



Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 1st November 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Banks (Deputy Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Jones, Matthews, Mazillius, Robinson
Sanderson and Wells.

Councillor Banks referred to the sad news of the recent death on John Leigh a former Councillor and past Town Mayor; John had done much for the town during his many years service and had been the driving force behind the skate park installation. John was a true gentleman who would be greatly missed. Members and others present stood to observe one minutes silence as a mark of respect.

PRESENTATION – AAM COWES WEEK 2012

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Michelle Warner (Sales & Marketing Director, Cowes Week Ltd.), Peter Dixon (Chairman) and Stuart Quarrie (Chief Executive) to the meeting; they had attended to provide feedback following AAM Cowes Week 2012.

Michelle stated that this year saw varied winds throughout the week which made for great sailing conditions. Cowes Week was an iconic British summer sporting event which had provided a fitting focus on celebrating the Best of British in a special year that had celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

The highlights of the 2012 event included

- A new relationship with VisitEngland which had led to the creation of an international press trip held over two days. Sixteen journalists from the US, India and China attended as well as many travel journalists from the UK. They would look to build on this new relationship to showcase the best the Island had to offer.
- A successful Family Day which saw many families enjoy the activities laid on for the day and which gave a welcome boost to visitor numbers.
- A very successful Ladies Day.
- This years Best of British theme culminated in a Best of British Celebration Day with members of the Olympic sailing team at the event for a series of public activities.
- The firework display which many considered to be the best ever. Funding contributions for the display had come from a variety of sources including the Town Council; she hoped that the Town Council would confirm their ongoing support for the fireworks.

Sadly, the Red Arrows had been unavailable for a Cowes Week display this year; they did plan to ensure they were back for 2013, subject to funding.

Michelle confirmed that entry numbers had been strong given the current economic climate and the competing attractions during a busy summer; entries were within 10% of 2011 levels while many other sailing regattas were down by 85%. Nonetheless, Cowes Week Ltd. was focussed on increasing the overall entry number to between 900 and 1,000 boats and were working on a number of initiatives in order to achieve that aim. Visitor numbers to Cowes during the event were within 13% of 2011 figures based on passenger numbers coming across to the Island with Red Funnel; in order to continue to attract visitors and competitors to the event it was vital that the 'package' offered good value for money, was appealing and was positively promoted by all.

Michelle stated that the feedback from their post-event online survey had been very positive, with particularly complimentary comments around the racing, the organisation and the atmosphere. The 2013 event was back to the traditional dates and would take place on 3rd – 10th August. They would welcome the full input of the Town Council both through its representation on the shore-side committee of CWL as well as any direct dialogue throughout the build up to next year in order to make this flagship event even better.

A number of questions were then asked following which Councillor Banks thanked the representatives from Cowes Week Ltd. for attending; Cowes Week was vitally important to the town and it had been very welcome to have such positive feedback from the 2012 event in these difficult times.

6682 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond, McGregor, Peacey-Wilcox and Walters.

6683 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public asked the following questions:

Q. There had been rumours in the town that delays to the completion of the Cowes Enterprise College had not been primarily caused by inclement weather; would the Town Council ask on behalf of local residents the real reasons for the delays?

A. Yes, the Town Clerk would write to the Director of Education requesting reasons surrounding the time delays for the opening of the new college.

Q. Could the Town Council give any information regarding the position and status of Cowes Youth Club and their premises?

A. Councillor Mazillius stated that in the I.W. Council Forward Plan it showed that a delegated decision was likely to be taken for the UKSA to take over the Youth Club building.

Councillor Fuller stated that he understood the Youth Club would continue to operate from the building although the running it would revert to UKSA; he undertook to determine the full position regarding the Youth Club and the future use of the building and report back to the member of the public.

6684 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brown had apologised for his absence – his written report referred to the following:
Economy – The Council had received a conditional offer of European funding amounting to some £680,000 to help establish the Solent Offshore Energy Centre (SOEC) to support early in-water tests of tidal energy devices; they were continuing investigations into the final preferred offshore site for SOEC. The final decision on the Council's bid for £1M of Regional Growth Funding (RGF) for the project would be known shortly. The Council had also concluded an agreement with the Government for £1.1M of ERDF funding to support the development of the Solent Offshore Renewable Energy Consortium (SOREC) whose purpose was to establish an employer's organisation to support the development of the offshore renewable energy sector.

Unemployment statistics for August had revealed that 3.5% of Island people were out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA); those claiming JSA among 18 – 24 year olds was 8.4%. although Council funded initiatives aimed at providing opportunities for these young people would have an impact.

Tourism – 2012 had been a testing year for the tourism industry; the wettest summer for 100 years, continuing economic uncertainty and the effect of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games had all had a negative impact on people's propensity to take holidays or make day trips. The Council had committed an additional £100,000 to Visit Isle of Wight (the new Destination Marketing

Organisation) to ensure that they are able to compete with other destinations all seeking to overcome the impact of the downturn in tourism experienced in 2012.

Assets - On 20 September the Community Right to Bid element of the Localism Act 2011 came into force; this introduced the right for communities (including town and parish Councils) to identify property assets that they believe to be of importance to their community's social wellbeing and to nominate those assets on to the local authority List of Assets of Community Value. If the owner of the listed asset decided to dispose of the asset they must formally notify the Council of their intention, and the community then had a window of opportunity within which to confirm its intention to bid for the asset and a further window within which to draw together funding and bid proposals.

The provisions did not restrict in any way who the owner of a listed asset could sell the property to, or at what price, and nor did it confer a right of first refusal to community interest groups.

The Council's Community Right to Bid Policy would shortly be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

Planning - Officers continued to evaluate issues raised following receipt and advertising of further information relating to the proposed asphalt plant on land adjoining Medina Wharf. The environmental permit application had now been submitted and was subject to consultation.

Cllr Fuller had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- a). That he had spoken with residents in Ward Avenue in respect of floodlighting proposals for the new Cowes Enterprise College; the columns would be 15m high rather than 10m high as approved. Planning Officers had advised that with fewer floodlighting columns there should be less light spillage onto gardens in Ward Avenue.
- b). That he had received a number of enquiries regarding trees that have been felled in Mornington Park. He had been told that these poplar trees had a limited lifespan particularly within the environment at Mornington Park; there was potential for trees to be replaced in the future.
- c). That the Environment Officer was monitoring the position in respect of alleged commercial and domestic fly tipping on the Crossfield Estate.
- d). That he had attended the Eco-Island Global Summit which had been held in Cowes over two days.
- e). That there had been increased activity from construction traffic on the former Rookstone site in Egypt Hill which together with ongoing developments at Solent Heights and the Moorings had caused difficulties with the road and driveways being regularly obstructed.
- f). That Officers were recommending the revision to conditions for The Moorings in Egypt Hill. Local residents had expressed concern over rendering being out of context with the conservation area; however, officers considered this unsustainable due to similar work nearby. He had requested the Chairman of the Planning Committee assesses this application.
- g). That parental parking at local schools continued to be a problem with access to residents driveways being obstructed; he submitted information regarding Access Protection Bars which residents could pay to have painted on roads outside their driveway.
- h). That he had dealt with other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

Councillor Mazillius had submitted a written report referring to the following;

- a). That Trading Standards had reported a scam email regarding parking penalty charges; motorists who have received a penalty charge notice were invited to send payment to a rogue website that appeared to have council connections.
- b). That public services on the Island were consulting on a Health and Wellbeing strategy.
- c). That he had asked for two separate reports in respect of the Newport Road closure.
- d). That a planning application had been lodged for the installation of a Photovoltaic Farm at Chawton Farm, Northwood; this is a 20 acre site that when operational could provide sufficient electricity for up to 800 homes (which could include Cowes homes).
- e). That there was a further delay in the move into the new Cowes Enterprise College.
- f). That he had called a second public meeting at Lanesend Primary School to discuss the BESD unit at the Love lane school site. Genuine concerns exist about the close proximity of the new behavioural unit to the pre-school building and playground which for several reasons could be highly undesirable. He had submitted a full report of the meeting to the Director of Education and the Cabinet Member

and the Headteacher. The Cabinet member would shortly be attending a meeting with the Headteacher and others to discuss the next steps and hopefully reach an amicable solution to resolve what has become a most unfortunate dispute.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had submitted a written report referring to:

