

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 6 April 2017 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Ellis, Fuller (7.07pm), Glendinning, Hammond, McNeill, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Spalding, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; 2 members of the public; County Press reporter.

7456 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Slade.

7457 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7462c (Projects Committee Minute No 122m) as her husband works for the Home and Communities Agency.

Councillor Nicholson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7462c4 as he will be taking part in events related to the 75th Anniversary of the ORB Blyskawica.

Councillors Ellis & Hammond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7462c4 as they are marshalling events for the 75th Anniversary of the ORB Blyskawica.

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7462c4 as Cowes Town Council's representative on the ORP Blyskawica 75th Anniversary Steering Group and he will also be taking part in events to commemorate this anniversary.

b) A written request for dispensation was received from Councillor Banks which was granted in respect of Minute No 7462c4 as he is Chairman of the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society.

7458 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

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

7459 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 March 2017 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7460 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public thanked those Town Councillors who had attended the launch of the Crowdfunding campaign for a crossing patrol at Park Road. He hoped that the Town Council rather than 'may', that they 'will' consider match funding. He also commented that there were no cash points working in Cowes on the weekend of 1 & 2 April; Councillors agreed that the lack of cashpoints in Cowes was a very serious issue.

He went on to say that he thanks the Councillors for their hard work over the last four years, not something that he could do, he believes friendships have been strengthened. He commented that unfortunately the Council will not be

remembered for the good things it has done but will only be remembered for the unresolved issues. He wished Councillors good luck and looked forward to attending the next Town Council meeting in May.

He also hoped that Councillors would consider the possibility of a Community Hub which is being discussed later in the meeting.

7461 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox also commented on the lack of cashpoints in Cowes and the difficulty that elderly residents will have in accessing the new Post Office in Mill Hill Road. She felt Town Councillors should have organised a protest against the loss of the banks in Cowes. She also advised that the work in Newport Road has been extended by another week but she has been assured that the road will be open for Easter. The closure of Rew Street has exacerbated the traffic problem. She confirmed that the Floating Bridge was arriving on 8 April and should be put into service on 6 May.

Councillor Fuller commented that he is trying to get the re-surfacing works in Rew Street delayed, asking Island Roads to instead fulfil their commitment to re-surface Parklands Avenue which has been postponed. He has lodged a formal complaint as this is the third postponement and the road is in a very bad condition. When asked about the Place Road development, Councillor Fuller advised that residents do have ongoing issues in this area and the purpose of a forum is for residents to talk to the developers and receive updates on the development.

Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

7462 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Cowes Deauville Twinning Association

The notes of the various meetings of Cowes Deauville Twinning Association were received and noted.

b) Road Safety Meeting at Lanesend Primary School

The notes of the Road Safety meeting at Lanesend Primary School held on 27 February 2017 were received and noted. It was noted that S106 money could be used to obtain a Traffic Order in the area around the school; early earmarking of S106 funds with the IW Council is advised.

c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 9 March 2017 & 22 March 2017 were received and noted. Councillors discussed the request for a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the High Street and agreed that 'No Cycling' signs should be put in place as part of the new TRO. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Company B, being Fresh Air Fitness, be appointed to install mobile gym equipment at the Recreation Ground for the sum of £9,386.50 plus VAT, subject to the Isle of Wight Council's agreement of the equipment and proposed location.

2. That the outline design of the garden for the WW1 Centenary Memorial in the Rose Bed be approved, with the memorial to be subject to further consideration before being recommended for approval.

3. That bunting be installed in the High Street at a cost of £1,000, with a request that this be installed before 4 May 2017, if possible.
4. That Cowes Town Council takes ownership of the ORP Blyskawica Plaque at the Bandstand and adds it to its insurance policy and asset register.
5. To purchase a replacement bin by the MUGA, at Northwood Recreation Ground, at a cost of £100 plus the installation cost of £50.

- d) Cowes Business Association
The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association Committee meeting held on 13 March 2017 were received and noted.
- e) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library AGM and Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2017 were received and noted. Councillors agreed that the creativity of the Supporters should be applauded.
- f) Planning & Licensing Committee
The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 14 March 2017 & 4 April 2017 were received and noted.
- g) Northwood Park Sub Committee
The Notes of the Northwood Park Sub Committee meeting held on 3 April 2017 were received and noted. The Committee would like to make a presentation to Cowes Town Council at their July meeting.

7463 COMMUNITY HUB

Councillor Glendinning provided a briefing note for Councillors to consider in relation to a Community Hub. A Community Hub is a multi-purpose, community-led building providing a focus for the delivery of services, activities and community engagement. Some hubs focus on only one sector e.g. voluntary groups and youth support services, whilst others support a variety of sectors of need within their neighbourhood. The purpose of the briefing note was to ascertain whether this is a project that should be pursued by the next Town Council. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Community Hub project be put forward to the new Council in May for discussion and agreement of the next steps.

7464 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque payments and petty cash payments for the month of March 2017. Cheque payments totalled £34909.85; petty cash payments totalled £104.06. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for March 2017 of £34909.85; and the petty cash payments for March 2017 of £104.06 be received, noted and approved.

7465 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE THREE SUB COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with amended draft Terms of Reference for the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee, Planning & Licensing Committee and Projects Committee. The drafts now included statements of responsibilities and

obligations and also, in regard to the Projects Committee, matters relating to financial implications are referred to the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee (as determined by the financial regulations) at the earliest stage. It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the amended Terms of Reference for each of the three sub committees.

7466 TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN COUNCILLORS' PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

The Town Clerk collated and circulated to all Town Councillors the responses to the recent Town Council Performance Review (9 responses received) and Town Councillors' Performance Review (8 responses received). Councillors reviewed the responses and it was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will add this item to the agenda for a future Town Council meeting for a full review of the responses.

7467 LETTER TO ANDREW TURNER MP REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL

The Town Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Andrew Turner MP requesting support for an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill in that 100% mandatory rate relief will be given to town and parish councils which are taking on the responsibility for public toilets in their areas. Currently there is no business rate relief on public toilets. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will write to IWALC asking that they discuss with the Isle of Wight Council the opportunity for granting discretionary rate relief for the public toilets in Cowes.
2. The Town Clerk will ask IWALC to lobby NALC to pursue the granting of 100% mandatory business rate relief for town and parish councils which are taking on the responsibility for public toilets in their areas.

7468 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 included replacing anti-dog fouling signs, reporting of fly tipping incidents at St Mary's Road Car Park and Northwood Recreation Ground, removal of rubbish in Arctic Road, weekly play park inspections and regular public toilet inspections.

7469 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7470 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Destination Newport Rhode Island twinning

The proceedings terminated at 8.13pm

CHAIRMAN