



COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Making Cowes a better place



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition 2014

from Cllr. Geoff Banks – Cowes Town Mayor

YOUR NEWSLETTER

This edition includes articles from **Cowes Town Waterfront Trust**, **Cowes Police**, **Cowes Library** and the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. Our aim is to bring you news from other organisations based in our town. If you belong to or have knowledge of any local community organisation which could benefit from providing an article for this Newsletter, can they please let us know?

APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW TOWN CLERK

In last quarter's Newsletter we reported on the retirement of our Town Clerk, **Roger Hendey**, who has served our Town Council so admirably for the past fourteen years. Roger will be leaving us at the end of October having volunteered to stay on an additional month to assist our newly appointed Town Clerk in their first month in office.

There were five candidates short-listed and, through the regulated interview process adopted, we were delighted to offer the post to **Debbie Faulkner**, a Cowes resident.

Debbie, who joined us on 1st October, had been Member Support Manager at County Hall and provided Personal Assistant support to the IW Council's Leader and Deputy Leader and general support to all other elected Councillors at the time. Debbie therefore comes to Cowes Town Council with a wealth of local authority experience from which we can benefit.

WE HAVE MOVED

Towards the end of August our offices were moved into Northwood House. All contact information is as previously with the *exception* of the address which is provided at the foot of the last page. Northwood House was, for many years, the venue for the Cowes Town Council's monthly and sub-committee meetings until such time as offices were required for our supporting clerks. This is seen as a welcome return where we now have a most adequate office and can hire rooms for our Council meetings.

HIGH STREET MATTERS

Many have commented on the sign shown in the photograph. This was placed at the top of Shooters Hill on a post in the middle of the roadway at the end of September. It is understood that it was sited there by a concerned and frustrated local retailer at the lack of enforcement to stop cyclists hurtling through the precinct and cars accessing our pedestrianized zones. Cowes Town Council has held past meetings with all the authoritative agencies in an attempt to resolve these illegal traffic issues. However, your Town Council can but put forward recommendations to those, such as the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads, who have governance over traffic matters. Hopefully, with yet another meeting called by the Town Council, there might be some support to address peoples' frustrations. However, whatever may or may not be resolved, there will be those dissatisfied with any outcome. One suggestion is the implementation of cycle routes about the town. The issue of cycling against the traffic flow along Birmingham Road is of concern and it was proposed a 'green carpet' cycle path was laid on the seaward side allowing cycling in both directions.



However, it is felt, by some that such would encourage those more determined cyclists to continue straight down Shooters Hill. A suggestion is to route cyclists along West Hill Road as an alternative route about the town. Signage and road markings for cyclist routing is both simple and cost effective, however, that decision lies with that higher authority. We are very much at their mercy of the IW Council and Island Roads as to what they might accept, if anything. Where there are cost implications we have to acknowledge those local government financial constraints. However, there are various funding sources which may be available if a cycle route can be agreed.

At the end of the day there are those extreme views on cyclists going through our High Street. Some consider that cyclists should have access at all times and that they need not dismount but take due care and act responsibly. There is that opinion that cyclists should adhere to the "No Entry" signage, a legally enforceable stop to anyone riding a bicycle. Similarly, motor vehicles entering the precinct during pedestrianised periods can be fined as well as cyclists. Our local constabulary inform us, having policed the area on several occasions and given verbal warnings, that resources were limited and such policing was not a priority matter. (*Refer their report 'Cowes Safer Neighbourhood Team', below*)

Damage to the High Street carriageways appears to be an ongoing problem with areas excavated by utility services poorly re-laid, impact to bollards by vehicles and the continued failure to replace the metal channel gratings where rusted through. These have all been raised by your Town Council and residents with both commenting on the poor state of maintenance. Such matters lie with Island Roads and have yet to be addressed. It is accepted that the Isle of Wight Council has financial problems, however, the upkeep of our highways is with Island Roads and there is the expectation that maintenance should be to a high standard if Cowes is to demonstrate its position as an internationally renowned and necessarily well-kept town.

COWES WEEK VILLAGE

The Town Council has expressed its interest in taking on the management of the Cowes Week Village. Such has been brought about by concerns of Town Councillors, residents and businesses in town as regards to the activities this year. The 'Village' does not reflect the image which Town Councillors consider befitting for Cowes Week and wish to see a more family orientated entertainment centre with less emphasis on the drinking aspect with the stalls occupied by local traders and organisations. However the Isle of Wight Council, which sets out the tender for event organisations to bid for the management of the site, states that "the organisation of the Parade Village in 2014 has been generally well received by the community, Cowes Week Limited and those attending the event".

The present management company, Taylor Events, have another year to run under their present contract. Therefore the Isle of Council should be going out to tender for the following three year period. However, County Hall states that, due to staffing capacity, they are unable to undertake another tendering exercise and wish to extend Taylor Event's contract for another two years, ending in 2017.

Your Town Council considers this to be unacceptable to any organisation which wishes to have an opportunity of taking on the 'Village' and, hopefully, re-modelling it as a family style venue. The Town Council considers, irrespective of their own interests, that County Hall does not have the right to extend this contract because of its staffing issues. This decision to extend this contract needs to be made, we are told by the IW Council, at an early date. Cowes Town Council has been given until the 29th October to comment.

Your Council has asked for an early meeting to set out its concerns, prior to that date, with the hope that the Isle of Wight Council will take heed of their anxieties and requests. Your Town Council's involvement with what takes place on public property is a rightful expectation and it wishes to do so to see the best for our town and the Cowes Week regatta..

Your views on whether the 'Cowes Week Village' should remain as it is are welcomed as are your thoughts on your Town Council's running this event. As regards to the costs of managing this 'Village', although requested, there has been the inability by County Hall to give such due to the income and expenditure being a part of their total Cowes Week financial appraisal. In this regard the Town Council has been given certain figures but are concerned that the financial implications of managing this operation remain unknown. However, with the present event management company only providing the Isle of Wight Council with a stated £2,305 income (as shown on information provided by the Isle of Wight Council following Cowes Town Council's request under the Freedom of Information Act), there is great concern with local Councillors as to how the event can be purported to only "wash its face" or "make a loss" even to the point whereby a Councillor was told that financially the Isle of Wight Council would be better off without it. However, such are mixed messages and hearsay and this Council needs to determine what is in the best interests of the town and the event before proceeding further.

FLOATING BRIDGE

A public open meeting chaired by Cllr. Mike Lloyd, the East Cowes Town Mayor, was called by East Cowes Town Council on the 11th September at East Cowes Town Hall to which Cowes Town Councillors were particularly invited. The meeting was very well attended by East Cowes residents who were clearly against the imposing of any charges to foot passengers and cyclists. Five Cowes Town Councillors, as well as the Mayor and Town Clerk, were present.

At that meeting Cllr. Lloyd requested that Cowes Town Council should debate the issue their side of the river and he was assured by the Mayor of Cowes that the matter of charges would be raised at the next full council meeting and, furthermore, his council would be given the opportunity of expressing their views at a public open meeting held by Cowes Town Council on the 30th October at Cowes Methodist Church. Cllr. Lloyd welcomed attending this meeting where E. Cowes Town council had the opportunity to air their views on the possible imposing of charges to foot passengers and cyclists.

The assumption at the East Cowes meeting appeared to be that Cowes' residents would join with those in East Cowes against any imposition of charges. However, Cowes Town Council had not discussed such nor determined a consensus view at that time.

At our October meeting Cowes Town Councillors resolved that they would put it to the public meeting as to whether those attending supported or otherwise East Cowes' stance. However, concern was raised that such a gathering would not be representative of the consensus view of the residents of Cowes in that the attendees would primarily comprise of those vehemently against the charges. A report of that meeting will be published in our Winter Newsletter

Regrettably the consultation paper on charges, provided by the Isle of Wight Council, closed on the 31st October and there will be those who have not had or taken the opportunity to indicate their view. In a survey undertaken by the County Press - the majority (Island-wide) responded by favouring charges.

There are, we gather, four other such ferries in the UK of which only one is run by a local authority. All charge for foot passengers and cyclists bar one, a privately owned operator, who asks for a donation.

TAKING ON ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL SERVICES

The Town Council's Acquisitions Committee held their first meeting this year to consider those discretionary services the Isle of Wight Council aim to no longer fund. Those who pay the Town Council's precept charge will be aware that this increased two-fold last year to allow for this Council to manage selective services which are considered essential for the town. The services immediately under consideration were Grounds Maintenance, Beach Cleaning and Environmental Officers.

Cowes Town Council was being asked to indicate, by the end of October, whether they would be prepared to alternatively fund elements of the different contracts in full at current specifications, in full at a reduced specification, make a contribution to the costs, to make no contribution or to maintain areas through their own contractors.

Grounds Maintenance

The IW Council had decided to maintain principal parks at an agreed level; other funding for grounds maintenance would be significantly reduced from 1st April 2015 and the following landholdings within Cowes would be affected:

Location	Current cost to Maintain (per annum)
Arctic Road and St Mary's Road	£1,436
The Cut	£109
Moorgreen Reservoir (central grass area maintained by MGRAS*)	£336
Parade Bandstand	£111
Mornington Green (incl. Jenny Woods)	£1,355
Somerton Industrial Estate	£ 973
Park Road Recreation Ground	£7,089
Park Road rose bed	£1,053

*Moorgreen-Road-Allotments-Society.

Members did not consider they had sufficient time to obtain details of the current tender documents and work specifications to enable the Town Council to seek their own contractors for 2015/16; making a contribution to safeguard the contracts for 2015/16 would provide a 'breathing space' to determine what further options might be available.

It was agreed that the Town Council assumes full responsibility for Park Road rose bed and requests ownership of it. At the Town Council's World War 1 Committee, (recently formed to consider appropriate ways in which to commemorate the Great War and those from Cowes who gave their lives), it had been agreed to dedicate this area as a remembrance garden.

Assuming the remaining landholdings listed are maintained to existing standards, the Town Council agreed to make a 50% contribution based on current costs.

Beach Cleaning

The current contract included beach cleaning, litter cleaning, bin emptying and slipway cleaning and ends in March 2015. However, since the Cowes Town Council's Acquisition Committee's meeting it had been determined that the Isle of Wight Council had a statutory obligation to undertake elements of this work themselves. Until there is clarity concerning the matter the Town Council will not give the issue further consideration.

Environment Officer Services

There are currently 7.5 full time employed staff who dealt with a range of public realm issues; from 1st October 2014 these staff would be reduced to three. However, with the aid of Town and Parish Councils to cover a shortfall of £50,000, 4.5 full time staff could be employed.

To retain the 4.5 staff, County Hall's proposal was that towns with a population of over 5,000 contribute 40p per head of population while towns with less than a 5,000 population contribute 30p per head. Cowes Town Councillors studied in detail the additional duties that would be retained should they opt to contribute to the Environment Officer Service and after careful consideration it was decided that the Town Council did not contribute to the Environment Officer Service.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR

By Cllr. David Jones, Deputy Town Mayor

Recorded on the Cowes War Memorial are 147 names of those remembered by a grateful nation. As well as on this memorial, central to the Annual Remembrance Day Parade, some of their names also appear on other memorials in local churches, on the Isle of Wight Rifles Memorial in Carisbrooke Castle and on memorials in far-flung places where the young men of Cowes lost their lives. Whether they died in France, Gallipoli, Palestine or were lost at sea their names are remembered.

The original War Memorial was unveiled on the 31st March 1921 in the High St at the bottom of Market Hill. Destroyed by bombs in May 1942 it was rededicated in its present place in its broken state as a reminder of the futility of war. The slabs bearing the names of the "fallen" had been lost and the names recorded today are thanks to much research by dedicated historians. The names of those who lost their lives in the Second World War have been added to the Memorial.



Those who died are listed below. Many others died because of their wartime experiences, but for various reasons their names are not recorded on this, or other memorials; their sacrifice should not be forgotten.

During the next four years there will be several opportunities to give thanks and remember all these local men.

PRO PATRIA

IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF THE MEN BELONGING TO THIS TOWN WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 1918

EW ALLEN, FL ALLEN, WC ALLEN, GR ANGELL, G ARNOLD, J ASH, EA AYRES, AR BAILEY, JH BARRETT, HG BARTLETT, WH BARTLETT, JR BARTON, E BAX, WJ BEST, RM BILK, SH BISHOP, GG BOWER, HEA BROWN, F BURRIDGE, GH BULL, EG CARPENTER, HT CARTER, EH CAWS, WG CAWS, W CHAPMAN, H COLE, G COLTER, CE COOPER, FC COOPER, LE COTTER, HK DAMANT, W DANIELS, DAVENPORT, AC DAY, EE DIMMICK, EF DRAPER, W DRAPER, E DUFF, R DYCKER, HA EVANS, WC FERRIS, WA FIELD, WJ FINCH, HJ FRANCIS, DA FRENCH, A J FROUD, E H FULLER, CW GIBBENS, W GLADDIS, CH GUSTAR, EJ HAGEN, JC HARDING, F HARRIS, H HARVEY, WC HAWKINS, C HAYTER, SC HENDEY, WH HENDEY, HA HOBBS, E HESKETH, A HILL, H HODGES, PE HOLDEN, WW HOLMES, G HUNT, P HUNT, AJ HURST, ST IVORY, EW JACKMAN, GH JACKSON, W JOLLIFFE, T JONES, FA KEMP, WG KITTLE, BA LASHMAR, CP LEE, F LEE, GH LEE, FJ LEFTWICH, HE LONG, AH MALTBY, H J MARTIN, BC McGAHEY, J MEEK, FC MILES, AW MOORE, W MOORE, H MOTH, WH MOTH, J MULCOCK, JHV MUMFORD, HA NOBBS, GR NOYCE, S OSBORNE, V OSBORNE, PC PEACH, J PATTERSON, C PHILLIPS, W POTTER, GT POWELL, CR RANKIN, C RATSEY, DW RATSEY, SG RATSEY, H READ, HV REYNOLDS, AF RICHARDSON, AV RIDGLEY, P ROBERTS, AA RUSSELL, WE RYALL, AWG SALISBURY, F SIVIER, W SIVIER, AF SLADE, RA SMITH, D SPARKS, J H SPRAGG, JW STALLARD, H STEAGER, JA STEVEN, A STEVENS, ASH STEVENSON, JC STEVENSON, GW STONE, D STREET, PJ TAYLOR, WF TAYLOR, RW THOMPSON, O TREVETT, DH TYLER, DH WADHAM, W WAITE, A WALLACE, LC WARDER, GH WARNE, VG WATTS, GA WAY, H WEBSTER, O WESTBROOKE, T WESTLAKE, A WESTHORPE, CF WHITTICOM, B WILSON, CE WILKINS, GT WINSER, WR WOODLAND.

More details of those listed above can be found at: www.isle-of-wight-memorials.org.uk.

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

In September the Town Council awarded grants to the following applicants:

Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society	£500 towards the cost of upgrading the sound system at the theatre
The Friends of St. Mary's Hospital	£750 towards the cost of new equipment for the hospital
The Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival	£150 towards the cost of organising the 2015 Festival

Your Town Council welcomes all grant applications from any organisation or those wishing to put on a one-off event. There is no bar on any applicant doing so on a regular basis and it is with such grants being provided regularly that many organisations can provide our community with continued engagement. Grant Application forms can be downloaded from our website or by ringing our office; contact details are at the foot of this Newsletter.

NEWS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS



Cowes Town Waterfront Trust

Registered Charity No. 1019760

COWES TOWN WATERFRONT TRUST INVESTING FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

The damaging effect of such high profile slating was felt when bids were made to attract major yachting events to the town.

The purchase of the site, greatly helped by the Laing Foundation and local authorities, was completed in March 1993. Charitable status was gained later that year and the Trust now operates for public benefit; to promote high standards of planning and architecture in Cowes, to educate the public in the geography, history and architecture in Cowes and secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Cowes. It is also tasked with providing public facilities for mooring boats.

When West Cowes Marina was bought, the deal also included a number of properties on Cowes High Street, industrial space and buildings. In 1993, the Trust set up a trading company, 'Cowes Yacht Haven Limited', which carries out the trading activities at the marina site. However, the tenanted properties owned by the Trust are still under its direct control. Any profit made by the trading company is passed to the Trust, which uses any funds to fulfil its charitable aims.

Among its reinvestments, the Trust's rental properties are being upgraded and the toilet and shower block at the yacht haven has been refurbished. The Trust continues to support the Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week fireworks display, and young sailor Natasha Lambert whose efforts aboard her specially adapted boat 'Miss Isle' continue to inspire many.

The historical importance of Cowes is also a focus for the Trust which has once again made a donation to **Cowes Heritage**, this time for its exhibition 'A Decade of Change: 1910-1920' which is being held daily until Friday 31st October at the Regatta Office in Bath Road, Cowes.



COWES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (Cowes Police)

Early in October we received communication from T/PS Gary Knight who is based at Cowes Police Station. He reports as follows:

"I have included a short report from the Cowes Safer Neighbourhood Team for the month of September 2014. In terms of crime, for the year to date crime figures we are down 5% from 262 crimes 2013/14 down to 250 crimes 2014/15.

The no: 1 priority identified by the Local Action Group is cyclists and cars using the High Street during the times of prohibition.

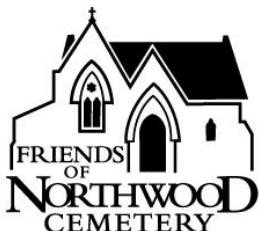
In relation to this priority police have continued to actively patrol the High Street to prevent incidents re-occurring. Police have seen 4 cyclists whilst on patrol during September 2014, those we have stopped have had their details taken and given a verbal warning as well as an educational letter. If the same persons are seen cycling again during the prohibited time then formal action will be taken.

I would like to inform everyone that the frequency and day of the month the beat surgeries take place has changed. It will take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Cowes Police Station between 1800 hours and 2000 hours. Everyone is welcome to attend and speak with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team on any matter that they feel the police can assist with. The next beat surgery will take place on the 9th October.

There are no crimes of note to bring to the attention of the Cowes Town Council."

At our September meeting Sergeant Knight was questioned as regards to the prevention of cycling through the pedestrianised precinct. As reported in the article on **High Street Matters**, earlier in this Newsletter, he stated that there were limited resources to patrol the High Street and that there were more important and pressing issues taking up police time.

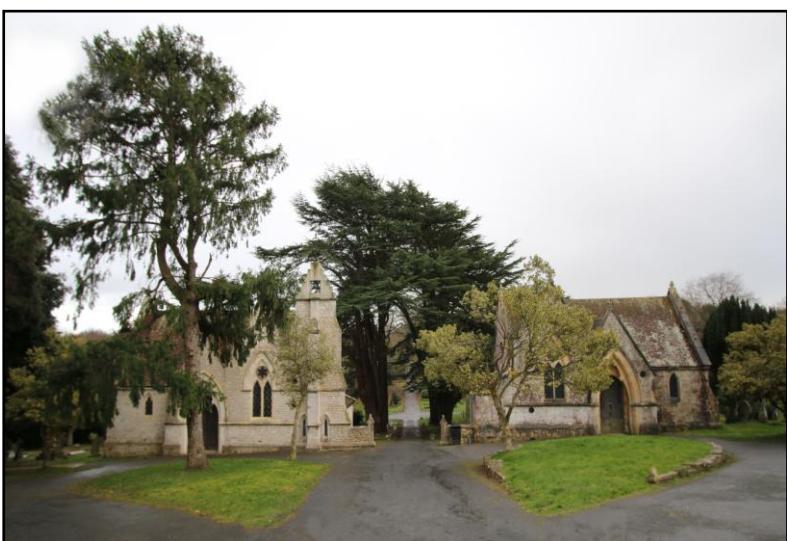
FRIENDS OF NORTHWOOD CEMETERY



£1m earmarked for Northwood Cemetery restoration

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery (FoNC), in partnership with the IW Council (the landowners), has bid and won funding of over £1m from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the twin chapels in Northwood Cemetery.

The “Friends group” was formed in 2008 with the objective of restoring the West Chapel (on the right as viewed from Newport Road) which was then surrounded by safety fencing and looking very forlorn for itself. The IW Council partially underpinned this chapel in 2010 whilst the Friends renovated the consecrated East Chapel (on the left) which was in better structural condition.



All the windows of the East Chapel, as well as the stonework over its main entrance, were restored through a programme of sponsorship and the chapel was re-opened last year for funeral services - having been closed for such, because of safety concerns, for over 20 years.

