

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 2 June 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillor Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Fuller (7.04pm), McNeill, Nicholson, Slade, Spalding & Wardrop (7.12pm).

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk and one member of the public.

### PRESENTATION

Mr Daniel Groves, Science Resource Centre Manager at Cowes Enterprise College, gave a presentation on the Noel Turner Physics Festival – ‘Physics Matters – Ignite the Spark’ which is being hosted by Cowes Enterprise College (CEC) on 5 July 2016. Noel Turner was one of the first group of 6<sup>th</sup> form students who attended Cowes High School before going on to study physics at Oxford University. He died in 2015 and his widow, Ellen, asked CEC if they would introduce the event in memory of her husband. This year it is a one day event but it is hoped in years to come that the event could be run over two to three days. It is acknowledged that there is a shortage of physicists locally and nationally and the event is to inspire an interest for boys and girls in the subject of physics and to show young people that there are plenty of opportunities on the Island for budding scientists and engineers. The event has been opened up to students from other high schools on the Island and the mainland. There will be key note speakers and stalls from various Island companies. All Town Councillors are invited to attend the event along with other Island dignitaries.

Councillor Jones thanked Mr Groves for his presentation and said that he would like to increase the link between CEC and Cowes Town Council and he would pursue this on behalf of the Town Council.

### 7284 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowan, Doyle, Hammond & Peacey-Wilcox.

### 7285 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 7286 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

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

### 7287 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**That the Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 10 May 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### 7288 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the member of the public.

### 7289 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Peacey- Wilcox’s report referred to various matters including derelict / empty homes, a blocked sewer pipe in Mill Hill Road / Newport Road, poor rights of way signage, Walk the Wight, the WISE Open Day on 29 June, recycling of good quality items for the Storeroom, Speedwatch and headstones at

Northwood Cemetery. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was unavailable for questions which included a request for more information about WISE. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will obtain more information about WISE and circulate to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Fuller's report gave a waste and recycling update; details of charges on the Floating Bridge, the West Wight Coastal and Flood Defence Sessions, highways issues and the poor condition of the handrails on the Cowes / Gurnard seafront. He is taking this matter up with the IW Council as there is a potential health and safety issue regarding their disrepair. It was agreed that this matter could be discussed further at a forthcoming cluster meeting between Cowes Town Council and Gurnard & Northwood Parish Councils. Could S106 monies be used for this project? It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will ensure that handrails on Cowes / Gurnard seafront are added to the agenda for the Cluster meeting.

Councillor Nicholson's report referred to nuisance parking around Place Side, a possible residents association at the Westbury Estate, the standard of reinstatement of the road following the laying of the new water main along Newport Road and compliments from residents of Park Road following their new road surface. Councillor Nicholson was asked if Southern Water will be penalised for the poor reinstatement of Newport Road, he is unsure. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads to ask what they intend to do about the poor standard of reinstatement of the road surface along Newport Road.

**7290 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

a) Northwood Park Sub Committee

The Notes of the Northwood Park Sub Committee meeting held on 12 May 2016 were received and noted.

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 18 May 2016 were received and noted.

c) Floating Bridge Briefing Meeting

The Notes of the Floating Bridge Briefing meeting held on 19 May 2016 were received and noted. The notes gave details of the charges for using the Bridge as from 1 June 2016. Councillors felt very strongly that the charges for using the Floating bridge are effectively an extra tax for residents of Cowes and East Cowes. A meeting between Cowes Town Council & East Cowes Town Council was suggested. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will invite East Cowes Town Council to meet with Cowes Town Council to discuss the charges and other matters relating to the Floating Bridge.

d) Harbour Advisory Committee  
The Notes of the Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 May 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Corby reminded Councillors that there is a four week consultation period relating to the breakwater; Councillors can respond individually or send their comments via Councillor Corby.

e) Projects Committee  
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 31 May 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Nicholson referred to the lack of progress in arranging a meeting with Island Roads and the Isle of Wight Council to discuss the bollards in the High Street. It was noted that there are other High Street issues that need to be addressed including the gulleys, channels and wider pedestrianisation. Councillor Nicholson also referred to the Beer and Bus Festival in Cowes on 15 / 16 October, requesting any ideas for the event and asking if anyone is willing to do any marshalling for the event. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the date of the next Projects Committee meeting is changed from 5 July 2016 to 12 July 2016.**

**7291 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2016**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of May 2016. Cheque payments totalled £23,110.06; petty cash payments totalled £319.25.

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £23,110.06 and petty cash payments of £319.25 be received, noted and approved.**

**7292 2016 – 2018 NJC NATIONAL SALARY AWARD AGREEMENT**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of the 2016 – 2018 NJC National Salary Award agreement which gave new pay scales for 2016 – 2017 to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1 April 2016 and new pay scales for 2017 – 2018 to be implemented from 1 April 2017. The new pay scales result in a small hourly increase for the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED**

