeting on 23 April 2015 and that the date set for the Annual Town Council Meeting on 7 May 2015 clashes with the General Election.

**RESOLVED**

1. The Annual Town Meeting be moved from 23 April 2015 to 30 April 2015; &
2. The Annual Town Council Meeting be moved from 7 May 2015 to 21 May 2015.

**f) Response from Isle of Wight Council regarding Union Road traffic issue (Min No 6966e refers)**

A suggestion to paint 20mph on the highway was suggested to the Isle of Wight Council but they are not in favour of painting on the highway particularly in town centres such as Cowes. They suggest that Cowes Town Council gather support and sponsorship for a 20mph scheme identifying which streets should be subject to the 20mph speed limit policy. Before implementation the Isle of Wight Council would have to carry out consultation.

**RESOLVED**

Cowes Town Council will consult with residents, via the quarterly newsletter, to ascertain in which areas residents would support a 20mph speed limit. Cowes Town Council will also consult with local police to seek their comments on areas that they feel would benefit from the 20mph speed limit.

**g) Matters arising – Cowes Tourist Information Point (TIP) Min Nos 6941 & 6966b refers)**

The Town Clerk wrote to Red Funnel stressing the importance of a TIP to the town and offered them full support in their attempts to get a TIP established. To date, Cowes Town Council has not received a response.

**RESOLVED**

The Town Clerk will write to Red Funnel again to enquire if any progress has been made in regard to the establishment of a TIP in Cowes.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS****a) IWALC Executive Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the IWALC Executive Committee held on 18 September 2014 were received.

**b) AAM Cowes Week Ltd**

The Notes of the Meeting of the Cowes Week Limited Board held on 3 October 2014 were received.

**c) Supporters of Cowes Library**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 13 October 2014 were received.

**d) Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 14 October 2014 were received.

**e) Finance Committee**

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings held on 14 October 2014 & 4 November 2014 were received.

**1. Town Clerk's Gratuity Payment.****RESOLVED**

That the gratuity payment to the retiring Town Clerk be made.

**2. Amend Financial Regulations 2.2.**

To provide further time for consultation and discussion it was agreed to propose that the recommendation of the Finance Committee for approval of the precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year be changed from December to January.

**RESOLVED**

That Financial Regulation 2.2 is amended to read: The recommendation of the Finance Committee will be submitted to the January meeting of the Town Council for approval of the precept to be levied for the ensuing financial year.

**3. Remembrance Day Donations.****RESOLVED**

1. That a donation of £200 be awarded to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion for refreshments following the Remembrance Day Parade and Service &
2. A £50 donation is made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in respect of a wreath to be laid by the Town Mayor at the Remembrance Service on 9 November.

**4. Applications for Grants.**

- a) **Association of Sail Training Organisations** – towards the cost of Cowes Small Ships Weekend.
- b) **Cowes Sports Football Club** – towards the cost of a minibus purchase and insurance.
- c) **Cowes Short Mat Bowling Club** – towards the cost of the hire of hall for the coming year.
- d) **Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd** – for the emptying of litter and dog waste bins for 2015 / 2016.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That grants be made to the following organisations in accordance with the amounts shown:
  - a) Association of Sail Training Organisations £400
  - b) Cowes Sports Football Club £1,500
  - c) Cowes Short Mat Bowling Club £250
  - d) In respect of Northwood House Charitable Trust, Cowes Town Council will take over the cost of emptying and maintaining litter and dog waste bins at Northwood Park as our contribution to the overall wellbeing of the community open space.
2. That the balance of the budget of £2,450 be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.

## **5. Draft Budget for 2015/2016.**

### **RESOLVED**

That the draft budget for 2015 / 2016 is accepted and approved and the precept for 2015 / 2016 remains unchanged.

### **f) Multi Agency High Street Meeting**

The Notes of the Multi Agency High Street Meeting held on 22 October 2014 were received.

### **g) Public Meeting**

The Notes of the Public Meeting held on 30 October 2014 were received.

### **h) CBA Report**

The Notes from the Cowes Business Association Open Meeting on 23 October 2014 were received. It was reported that there will be no festive street lights this Christmas but shops will be displaying their own lights within their shops and there will be a competition for the best display. A discussion followed as to whether Cowes Town Council should make a contribution towards street lighting at Christmas.

### **RESOLVED**

That Festive Street Lighting be added to the agenda for the next Town Improvements Committee meeting.

**6980**

### **NUISANCE BONFIRES**

Councillor Fuller presented a leaflet which he had compiled in relation to garden bonfires. It contains information regarding the problems bonfires can cause, an alternative to bonfires, bonfires and the law and bonfire guidelines. It was agreed that this would be useful to include on the Cowes Town Council website in a public information / awareness section and to refer to this in the next quarterly newsletter.

