

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 2 February 2017 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Ellis, Fuller (7.04pm), Glendinning, Hammond, McNeill, Peacey-Wilcox, Slade, Spalding, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; Isle of Wight Councillor Paul Bertie; 3 members of the public; County Press reporter.

7418 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicholson.

7419 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

7420 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not attend the meeting and a report was not available.

7421 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15 December 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7422 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public raised concerns about parking in the area of Churchill Road and Crossfield Avenue where, apart from car parking, vans have been left parked in the area for many months and not moved. The vans are causing residents difficulty when trying to exit their driveways due to poor visibility. Councillor Fuller advised that this matter is being discussed later on in the agenda and he is suggesting a No Parking restriction in this area from 12– 1pm to prevent commuter parking and long term parking.

7423 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and were circulated to all Town Councillors.

When asked, Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised that she is an Independent Isle of Wight Councillor.

Councillor Fuller was asked about the Gurnard Neighbourhood Plan and the Village Green status of Gurnard Green. Councillor Fuller explained that the neighbourhood plan encompasses all of Gurnard. The Village Green status of Gurnard Green means that development of the public toilets cannot proceed.

Councillor Bertie was asked how the issues of dog fouling, dogs urinating on gull proof sacks and dogs off leads in the High Street could be resolved. Councillor Bertie advised that a small number of dog owners spoil it for the majority and there are some very responsible owners. More rules are not required just the courage to approach those who offend.

Councillor Nicholson was not at the meeting and was therefore unavailable for questions.

7424 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee Meetings held on 21 December 2016 and 11 January 2017 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Consultant A, being Phil Salmon Planning Ltd, be engaged to provide professional services in relation to the Three Crowns site for the sum of £480.00 plus VAT.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee Meetings held on 5 January 2017 and 17 January 2017 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council authorise payment of Martin Hayles' additional fees for the revised scheme at The Cut at a total cost of £1575.00 plus VAT.

2. That Cowes Town Council engage Moss Hayman to carry out the refurbishment of the two backboards and mount the new plaques in Francki Place for the sum of £130.00.

3. That Company 1, being JFK Business Services Ltd, be engaged to replace the crane plaque for the sum of £207.93 plus VAT.

4. That Cowes Town Council endorses the inclusion of the Town Council logo on the guide for the 'Social History of Cowes Guided Walk', at no cost to the Town Council.

c) Cluster Meeting with Andrew Turner MP

The Notes of the Cluster Meeting with Andrew Turner MP, regarding the closure of the banks in Cowes and forthcoming Post Office move, held on 6 January 2017 were received and noted. It was agreed to keep the pressure on the MP regarding post office availability in Cowes. At present, regulations state that 99% of the population must live within 3 miles of a post office. However it is likely that legislation will be passed to increase that distance. Councillors were advised that an applicant had come forward to discuss the Post office franchise and more information may be available in 4 / 6 weeks.

d) Cowes Business Association

The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association Meeting held on 9 January 2017 were received and noted. Councillors discussed the Cowes Week Trademark and were advised that Cowes Business Association Committee members were considering the Trademark document and were due to report their views and recommendations to their next meeting on 13 February 2017.

e) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library Meeting held on 9 January 2017 were received and noted. It was noted that their AGM is taking place on 13 February 2017.

7425 THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL AT GURNARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Town Councillors from Cowes West Ward recently met with the Head Teacher of Gurnard Primary School to discuss the lack of school crossing patrol provision. The view of the school is that the biggest problem is caused by vehicle movements and parking in the area. A member of staff monitors the children's entry to and exit from school and offending vehicle number plates are reported in the school newsletter. It was agreed that the area outside of the school should be sterile and a Traffic Regulation Order put in place to that effect.

7426 FUTURE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

Councillor Fuller reported that he undertook a fact finding mission over two days with Councillors Banks and Taylor and met with local residents in Churchill Road, School Governors from Cowes Primary at Park Road and the Head Teacher and parents at Gurnard Primary School to discuss future traffic orders for the area. A number of issues were highlighted –

In Gurnard/ Cowes and adjacent to Gurnard Primary School:

- Dangerous and non-compliant parking of parents' vehicles in Woodvale Road and Baring Road.
- The perceived lack of Parking Enforcement, and the need for more rigorous controls.
- Damage to grass verges and planting in Woodvale Road.
- The need to update existing parking orders and to remove restrictions for the non-utilised bus stop in Baring Road.
- Consideration of improved crossing facilities and traffic calming measures.
- Concerns over future school growth.
- Use of developer's contributions and how future housing may mitigate against existing problems.

In Cowes and adjacent to Cowes Primary School and Cowes Enterprise College:

- Parking of hire vehicles in Crossfield Avenue, Churchill Road and Winston Road.
- The perceived lack of Parking Enforcement (especially Mounbatten Avenue, Edinburgh Close and Charles Road).
- Improved safe pedestrian access to Park Road via Blackberry Lane from Cowes Primary School and Cowes Enterprise College.
- The need to update existing parking orders and potential to remove restrictions in place from Crossfield Avenue.
- The future of the Parklands Resource Centre.
- 20 mph zone and Speedwatch.
- Long term financial support and sponsorship for the Road Crossing Patrol in Cowes and potential utilisation of body warn cameras.

Following Councillors' discussion of the suggested parking restrictions it was:

RESOLVED

- 1. To request removal of the restrictions for School Buses in Crossfield Avenue and Baring Road.**
- 2. To request a No Parking restriction (12-1pm) to prevent commuter parking in Crossfield Avenue and at the junction with Churchill Road.**
- 3. To support Gurnard Parish Council's proposals for 'No Loading' parking restrictions in Woodvale Road.**
- 4. To request a Red Route Stopping Control between the junction of Woodvale Road and Curtlemead, Baring Road.**
- 5. To request a formal 20 mph speed restriction in Park Road, Crossfield Avenue and Baring Road.**
- 6. To consider three year funding and sponsorship of the Crossing patrol (and body warn video) at Park Road.**
- 7. To further support Gurnard Parish Council's proposals for traffic restrictions at the Church Road junction, Worsley Road and realignment of TRO's in place at the junction with the Little Gloster at Marsh Road.**

7427 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Councillor Banks presented a proposal to review the performance of the Town Council and Cowes Town Councillors. He explained that the devolved services by the Isle of Wight Council have brought about an ever increasing burden on this Council's officers and Council members.

With the degree of additional responsibilities it should be the duty of this Town Council to regularly review its performance of both the functionality of the office and of its members.

The review also enables comment as to where this Council, in the opinion of its members, sees its future roles and objectives.

Councillors discussed the two proposed documents 'Cowes Town Council Performance Review & Considerations' and 'Cowes Town Council Councillors' Review', it was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council adopt the 'Cowes Town Council Performance Review and Considerations' document and Councillors complete and return to the Town Clerk for collation.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Councillors can, if they so choose, complete the 'Cowes Town Council Councillors' Review', and return to the Town Clerk for collation.**
- 3. The Town Clerk will advise Councillors at a future Town Council meeting when all information has been collated.**

7428 MAYORAL VOTING BY PAPER BALLOT

Councillor Hammond queried Standing Order 6.1 which states 'Voting for the position of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor shall be by a show of hands or, if one member so requests, by secret ballot'. Councillor Hammond asked if one person does request a vote by secret ballot whether this request would be put to a vote. The Town Clerk clarified that if one person requests a secret ballot no vote will be required and the secret ballot will proceed.

7429 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque payments and petty cash payments for the months of December 2016 and January 2017. Cheque payments for December 2016 totalled £9,157.79; petty cash payments for December 2016 totalled £69.60. Cheque payments for January 2017 totalled £12,996.56; there were no petty cash payments made in January 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for December 2016 of £9,157.79; the petty cash payments for December 2016 of £69.60 and the cheque payments for January 2017 of £12,996.56 be received, noted and approved.