In parallel to its attention to the chapels, FoNC set about tidying up the grounds which had been devoid of any rigorous conservation management for decades. New benches and trees have been sponsored – and a focus given to the rich heritage and natural history in the Cemetery.

However, with the West Chapel now reasonably solid, if rather dilapidated, the extremes in the weather conditions over the past two years have resulted in significant cracks opening up in the East Chapel; for safety reasons this has now, once again, been closed to the public.

The bottom line is that both chapels need complete underpinning solutions implemented before any permanent restoration can be undertaken.

In February FoNC applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to do just this - as well as create a Woodland Burial site, a heritage trail, repair the main driveway, re-point the front wall in lime mortar, restore the bell, upgrade the toilet to be DDA compliant and enhance the signage in the Cemetery.

Happily the HLF liked the bid and have advanced £75,300 for the professional work - from structural engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape consultants and project managers - to be performed so as to detail the precise plans from which contractors can undertake the restoration work. If all goes according to plan, onsite work by contractors will start in early 2016.

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer in this exciting project then please consider becoming “a Friend” of Northwood Cemetery (volunteering does not have to involve physical work). There are several non-manual tasks (such as research) as well as manual tasks that could be done by volunteers but these are currently stalled though lack of resources.

Contact details are on FoNC’s website at www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk where there is also a wealth of material - including an index to the 17,000 burials in the Cemetery and copies of all of the 26 quarterly newsletters published so far. There are also details on how to become “a Friend”.

Cllr Jon Matthews
Chairman
Friends of Northwood Cemetery

COWES LIBRARY NEWS

Choices Drop-in sessions at Cowes Library

Choices is a department of the Isle of Wight Council and provides a range of services for young people on the IOW. All of the services support young people between the ages of 14 - 19 (or 14 - 25 with learning difficulties or disabilities) not in education, employment or training, to make good career choices and continue in education, employment or training. Services are provided through the Participation Team linking to the local network of employers, schools and colleges, and training providers.

Cowes Library is one of a number of Drop-in Centres on the island where a Choices Participation Advisor is available between 1.30 and 4.30pm every Tuesday. One to one support is given, focused a particular person's needs.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Choices centre on Tel: 823888.

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cowes Town Council, under its Quality Town Council status, is required to publish quarterly details of current Councillors, as below:

Geoff Banks (Mayor)	Cowes West	01983 295425
David Jones (Deputy Mayor)	Cowes Medina	01983 298445
Linda Brown	Cowes South	01983 295222
John Corby	Cowes North	07798 753962
Veronica Cowan	Cowes West	01983 200415
Stuart Ellis	Cowes Medina	01983 246352
Paul Fuller *	Cowes North	01983 289595
Lynn Hammond	Cowes Medina	01983 282308
Jon Matthews	Cowes Medina	01983 247498
Mark McNeill	Cowes North	07790 777101
John Nicholson *	Cowes South	01983 619130
Lora Peacey-Wilcox *	Cowes Medina	01983 247177
Bob Robinson	Cowes West	01983 294234
Jacqui Spalding	Cowes South	01983 291877
David Walters	Cowes North	01983 200734
Wendy Wardrop	Cowes North	01983 298687

* also Isle of Wight Councillors

Any written communications to Councillors should be sent via the Cowes Town Council offices and any email communications to Councillors to be copy emailed to Cowes Town Council offices please (for record purposes). Email addresses of Councillors can be found on the Cowes Town Council website: www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor hold their offices until May 2015 (two consecutive years being the maximum term permitted by the Council's Constitution). Councillors can sit on any of the various sub-Committees, such as Licensing & Planning, Finance, Acquisitions, Town Improvements, Northwood Recreation Ground and the World War One Steering Group.. The Town Mayor and Deputy serve on all such sub-Committees. There is Town council representation on many outside bodies and organisations.

MEETINGS

Our next two full Council meetings are on Thursday 6th November and Thursday 4th December at 7.00pm. These meetings are held in the Library at Northwood House. These are open to the public and residents are most welcome to attend.

Office & Communications: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk, Cowes Town Council, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes PO31 8AZ; telephone: 01983 209022; email: town.clerk.cowestowncouncil.org.uk

Opening hours are Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.00noon (except Bank Holidays).