

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 1 September 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman).
Councillors Banks, Brown, Corby, Fuller, McNeill, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Slade & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk and two members of the public.

7324 APOLOGIES

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

7325 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7330f3 as Chairman of the ORP Blyskawica Society.

7326 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not attend the meeting and a report had not been received.

7327 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7328 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of the public raised that the Solitaire Bompard le Figaro was not an agenda item for the meeting having raised this matter at the last Town Council meeting. Councillor Jones explained that the 'Wash Up' meeting about the event had not yet taken place and therefore there was no further information to report at this stage. The data regarding the event will be collated by the end of September and the 'Wash Up' meeting is due to take place in early October to which the member of the public will be invited to attend. It was suggested that data from shopkeepers should be used as part of the wash up process. The member of the public also queried why Cowes Week was not an agenda item for this meeting.

7329 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports had been received from Councillors Peacey-Wilcox, Fuller & Nicholson.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Fuller answered questions relating to double yellow lines in Cowes as to where they should be put in place or removed if unnecessary. He agreed to take action regarding the completion of the works in Ward Avenue which are still awaiting replacement kerbstones. Councillor Fuller mentioned that he had recently met with Natural England who are looking into making footpaths around the Island closer to the coastline. A formal consultation will take place next summer.

Councillor Nicholson answered questions relating to the utility companies poor reinstatement of new road surfaces and the issue that cars that are untaxed, uninsured and without MOT's are not being removed from the highway.

7330 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Slade informed Councillors that there was a book signing event taking place at the Library on Saturday 3 September from 10-12 and she encouraged Councillors to drop in.

b) Meeting between IWALC & IW Council

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016 were received and noted.

c) IWALC AGM

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 were received and noted.

d) Northwood Park Sub Committee

The Notes from the Northwood Park Sub Committee meeting held on 25 July 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Brown stated that there was a draft plan for the Park and she would ask for this to be emailed to the Town Clerk for onward circulation to Councillors. Councillor Brown and her Deputy, Councillor Bartrum, are unable to attend the next meeting on 6 September at 5pm. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor McNeill will represent Cowes Town Council at the Northwood Park Sub Committee meeting on 6 September 2016.

e) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 4 August 2016 & 23 August 2016 were received and noted.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 7.50pm.

f) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 16 August 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Corby advised that 'defibrillators' is an agenda item for the Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Board meeting on 23 September 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council, in regard to The Cut, accepts the drawings to be issued for tender.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council writes to the owner of Benzie's Clock, saying that they are very happy that he will repair the clock and Cowes Town Council looks forward to seeing it repaired.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council replaces the Francki Place plaque at an expected cost of £600, but up to £750, and that both plaques at Francki Place be added to the Asset Register and maintained thereafter by Cowes Town Council.**

g) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 August 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Company 4, being Wight Digital Solutions, is offered the lease contract for the multi-functional office device at a cost of £135 per quarter with a maximum rental term of 3 months.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council enrolls on to the Local Government Pension Scheme.**
- 3. That enrolment to the scheme for the Town Clerk, Debbie Faulkner, starts on 1 October 2016.**
- 4. That enrolment on to the scheme for the Assistant Town Clerk, Kathryn Gibbs, starts on 1 January 2017, subject to the successful conclusion of her probationary period.**

7331 UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AT COWES LIBRARY

Councillor Jones presented a paper to give an update on the activities that are taking place at Cowes Library and provided details of a survey that is currently being undertaken to ascertain what services within the Library are being used and by which age group. Councillors agreed that they have been asking for statistics from the Library for a long time which should include how many users have passed through the door and what services those visitors are accessing. This would involve a person being present in the Library to ask those questions which could possibly involve a volunteer or a Town Councillor. It was agreed that a co-ordinator needs to be identified to take control and follow this through. Councillor Slade agreed to talk to the Library about collecting this important statistical data.

7332 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2016

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of July and August 2016. Cheque payments for July totalled £21,584.54; petty cash payments for July totalled £167.03. Cheque payments for August totalled £55,661.72; petty cash payments for August totalled £159.42. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for July of £21,584.54; the petty cash payments for July of £167.03; the cheque payments for August of £55,661.72; and the petty cash payments for August of £159.42 be received, noted and approved.

7333 CONCLUSION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The Town Clerk reported that the conclusion of the external audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been received. Two issues were brought to the attention of the Town Council.

1. There were empty boxes in section 2 of the annual return. The auditor did not believe there should be any figures in the boxes but they should include a nil or zero to confirm this. The Town Council must ensure in future years that minor errors or omissions are not included in the Accounting Statements.
2. The auditor found that fixed assets have been included in box 9 at a valuation amount. All assets should be included at cost. The only movement of assets should be the cost of additions or the cost value of any disposals. The Town Council should review the current Practitioners Guide to ensure that assets are correctly accounted for. It was:

RESOLVED

That the conclusion of the external audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 including the issues raised be received, noted and approved.

7334 CASUAL VACANCIES IN COWES WEST WARD

There are currently two vacancies in Cowes West Ward following the resignation of Mrs V. Cowan on 1 July 2016 and subsequent resignation of Mr D Doyle on 3 August 2016.

Following Mrs Cowan's resignation the notice of vacancy was published on 6 July 2016. Ten local government electors for Cowes West Ward gave notice that they wish an election to be held to fill the vacancy. Therefore a Notice of Election has been published with a call for nominations to be made by 4pm on Friday 2 September 2016. The date for the election is scheduled for Thursday 29 September 2016. Following Mr Doyle's resignation the notice of vacancy was published on 9 August 2016 with the deadline for the call of an election being 30 August 2016. Ten local government electors have not called for an election therefore the process of co-option for this vacancy will begin.

7335 APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Mr D Doyle there is a vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee and Projects Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillor Corby be appointed to the Planning & Licensing Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor Brown be appointed to the Projects Committee.**

7336 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - FIREWORKS COMMITTEE & SHORESIDE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Mr D Doyle there is a vacancy for a deputy representative on the Fireworks Committee and Shoreside Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Corby be appointed as Deputy Representative on the Fireworks Committee & Shoreside Committee.

7337 LIGHTS OF LOVE CAROL CONCERT – THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016

The Town Clerk reported that the Lights of Love Carol Concert will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 8 December 2016 at Cowes Methodist Church, Birmingham Road. Consideration was given as to whether to make a donation to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at this event, as in other years. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the date of the Lights of Love Carol Concert be noted.**
- 2. That a donation of £400 is made to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at this event.**

7338 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S SOLENT COMBINED AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

This consultation relates to the combining of three councils, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The proposal is the establishment of a Solent Mayoral Combined Authority. Prior to this Town Council meeting, Councillor Corby attended a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council for a briefing on this consultation. Councillor Corby informed Councillors that combining these three local authorities would achieve £30 million pounds of government funding (per year with a review after 5 years), split between the three authorities, to encourage business investment in the three areas. By increasing the number of businesses the Isle of Wight Council would receive an increase in their business rate income. Councillors discussed the possible benefits and disadvantages of the proposal. The deadline for Town & Parish Councils to respond is noon on 30 September 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council, in principle, would like to be able to support the proposal, however with the information available are unable to give an informed opinion.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Councillors can make individual responses to the consultation.**

7339 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016 CONSULTATION

Councillors discussed this consultation which describes the Council's main aims for managing and improving the network of public rights of way. The deadline for responses is 16 September 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Councillors can make individual responses to the consultation.

7340 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

Councillors discussed the Transport Infrastructure Taskforce which is to review the transport infrastructure of the Isle of Wight. The prime aim is to see how transport improvements could help the economic development of the Island. IWALC have been invited to attend a meeting regarding this matter on 21 October 2016, therefore the deadline for responses, via IWALC, is the beginning of October. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Councillors can make individual responses to the Task Force, via IWALC.

7341 NATIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE INQUIRY ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PARKS

Councillors discussed this national inquiry which has been launched by the Communities and Local Government Committee. The Committee are requesting written evidence, via their website, relating to the usage of parks and open spaces. The deadline for comments is 30 September 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Councillors can make individual responses to the inquiry.

7342 NATIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE RURAL TOURISM IN ENGLAND INQUIRY

Councillors discussed this national inquiry which has been launched by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee. The Committee are requesting written evidence, via their website, relating to supporting rural growth and in particular how government policies can encourage more people to visit England's rural places for longer and at all times of the year. The deadline for comments is 6 September 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Councillors can make individual responses to the inquiry.

7343 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous publications and correspondence was circulated to all Town Councillors.

7344 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Solitaire Bompard le Figaro – Councillor McNeill
- Cowes Library – Councillor Slade
- Cowes Week – Councillor Wardrop
- Railings on the seafront – Councillor Fuller

The proceedings terminated at 9.05pm

CHAIRMAN