- a). That she had attended the public meeting where concerns were raised over the planning application for the BSED Unit and for the health and wellbeing of the children currently using the site..
- b). That P.D. Wharfage apparently owned First Copse, they had erected 'Keep Out' signs as fires were being lit in the copse.
- c). That she had clarified a number of points surrounding the new roads contract as follows:
 - Drainage – most road problems due to lack of water being removed from road surfaces; many core and minor drainage schemes included in plans
 - Business Partnering Opportunities – Contractor keen to utilise small businesses and local hauliers; estimated they will employ 170 workers over the 7 year period
 - Graduates/Apprenticeships – Contractor working with local college to move this forward
 - Lay Assessor Programme – For people with an active interest and knowledge of the roads network
 - Local Supply Chain Event – To be held in November; the contractors web site (www.islandroads.com) should go live on 6th November

6685 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Sergeant Mike Sizer reported as follows:

- a). Following the earlier presentation regarding AAM Cowes Week, he could report that crime statistics for that period had reduced although assaults on the police had risen.
- b). That he had attended the I.W. & Hampshire Community Foundation 'Surviving Winter' campaign; the campaign was aimed at persuading those in receipt and not necessarily in need, of winter fuel payments to donate them to those less fortunate. He had himself, referred vulnerable adults to such organisations as Age UK who were working with the 'Surviving Winter' campaign, Social Services, the Fire Service and Medical and Housing services.
- c). That he was not aware of a single complaint in Cowes or East Cowes following Halloween; the very bad weather on the night might have played a significant part!!! The police were now putting strategies in place for firework night particularly in respect of the sale of fireworks to youngsters.
- d). That with Christmas fast approaching, he would be instructing his PCSO's, while undertaking their normal patrols, to put security advice leaflets through doors of houses that they consider vulnerable to intruders or burglaries.
- e). That the next Cowes Local Action Group (LAG) meeting would be held on 12th November. Many LAG's on the Island appeared to be failing; Cowes was probably the primary group and a positive development in East Cowes was that the LAG and not the Police was running a 'Crime Prevention' day at Waitrose during December.
- f). That on the Island the Hampshire Constabulary had introduced 'Operation Cornerstone'; this operation was aimed at identifying and recoding details of second home owners so that they could contact those owners regarding issues surrounding their properties (if they were considered vulnerable or burgled etc.).

6686 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

It had been agreed at the October meeting that due to the increased area he covered and his increased responsibilities the Environment Officers would no longer be requested to submit a report; instead, any concerns about the town raised by Councillors would be relayed to the Environment Officer.

RESOLVED

That a report from the Environment Officer be removed as an agenda item for future Town Council meetings.

6687 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6688 MATTERS ARISING

a). Highways PFI contract (Min. No. 6659c refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the PFI team which confirmed that Vinci Ringway had been appointed as the Service Provider for the Highways PFI Contract; they now wished to introduce Vinci Ringway to Island Residents to explain how the project would be delivered on the Island, how road upgrade would be managed and how members of the public could keep abreast of future plans. To this end, they were inviting the Town Council and local residents to a local roadshow to be held at the Cowes Enterprise College on Wednesday, 30th January 2013 at 6.00p.m.

b). Playing Field, Lanesend School (Min. No. 6654 refers)

The Town Clerk referred to the Town Council decision to support Lanesend School regarding the playing fields on the site; a letter had now been received from the I.W. Playing Fields Association welcoming that stance and offering to work with the Town Council in support of the school.

It was agreed that the letter from the I.W. Playing Fields Association be noted.

c). Toilet cleaning contract (Min. No. 6606f refers)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the Waste Contract Officer confirming that the costs of cleaning toilets for the current financial year had increased as a result of the need to obtain a new contractor following the collapse of Fountains. However, following representations to the I.W. Council it had been agreed that the cleaning costs for 2012/13 financial year would be based on 2011/12 and not the current higher costs.

The tender for a new contract to replace the short-term agreement with Top Mops was ongoing; they would notify the Town Council when the level of costs for the new contract and the impact on individual facilities was known. This was likely to be February 2013 and based on current knowledge they anticipated an increase in costs compared to previous levels.

d). Standing Orders (Min. No. 6620 refers)

Councillor Jones had expressed concern that Standing Orders in respect of the public's right to make representations at meetings was unclear; he had spoken to the Town Clerk and agreed that the issue would be resolved by simply amending SO 20.4 as follows:

Fifteen minutes will be the time set aside at full meetings of the Town Council to receive questions from the public and any one member of the public shall have three minutes to deliver their questions. This time limit may be varied at the discretion of the Mayor.

RESOLVED

That Standing Order 20.4 be amended as detailed above.

e). 'Lights of Love' carol service (Min. No. 6662a refers)

The Town Clerk reported that the 'Lights of Love' carol service in aid of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice would be held on 14th December around a Christmas tree at the bottom of Market Hill. A choir from Cowes Primary School had agreed to attend; there had been no response from Lanesend School. The Town Clerk was endeavouring to arrange the musical accompaniment and for mulled wine and mince pies to be served to those attending.

e). Outdoor Gym equipment, Northwood Recreation Ground (Min. No. 6670c refers)

The Town Clerk reported that the I.W. Council lease for land at Northwood Recreation Ground for outdoor gym equipment had been received; a copy had been circulated to all members for their consideration.

A quotation for the supply and installation of a metal sign for the fitness equipment was also submitted.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Mayor/Deputy Town Mayor and Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk be authorised to sign on behalf of the Town Council the lease for the land in Northwood Recreation Ground; and
- 2). That an order be placed for the supply and installation of the metal sign for the gym equipment at a cost of £150 plus VAT.

6689 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Northwood House

The Town Council received and noted a report from the Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust.

The full report is attached to these minutes and the most recent report to the Town Council can also be viewed at www.northwoodhouse.org/news.

b). Medina Valley Area Action Plan Sub-Committee

The Notes of the Meeting of the Medina Valley Area Action Plan Sub-Committee held on 23rd October 2012 were received.

c). Finance Committee

The Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 30th October 2012 were received.

i). 'Lights of Love' annual carol service.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council gives a grant of £400 to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice; the Town Mayor to present the cheque at the 'Lights of Love' carol service on 14th December.

ii). Applications for grant.

a). Northwood House Trust.

For servicing the dog and litter bins in Northwood Park for the year 2013/14.

b). Northwood House Trust.

For the provision and installation of new bins in Northwood Park (quotations for the bins and their installation had been provided).

RESOLVED

1). That the Town Council renews the contract for dog/litter bin emptying in Northwood Park for the financial year 2013/14 based on the existing schedule for emptyings and to a maximum cost of £3,500; and

2). That Councillors Brown and Matthews meet with a representative of the Northwood House Charitable Trust to view and assess the state of dog and litter bins in Northwood Park; they would prepare a report for submission to the next meeting of the Town Council.

(The Finance Committee had recommended that the Town Council did not fund the provision and installation of new bins for Northwood Park).

iii). Town Council bank accounts.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council maintain the Lloyds TSB Treasurers account for day to day running; the Town Clerk be authorised to transfer all other balances into the CCLA Investment Management Public Sector Deposit Fund.

iv). Christmas lights.

The Cowes Business Association had suggested they pay their £2,000 contribution to the Town Council; this would be 'ring fenced' with the £2,000 from the Town Council. The Town Council could then place all the orders and reclaim the VAT; this would save £800 of the sum committed to this project.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council place all the orders and manage the funds for Christmas lighting for the town.

v). Civic pendants.

RESOLVED

That subject to the receipt of a satisfactory sample, the Town Council purchase 25 no. pendants without wallets as detailed above from Vaughtons at a total cost of £735.21 plus carriage and VAT.

6690 E-MAIL PROTOCOL

Councillor Matthews had raised the issue of e-mail protocol; confusion had arisen when he had circulated information only to Ward Councillors he considered affected by the information and replies from them had been forwarded to all Councillors who had been unaware of the full details.

RESOLVED

That all requests that information to be circulated to Town Council members be forwarded to the Town Clerk; together with the Town Mayor, they would make a judgement regarding what should and should not be circulated.

(Councillor Mazillius left the meeting at 8.56p.m.)

6691 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). Details of a Cowes Business Association networking evening to be held at Cowes Yacht Haven of 8th November at 5.30p.m..
- b). *A request from the I.W. Local Access Forum that the Town Council organise locals litter picks of footpaths and bridleways.
- c). *Details regarding the closure of Fawley Power Station.
- d). Details of a performance by the Norwich City Concert Band at Cowes bandstand on the weekend of 3rd – 6th May 2013.
- e). Invitation to an IWALC Executive Committee meeting to be held at the Riverside Centre on 15th November at 7p.m.
- f). Notification of the Supporters of Cowes Library AGM to be held at the Library on 12th November at 6.30p.m.
- g). Notification of the I.W. NHS consultation regarding Foundation Trust Status and the offer of a speaker to attend the Town Council to explain the proposals.
- h). *Details of accounts and petty cash payments for the period July to September 2012.
- i). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence

(Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in b) above as he was a member of the Local Access Forum)

(* Copies circulated to all members)

RESOLVED

- 1). That no action be taken regarding the I.W. Local Access Forum request for litter picks;
- 2). That the Town Clerk arrange for a speaker to attend a Town Council Meeting to explain proposals surrounding the NHS consultation regarding Foundation Trust status; and
- 3). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period July to September be noted and approved:

AON Insurance	Additional insurance – Toilets, Northwood Rec. (Min No. 6607f)	198.42
BT	Telephone	47.37
Berry Electrical	Electrics – Toilets, Northwood Rec.	145.00
Delabole Slate	QDJ plaques (Min No 6607f)	1,650.21
Mark Weldon	Watering troughs and baskets	738.00
WBS	Printer Cartridges	63.46
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
DN Associates	Office Rent (Min no 6397b)	1,170.00
John Groves (IW)	Install new benches and bin MUGA	208.09
R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 4999f and 6387c)	250.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S Waters	Salary	344.55
HMRC	NI and Tax (April – June)	1,144.87
Biltmore	Printing	129.50
IW Music Centre	Grant (From proceeds of QDJ concert) (Min No 6607g)	1,000.00
Supporters of Cowes Library	“ “ “ “	500.00
Cowes Carnival	“ “ “ “	500.00
A. King	Frames for unveiling QDJ plaque	58.78
Petty cash		200.00
Moss Hayman	Painting lettering – Cowes Signs	45.00
AFX Design	Stage payment for Horizon Plaque (Min No 6583b)	200.00
Tops Mops	Cleaning Skatepark ramps	135.00
Wicksteed Leisure	See-saw, Northwood Park (Min No. 6606a)	1,818.50
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No. 6630e)	250.00
Jon Matthews	Perspex for town maps	162.52
BT	Telephone	48.47
Southern Electric	Northwood Rec., toilets	48.53
Mark Weldon	Watering troughs and baskets	666.00
WBS	Recording machine (Min No 6650e)	549.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Berry Electrical	Electrics, Northwood Rec. toilets	61.00
WBS	Service of photocopier	200.00
Urbaser	Empty bins, Northwood Park	1,626.00
IW SLCC	Membership fees	20.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	639.43
Moss Hayman	Painting lettering, Town maps	45.00
C.H. Munday	Civic gifts (Min No 6642)	947.20
WBS	Copier paper etc	23.44
Mark Weldon	Watering troughs and baskets	513.00
JRR Fencing	Repairs to skatepark fencing	90.00
Vision Graphics	Artwork and printing town maps (Min no 6650d)	625.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
BT	Telephone	48.79
Cowes Corinthian YC	TM Reception charges	1,048.83
Food Hamper	Food for TM reception	352.00
WBS	Printer cartridge etc.	24.98
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
Audit Commission	Annual Audit charge	550.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00

R Williams	Skatepark cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
IW Musical Comp Festival	Grant (Min No 6660c)	100.00
Bay Tree Florist	Wreath (Cllr Birch)	20.83
SLCC	Conference fee (Min No 6649f)	385.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	344.55
HMRC	NI & Tax (July – Sept)	1,275.99
SLCC	Town Clerks examination fee	20.00
S. Waters	Travel expenses to conference (Min No 6649f)	23.00
DMR Eng	Repair town map frames (Min No 6660b)	94.00
Hancock Electrical	PAT test office appliances	82.60

Petty Cash Payments April to June 2012

Hursts	Sandpaper	1.95
Forest View Nursery	Bedding plants	11.16
Hursts	Paint for town map boards	23.01
Post Office	Stamps	46.80
I.W. Branch SLCC	Training course	20.00
Staples	DVD lens cleaner	8.32
Post Office	Postage	6.00
R. Hendey	Travelling	51.04
R. Hendey	Postage	3.57
Post Office	Stamps	14.40

6692 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following item be placed on a future agenda:

- a). Tree re-planting scheme for Mornington Green (Councillor Fuller).

(The proceedings terminated at 9.12pm)

CHAIRMAN