

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 7 April 2016 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Sue Waters, Assistant Town Clerk

7236 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowan and Hammond.

7237 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No 7242f1.

Councillors Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 7242j in that he is IW Council Executive member for waste.

7238 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

No Police officer attended the meeting and no report was received.

7239 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7240 QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present to ask any questions.

7241 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports had been received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson and Peacey-Wilcox. Councillor Bertie apologised for the meeting, a written report was not received. Questions were asked of Councillor Peacey-Wilcox about support the Fight for the Wight campaign and the recent speed watch session held in Mill Hill Road. Volunteers are required for further sessions, and the junction of Victoria Road, Mill Hill Road will be targeted next at the request of Cowes Town Council, also requested was Park Road by the Blackberry Lane section.

Councillor Fuller added that following a meeting with the developer (Mr G Pengelly) and residents of Place Road – a new planning application will be sought for 12 of the dwellings. Phase 1 should be starting shortly. He also advised that Cowes Medical Centre are having a national IT upgrade and will be handling emergency appointments only from 28 April to 5 May 2016 inclusive. Patients are advised to contact 111 or a pharmacist. Questions were asked about the dormice on site which was affecting the Dottens Farm planning application, and Councillor Fuller's recent work with the Planning Enforcement Office. Councillor Fuller also asked councillors to take part in the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy consultation. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that this is an agenda item for the Town Council next month.

Councillor Nicholson was questioned about the water main works at Northwood – this is due to be completed in three weeks. Traffic lights for the junction at Three Gates Road were considered but were not considered necessary.

Councillors were also reminded that Park Road is being re-surfaced overnight week beginning 11/04/16, and that Ward Avenue is also being re-surfaced overnight from 18/04/16 to 23/04/16.

7242 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Northwood Park Sub Committee

A written report of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 were circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Councillors asked about the plan for the Park.

ACTION: Councillor Brown will ask about the plan at the next meeting.

b) Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Slade will be attending the next meeting.

c) Harbour Advisory Committee

The notes of the meeting held on 4 March 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Corby was congratulated on his appointment as Chairman. Questions were asked about the Red Funnel planning application – Councillor Fuller advised that the document is now available, 185 pages long, and officers are recommending approval at the IWC Planning Committee meeting. Another question was asked about the silting in the harbour – Councillor Corby advised that there will be an open meeting. He also advised that he had written to the water taxi proprietor requesting a meeting following the withdrawal of the service.

d) Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1) That a grant be made to Cowes Classic Powerboat Race 2016 in the sum of £2,000, from the budget heading 'New event support budget – Shoreside'.
- 2) That Cowes Town Council does not purchase HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative medals to donate to local schools in Cowes.

e) Meeting with IW Council Re: Environment Officer Services in Cowes

The notes of the meeting held on 11 March 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council buys in to the Environment Officer Service from 1/4/16 – 31/3/17 for 5 hours a week at £10 per hour at a total cost of £2,600.
2. That Cowes Town Council obtains a weekly report / update of all activities undertaken in Cowes, from the Environment Officer, with details of any offenders and / or any fixed penalty notices issued.

f) Projects Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1) That the contract for the Seafront Shelter is still awarded to G J Banks (IW) Ltd and the timescale clause removed and that the project is completed as soon as possible.
- 2) That up to £500.00 is set aside for the hire of the necessary equipment to drill filtration holes which are then filled with gravel to try and solve the problem of the water not draining effectively from the site, once permission has been obtained from the Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited, and that a CAT scan is used first to identify any services underground.
- 3) That Cowes Town Council funds up to £2,000 towards the Patron's Lunch event on 12/06/16.
- 4) That Cowes Town Council holds the funds from all organisations in their accounts to act as a banker for the Patron's Lunch event.

- 5) That a re-print of 2,000 Isle of Wight Maps is funded at a cost of £635.00.
- 6) That Cowes Town Council supports the installation of a Merchant Navy plaque on the bandstand by gaining the relevant permission from the Isle of Wight Council at no cost to the Town Council.
- 7) That the Town Council funds £1,000 for the installation, maintenance and taking down of the free bunting for this summer season in the High Street.
- 8) That the Town Council funds the installation of an additional dog waste bin, at Northwood Recreation Ground, at a cost of £60.00 plus installation and £4.60 per week for emptying twice per week.

g) Meeting with IW Council re Cowes Library

The notes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016 were received and noted.

h) Planning and Licensing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016 were received and noted.

i) Annual Asset Management Committee

The notes of the meeting held on 22 March 2016 were received and noted. It was noted that Island Roads were asking for a list of redundant signs – Councillors Banks and Jones will include this in their condition survey for the Street Furniture. It was agreed:

ACTION: That a copy of the Traffic Regulation Order for Cowes High Street is requested and that the cycling in the High Street is included in the agenda for the bollards meeting which is currently being arranged with Island Roads.

j) Amey Community Waste Forum

The notes from the meeting held on 23 March were received and noted. Most residents in Cowes has now received both the leaflets and their non-recycling bins. Much discussion took place about the imposing of the bins with some residents getting very poor customer service and some getting good. Councillor Fuller advised that assisted collections are available free of charge which is particularly suitable for elderly residents, and that collection plus is also available at a cost of £52.00 per annum for second home owners.

7243 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – A WAY FORWARD

Councillor Banks submitted a written report regarding combining Cowes Town Council with Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils. There was much discussion on “clustering” rather than merging. It was agreed:

ACTION

That the Town Clerk organises another “cluster” meeting for chairman and clerks and this matter is included in the discussion.

7244 UKOG DRILLING APPLICATION

Councillor Brown submitted a written report and copies of an email were circulated from a person against fracking who is offering to organise an open meeting on the matter. It was agreed that this is a very emotive subject and that for the Town Council to be involved, representatives from both sides of the argument, should be invited to attend. As this is not possible to add on to a Town Council meeting it was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Brown organises a public meeting to which both sides of the issue are invited to provide a presentation and that councillors and residents from Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard are invited to attend.

7245 TENANCY AT WILL DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOUR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE IN COWES

The Town Clerk provided copies of the amended Tenancy at Will Documents which have now been approved by IW Council following the changes requested by Councillor McNeill. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Mayor and Town Clerk sign the Tenancy at Will documents for the four public conveniences in Cowes.

7246 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS

It was:

RESOLVED: That the total of £33,290.32 cheque payments and £101.41 petty cash payments for the period 01/01/16 – 31/03/16 are noted and approved.

7247 VACANCY IN THE COWES WEST WARD

The Town Clerk advised that one person has expressed an interest in the vacancy and an interview date will be arranged shortly.

7248 IWALC SPRING SEMINAR

The Town Clerk circulated a written report on the IWALC Spring Seminar held on 18 March 2016 which was received and noted.

7249 UPDATE ON THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Assistant Town Clerk submitted a written update following the recent training workshop which was received and noted.

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk will work with Councillors to construct a 3 year business plan.
2. That training needs identified from the workshop can be sourced via IWALC or other suitable training providers.

7250 APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES & OUTSIDE BODIES.

Following the resignation of Councillor Hammond, four additional appointments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1) **That Councillor Slade is appointed to the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee**
- 2) **That a vacancy remains open for a member of the Planning Committee**
- 3) **That Councillor Jones is appointed as a Tree Warden.**
- 4) **That Councillor Bartrum is appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative for the Good Neighbour Volunteer Group.**

7251 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDANCE

The Town Clerk circulated a list of miscellaneous publications and correspondence.

7252 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were received.

The proceedings terminated at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN