

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 3th April 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown, Corby, Ellis, Fuller (8.20pm), Jones, Matthews, McNeill,
Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Walters.

6878 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowan, Hall, Hammond, and Wardop.

6879 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this stage.

6880 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6881 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public, although one member asked for it to be noted that it was appreciated that Cllr Brown had been seen trying out the outdoor gym equipment at Ventnor.

6882 REPORT FROM COWES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

This item was taken next as Sargent Pringle needed to return to the Police Station due to staff shortages.

He reported that at the yearend reported crimes in Cowes have been reduced by 10% from last year, resulting in 71 less victims of crime. The number one priority was still the traffic issues in the High Street and officers are issuing warnings to cyclists who ride through the High Street – they are considering prosecution for any repeat offenders. Cllrs raised the point that at 5.30pm each evening there is a problem with cyclists. Another Cllr raised that on a Saturday lunchtime he had witnessed several vehicles driving from Cross Street into the Car Park alongside Corries Cabin which is prohibited. Sgt Pringle will feed this information back to fellow officers at the Station.

He reminded Cllrs of the Beat Surgeries at the Police Station each 1st and third Thursday's of the month from 6pm to 8pm.

6883 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Fuller had submitted a written report which included the following:

- Place Road: Revised Application received, for 90 Homes.
- Meetings: Full Council - Councillor Ian Ward was re-elected to serve a second term as Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council, whilst Cllr. Ian Stephens remains as Leader.

- That he had been appointed as Chairman of the Planning Committee, and hoped to continue as a member of Licencing and Appeals Sub-Committees.
- Cowes Enterprise College - had a fourth monitoring visit at the end of March, with inspectors confirming progress is still being made.
- Economy & Environment Scrutiny - he has suggested to the Chairman of the Council's Scrutiny Committee that the following matters are considered by scrutiny as issues requiring monitoring. These include the IW Waste Strategy and the Cowes Floating Bridge.

Questions were asked once he arrived:

Why were so many planning applications for hotels turned down when we are a tourist Island? He explained that the Premier Inn application was refused due to the design. There was also a question about the revised planning application for housing off Place Road – Cllr Fuller advised he is not able to vote on any planning applications in his ward. Another question was asked about the problems at Cowes Enterprise College – he advised that the new Academy may take over the maintenance issues. Parking was also mentioned – IW Council pay £8 million to Island Roads for the car parking contract which is not covered by the income from the meters. To help this parking will be payable until 8pm in council car parks, a new Island Residents Permit is available for 80pence per day.

Councillor Nicholson's written report referred to the following;

- The nuisance parking of untaxed and uninsured vehicles around Place Side is expected to cease with the eviction of the garage operator that was previously associated with this concern.
- The newly formed licensees group, Fight 4 Wight Licensees, is having an event on Friday 4th April,
- The Police Motion, restructuring has begun, and they are seeking greater involvement and cross cooperation with the community.
- That a meeting has been set up to explore what can be done to address mental state issues on the Island. The meeting is with Andrew Turner MP, Professor Rida Elkheir, director for Public Health, the Cabinet Member Phil Jordan, Cllr Nicholson and a private external consultant who has operated with the Prince's Trust and the armed forces on ground breaking work with post-traumatic stress disorder. It is recognised that mental states affect each and every aspect of our lives and underpin many of society's problems and, even, can account for, or influence, physical health and wellbeing.

Cllr Nicholson also reported that Cllr Fuller had been appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee and he should be congratulated on this.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:

- Abandoned Vehicles: she had concerns from a constituent; Island Roads have contacted DVLA to ascertain the registered keeper and then contact them for an update.
- Traffic Orders: she has asked for a number of roads to be considered for the next bout of Traffic Regulation Orders in Cowes.
- Island Roads: A garden wall has been damaged by Island Roads. She has been assisting my constituents in resolving the issue.
- Little Love Lane: She is delighted to say the lease has been agreed and the business can now continue to grow and employ more local people. It has been 'hard work' pushing this forward!
- Fraser Close: Once again she has had the council down concerning rubbish and land that has been taken by a resident in Arctic Road. It is not council owned land. Any issues would have to be 'civil' matter. The original developer is no longer responsible as the company has 'wound up'.

- Floating Bridge: She has written to Island Roads requesting that during the annual refit of the floating bridge that they do not allow road works to take place on the Ryde to Newport main road. (like they did last time).She has been told only emergency works will be given permission.
- Empty Home: She has managed to get an empty home back in full use, after some years of standing empty.
- Her thanks to Will Taylor at the IWC for 'keeping on it'!

Councillor Bertie was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies.