### **RESOLVED**

Cowes Town Council will add the leaflet to their website and will include information from the leaflet in the next quarterly newsletter.

**6981**

### **WREATHS LAID AT THE WAR MEMORIAL ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Councillor Banks presented a paper for discussion regarding whether wreaths laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday should stay on the memorial until the following Remembrance Sunday. There are no definitive guidelines to answer to this question. When it was mentioned at the recent Public Meeting those present said that the wreaths should remain in place until the following year. At present they are looked after and, when necessary, removed by volunteers.

## **RESOLVED**

1. In the winter Cowes Town Council newsletter we ask residents of their thoughts on the time of removal of wreaths, crosses and the like from Northwood Park War Memorial.
2. That Cowes Town Council asks the opinion of the Cowes Royal British Legion and other veteran's organisations and those groups participating at the annual commemoration service as to their views as to the period of placement of tributes.
3. That Cowes Town Council thank the volunteers who keep the War Memorial tidy.
4. That the Cowes Town Council Clerk & Assistant Clerk monitor, and where necessary, tidy the War Memorial.

**6982**

## **MEDINA YARD DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Corby declared a pecuniary interest in that his business currently occupies a part of the existing area to be developed. Councillor Corby gave a verbal report and stated that he is very concerned that the area of the new development earmarked for marine businesses is not big enough to ensure that the marine industry in Cowes is preserved. He feels that a marker should be put down now to ensure that the area for marine industry is large enough and the deep water frontage is protected. When this project comes to Planning Committee all Cowes Town Councillors should be present and put their views across forcefully. Can this be an agenda item for Cowes Town Council's meeting in February 2015 encouraging members of the public to attend.

## **RESOLVED**

1. Councillors Banks, Brown, Corby, Jones & McNeill to meet with Wendy Perera, Planning Officer at the Isle of Wight Council, to discuss the proposed development.
2. Add Medina Yard development to the agenda of the Cowes Town Council meeting in February 2015.

**6983**

## **LOVE LANE FOODBANK**

The Isle of Wight Council have asked Cowes Town Council for comments regarding their proposal to grant the Foodbank a five year lease of part of the former Love Lane Primary School building, Love Lane, Cowes. They currently occupy the premises on a temporary basis.

## **RESOLVED**

Cowes Town Council supports the proposal to grant a five year lease to the Foodbank and will inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly.

**6984**

## **MORNINGTON WOOD**

A request from the Mornington Wood volunteer group has been made for financial support regarding the professional removal of Japanese knotweed (£275) and clearing of brambles by Green Gym (£50). A sum of £5141.65 was given to Cowes Town Council by Cowes Community Partnership to be held and used to support the volunteers in their work at Mornington Wood.

## **RESOLVED**

1. Upon production of invoices to Cowes Town Council the sums of £275 & £50 will be paid for the work as described.
2. Councillors Banks & Walters will meet to discuss how to formalise the arrangement of any future payments to be made on behalf of Mornington Wood volunteer group.
3. The volunteer group will provide written details of any further requests for support, including details of the tools they hold and the storage area they require to house the tools.

**6985 CHC CONSULTATION – THE VISION FOR COWES HARBOUR IN 2020 AND BEYOND**

Cowes Harbour Commission are carrying out a Strategic Review of their main policies and plans and have asked for Cowes Town Council's assistance and involvement as part of the main stakeholder group. They have asked for proposals on how to move the consultation forward and who will represent Cowes Town Council at a meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Councillors Banks, Corby, Jones and Walters will represent Cowes Town Council and enter into dialogue with Cowes Harbour Commission.

**6986 LIGHTS OF LOVE CAROL CONCERT 11 DECEMBER 2014**

Councillors were informed of the Lights of Love Carol Concert which will be taking place on Thursday 11 December 2014 at 6.30pm at Cowes Methodist Church. A donation to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice was discussed.

**RESOLVED**

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £400 to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

**6987 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

Details of miscellaneous correspondence was circulated to all Councillors.

**6988 ST MARY'S CHURCH**

Councillor Banks informed Councillors that St Mary's Church have kindly offered to print the service programmes for Remembrance Sunday for use at the War Memorial and at St Mary's Church. This has saved a significant amount of the Town Clerk's time and printing costs. Councillor Banks asked whether Cowes Town Council should consider making a donation in this regard.

**RESOLVED**

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £100 for the printing of the Remembrance Sunday service programmes.

**6989 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

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

1. Community Wellbeing (Councillor Nicholson).
2. Day time meetings (Councillor Banks).
3. Invite Beth Taylor from Taylor Events to the December Town Council meeting to give a presentation on Cowes Week 2015.
4. Invite Trish Lewington from the Royal Yacht Squadron to talk about the forthcoming bicentenary at the Town Council meeting in January 2015.
5. Medina Yard Development – February 2015 (Councillor Corby).

(The proceedings terminated at 9.35pm)