7430 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S PENSION FUND: 2016 VALUATION RESULTS AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATES

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that following the Isle of Wight Council's triennial valuation of the pension fund, employer contribution rates will remain at 23.5% for the next three years (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2020). Therefore, for the next three years, there will not be an increase in the employer pension contributions payable by Cowes Town Council.

7431 COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillors discussed the existing Terms of Reference for the three Sub Committees: Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing, Planning & Licensing and Projects. Each Sub Committee currently comprises of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and 6 members. Councillors discussed whether the number of members should be increased. Councillors agreed to hold over any changes to numbers until the Annual Town Council meeting in May 2017 when all positions on sub committees become vacant and open for appointments. A proposal to add a 'Statement of Responsibilities and Obligations' to the Terms of Reference was discussed and it was agreed to consider this proposal.

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will ensure that during the appointments to Committees process at the Annual Town Council in May 2017, consideration will be given to increasing the number of members on the Sub Committees.
2. The Town Clerk will work with Councillor Banks to prepare draft 'Terms of Reference' for each Sub Committee to include a 'Statement of Responsibilities and Obligations'. The drafts will be shared with all Town Councillors at a future Town Council meeting.

7432 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk presented a spreadsheet outlining the recent activities undertaken by the Environment Officer in Cowes. Issues raised and resolved were fly tipping in Cross Street car park and increased dog fouling in Bridge Road, Terminus Road and Moorgreen Road. The Environment Officer regularly patrols Cowes and reports any faults or defects to the relevant authority on our behalf.

7433 CLOSURE OF THE THREE BANKS IN COWES (MINUTE NO 7412 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 15 December 2016 the Town Clerk was actioned to write to the three banks in Cowes which had closed / were closing i.e. National Westminster, HSBC and Lloyds. Copies of the letters have been sent to Andrew Turner MP, who acknowledged receipt. No response has been received from National Westminster. HSBC have responded to say that their decision to close on 13 January 2017 is final and that their customers can use the post office in the town for their banking needs. Lloyds have responded by saying that although their decision to close on 25 April 2017 is final, they are in the process of organising a new fleet of mobile branches which will be introduced in Spring 2017. One of the new mobile branches will visit Cowes for between two and four hours per visit and this facility will be in place before the branch closes to ensure customers become familiar with the service. Councillors expressed their concerns about the resulting lack of cashpoints in Cowes which will affect residents and holiday makers alike. Cowes is the yachting mecca of the world and cashpoints during Cowes Week have always been heavily used. It was acknowledged that businesses in the High Street can request cash point facilities. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will investigate whether Cowes Town Council can acquire a cashpoint for the use of residents and visitors to Cowes.

7434 GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO EXTEND COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUM PRINCIPLES (MINUTE NO 7414 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 15 December 2016 the Town Clerk was actioned to write to Andrew Turner MP and Marcus Jones MP to oppose the Government's proposal to extend council tax referendum principles to local parish and town councils. Andrew Turner MP advised that the extension would only apply referendum principles to those local authorities who have a total precept of at least £500,000. The office of Marcus Jones MP stated that the Government has deferred the setting of referendum principles for parishes. However, the Government has issued a challenge to town and parish councils to demonstrate restraint when increasing precepts that are not as a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. The Government will keep the level of precepts set by town and parish councils under review and may introduce referendum principles in the future.

7435 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ADOPTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

Councillors discussed the consultation document, the period for making representation expires on 20 February 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes no comment on the consultation.

7436 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PLAN TO DROP THE INCLUSION OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT IN THE HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY NAME

IWALC circulated information that the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Michael Lane, is shelving plans to include the Isle of Wight in the name of the Hampshire Constabulary. IWALC have offered to make a response on behalf of town and parish councils. Councillors discussed this matter and agreed that the Isle of Wight is losing its identity and should be included in the name of the Hampshire Constabulary. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council oppose the shelving of plans to include the Isle of Wight in the name of the Hampshire Constabulary and ask IWALC to respond on our behalf.

7437 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7438 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Draft 'Terms of Reference' for each Sub Committee to include a 'Statement of Responsibilities and Obligations'.

The proceedings terminated at 8.42pm.

CHAIRMAN