6884 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a). Seating on The Parade during AAM Cowes Week (Min. No. 6874a refers)

Cllrs were not happy with the response received from John Metcalfe of the Isle of Wight Council. There are three definite problems –

- 1 Lack of seating
- 2 Lack of sufficient toilet facilities
- 3 Content of the existing contract with Taylor Events

Discussion took place about the value to the Town of the Parade Village, and how involved the Town Council used to be in planning the event, also if the Town Council may wish in the future to take over the event from the IW Council. Cllr Peacey- Wilcox will talk to John Metcalfe informally for some clarification. Cllr McNeil advised that a full time cleaner for the Parade toilets is being considered for the length of Cowes Week.

RESOLVED

- 1 **That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts John Metcalfe explaining the Town Council's unhappiness with the response and requesting that any seating taken away to accommodate the Parade Village is replaced elsewhere on the Parade.**
- 2 **That the Town Council is involved in any future discussions regarding the contract.**

b) Confirmation of the Winding Up of Cowes Community Partnership

Minutes of the meeting held on 19/03/14 confirmed the winding up of the Community Partnership, and the balance of their account (£5,141.65) has been received by Cowes Town Council

RESOLVED: That these funds are ring fenced for community projects once all monies required to complete the Mornington Woods project have been used.

c) No other matters arising were discussed

6885 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Harbour Advisory Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2014 were received. There was a question raised regarding the ownership of Whitegates Pontoon – this belongs to the Isle of Wight Council. The outer harbor breakwater project was also discussed and it was:

RESOLVED: That a letter is written to the Harbour Commissioners congratulating them on securing the funding for the project and engaging a contractor. Cowes Town Council feels that this project will be a great benefit to the local community.

b). Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 10th March 2014 were received.

c). **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 17th March 2014 were received.

d). **Town Improvements Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 17th March 2014 were received.

Dog Waste: There are some areas of Cowes without suitable dog waste bins so it was:

RESOLVED:

- 1) **That Cowes Town Council purchases two additional dog waster bins at a cost of £60 each from Island Roads**
- 2) **That a second quotation will be sought for installation and if that is more cost effective than £48.66 per hour quoted from Island Roads, the most cost effective quotation will be used.**
- 3) **That the Town Council contracts with Island Roads to empty the additional two dog bins at a cost of £2.15 per lift twice per week.**

Memorial benches: That following two requests for additional memorial benches in the town, Cllr Banks provided a written policy for consideration. It was:

RESOLVED: That the policy is adopted by Cowes Town Council.

Wishing Well: After several complaints by residents and traders it was:

RESOLVED: That Cowes Town Council takes on the responsibility for the Wishing Well, by contacting both the Isle of Wight Council legal department and Cowes Carnival Committee.

Town Council Assets: Several benches located in Northwood Park but owned by Cowes Town Council are in need of repair so it was:

RESOLVED: That quotations are requested for the repair/re-painting of all the benches (located in Northwood Park but owned by Cowes Town Council) are obtained to a maximum of £500 and the most effective quotation be accepted.

e). **Cowes Community Partnership**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2014 were received.

f). **Public Meeting**

The notes from the meeting held on 20th March 2014 were received. Comments were raised about the article in the Isle of Wight County Press regarding the removal of the Umbrella Tree and the Mayor's suggestion for the wood. Cllrs would like to consider a sculpture to be formed to commemorate the original tree.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **That Cllr Banks contacts the Tree Surgeon who removed the tree to check the size of the pieces that are left**
- 2) **That this item is placed on the next Town Improvement Agenda for formal discussion.**

6886

MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a) To consider whether or not the Town Council should renew their membership of IWALC
- b) To consider a request from the Gurnard Parish Clerk for the use of the Town Council photocopier on a recharge basis
- c) To consider whether or not the Town Council needs to comment on the IW Council review of Polling Districts and Places.

- d) To receive preliminary details of Town Council Risk Assessments.
- e) To consider how best the Town Council can deal with the transfer of the IW Council discretionary services.
- f) To approve the accounts and petty cash payments for the period January to March 2014.
- g) To receive details of miscellaneous correspondence.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Assistant Town Clerk renews the Town Council's membership to IWALC at £1,000**
- 2) That the Gurnard Parish Council makes a formal request to Town Council to share some resources.**
- 3) That no comments are required on the IW Council review of Polling Districts and Places**
- 4) That the Risk Assessments as presented are formally adopted by the Town Council.**
- 5) That the Acquisitions Committee is convened to discuss the best way forward of dealing with the transfer of IW Council discretionary services.**
- 6) That the accounts and petty cash payments as submitted for the period January to March 2014 are approved including the additional payments of £320.97 to Top Mops and Petty Cash of £12.52.**

6887 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) To consider sharing the cost of a full time cleaner for the toilet block on the Parade for the length of Cowes Week (Cllr McNeil)

(The proceedings terminated at 8.50pm)

CHAIRMAN