**That the 2016 – 2018 NJC National Salary Award Agreement be received, noted and approved.**

**7293 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CODE 2015**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 which was issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in February 2015 to meet the Government's desire to place more power into citizen's hands, to increase democratic accountability, and to make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision making process and help shape public services. The Government believes that in principle all data held and managed by local authorities should be made available to local people unless there are specific sensitivities (e.g. protecting vulnerable people or commercial and operational considerations) to doing so. The Code ensures that local people can now see and access data covering how money is spent, the use of assets, decision making and issues important to local people. To enable Cowes Town Council to comply with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and make it easier for residents to access information used by the Town Council in the decision making process it was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council, on a quarterly basis, publishes on the website individual items of expenditure exceeding £500 (net) - excluding salary payments to staff.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council's Financial Regulations are updated in line with Recommendation 1.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council, on a quarterly basis, publishes on the website details of any paid grants and donations.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council publishes on the website any background papers prior to any Town Council or Committee meeting.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council amends the 'Application for Grant Information Sheet' to inform applicants that any information, once submitted to Cowes Town Council, will be in the public domain.**

**7294 DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE FINANCE, ACQUISITIONS & STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee require delegated authority in order to undertake the shortlisting of candidates, interview of candidates and final appointment of the Assistant Town Clerk without reference to full Council. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee have delegated authority to undertake the shortlisting of candidates, interview of candidates and final appointment of the Assistant Town Clerk without reference to full Council.**

**7295 APPOINTMENT TO THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Following the Annual Town Council meeting on 10 May 2016 there remained a vacancy on the Projects Committee and nominations were sought to fill this vacancy. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Wardrop be appointed to the Projects Committee.**

**7296 CONSULTATION ON THE WEST WIGHT COASTAL FLOOD & EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The deadline for responses to the consultation on the West Wight Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy is 30 June 2016. Councillor Fuller had shared comments, raised by householders at the recent roadshow events he had attended, with Town Councillors. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Councillor Fuller will make representation on behalf of Cowes Town Council which will comprise of issues raised by householders at recent roadshows.**
- 2. Cowes Town Councillors can also make individual responses to the consultation, if necessary.**

**7297 ISLE OF WIGHT DAY – SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Cowes Town Council received an invitation from The High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, Robin Courage MBE, to take part in the 'Isle of Wight Day' on Saturday 24 September 2016. Councillors discussed this opportunity and agreed that Cowes Town Council should take part and this should be included on the agenda of the next Projects Committee. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Town Clerk will write to the High Sheriff to confirm Cowes Town Council's participation in the event.**
- 2. That the 'Isle of Wight Day' is added to the agenda for the next Projects Committee meeting on 12 July 2016.**

**7298 APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIREWORKS COMMITTEE & SHORESIDE COMMITTEE**

Two appointments were made at the Annual Town Council meeting on 10 May 2016 to the Fireworks Committee and Shoreside Committee. However these two committees can only accommodate one representative and one deputy representative. Following negotiations between the two Councillors concerned it has been agreed that Councillor Peacey-Wilcox be Cowes Town Council's representative on the Fireworks Committee & Shoreside Committee & Councillor Doyle be Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on the Fireworks Committee & Shoreside Committee.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 8.37pm.

**7299 ISLE OF WIGHT CIVIL MILITARY PARTNERSHIP 2016**

The Town Clerk had received an invitation for a Town Councillor to attend the first meeting of the Isle of Wight Civil Military Partnership 2016 on 23 June 2016. This will be a quarterly forum to bring together local civil society, the Island's armed forces community and UK armed forces. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Nicholson attends the first meeting of the Isle of Wight Civil Military Partnership 2016 on 23 June 2016.**

**7300 AFFILIATION TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT SPORTS FOUNDATION**

Cowes Town Council have been invited to renew their affiliation to the Isle of Wight Sports Foundation (formerly the Isle of Wight Sports and Recreation Council) in the sum of £6. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council renews its affiliation to the Isle of Wight Sports Foundation in the sum of £6.**

**7301 ISLE OF WIGHT LITERARY FESTIVAL 2015**

The Town Clerk had circulated a report giving details / feedback from the Isle of Wight Literary Festival 2015. The report is required to comply with the conditions set for receiving a grant of over £2000 from the Town Council. The report gave feedback from attendees and presenters, details of the main programme, venues, number of attendees and overall conclusion of the event.

**7302 ISLE OF WIGHT LITERARY FESTIVAL YOUTH ZONE 2015**

The Town Clerk had circulated a report giving details / feedback from the Isle of Wight Literary Festival Youth Zone 2015. The report is required to comply with the conditions set for receiving a grant of over £2000 from the Town Council. The report gave feedback from attendees, details of the youth programme, venues and audiences, authors and performers, summary of figures and overall conclusion of the event.

**7303 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S DRAFT PARKING STRATEGY 2016 – 2021**

The Town Clerk circulated details of the Isle of Wight Council's Parking Strategy 2016 – 2021, which is due to go to the Isle of Wight Council's Executive in September 2016. The draft report and appendices are very large documents and it was agreed that this would be too time consuming to be discussed at Full Council and a small group of Councillors should look at the documents in detail and respond on behalf of Cowes Town Council. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Jones and Slade form a working group to review the Isle of Wight Council's Draft Parking Strategy 2016-2021.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk asks those Councillors who were not at the Town Council meeting whether they would like to join the working group.**
- 3. That the working group formulate a response to the Isle of Wight Council's Draft Parking Strategy 2016-2021 on behalf of Cowes Town Council.**

**7304 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**7305 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Railings on the seafront – Councillor Fuller
- Destination Cowes – Councillor McNeill
- Freehold transfer of public toilets

The proceedings terminated at 8.48pm.

**CHAIRMAN**