



Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Walters (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Banks, Brown, Cowan, Ellis, Hammond, Fuller, Jones, Matthews,  
Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson Sanderson and Wells.

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Councillor Cowan to her first meeting of the Town Council.

#### **6702 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Flury and Mazillius.

#### **6703 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A Member of the public asked the following question:

**Q. A parent whose child attended the Cowes Enterprise College asked if the Town Council had any information regarding the school; there was a lack of information from the I.W. Council, children were very unhappy and there were numerous Health & Safety issues that needed to be addressed?**

A. The Town Mayor stated that the I.W. Council had acknowledged that there were shortcomings with the new Cowes Enterprise College project; two senior members of staff had been suspended pending further investigations and Stuart Love had now assumed responsibility for the build. The headmaster had also resigned. The college was now due to open to pupils in September 2013. Many issues could not be discussed for contractual and legal reasons and the Ofsted report had still not been published. He asked Councillor Wells (Chairman of Governors, Cowes Enterprise College) if he wished to comment further. Councillor Wells confirmed that he was unable to discuss some of the questions raised. However, he sympathised with the questioner in respect of the H & S issues. The new Enterprise College was expected to be completed for occupation in September 2012 and consequently very little maintenance work was done to the old school which was due to be demolished. The failure of the contractors to complete on schedule had made things extremely difficult. However, he could confirm that a full survey of the old school had been undertaken and a schedule of necessary repairs produced; the I.W. Council were working hard to correct the defects. He acknowledged that it was a far from ideal situation for pupils, staff and everyone else involved with the school. Finally, Councillor Wells stated that if parents had any specific issues that they wished to discuss he would be very happy to meet with them.

#### **6704 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

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

- a). That he was considering calling in a planning application to refuse extending 7 Battery Road following no objections being received from either neighbours or the Town Council,
- b). That there had been informal consultation on consideration of granting an overnight parking provision on Cowes/Gurnard Esplanade. His initial thought from responses received was that any restriction would be an over-reaction to concerns expressed about mobile homes parking.

- c). That further complaints had been received concerning persistent cold calling in Baring Road from Apple Homes Improvements; in liaison with Trading Standards complaints had been made to the company.
- d). He outlined his report from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership.
- e). That he sat on a recent licensing hearing for Berties (formerly Ocean World) which was called following objections from neighbours over the close proximity of their homes to the premises. In light of this Environmental Health and the Police requested conditions were applied to reduce hours etc; the applicant was happy to adhere to the conditions which enabled the Committee to support the application.
- f). That he had met with Stuart Love regarding the delayed construction of the Cowes Enterprise College; he understood the sensitivity over the ongoing internal enquiry and commercial elements of the construction but would welcome information that could be put in the public domain to be made available.
- g). 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 the Leader of the I.W. Council had proposed a motion to be debated at the January meeting in respect of the very real public concerns regarding the reduction in frequency of ferry sailings to and from the Island. A number of resolutions were proposed; in particular, to urge the Government to recognise that ferry services operating within England should be treated with similar strategic status, in terms of being vital infrastructure routes, to England's bus and train networks. He would be supporting the motion and in the meantime would like to hear from residents with their views.
- b). That he would be attending a meeting of the Cowes Enterprise Governing Body on 24<sup>th</sup> January; he expected many of the issues resulting from the building completion delays to be addressed.
- c). That the application for a licence to operate a mobile crushing unit at the Medina Wharf site of the proposed asphalt plant would be heard by the I.W. Council's Regulatory Committee on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- d). That Northwood and Gurnard residents had complained about 'cold calling' from Apple Homes Improvements; he would be interested to learn whether residents from Cowes have had similar callers.

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

- a). That Victoria Road was due to be closed from 4<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March from the junction of Moorgreen/St. Mary's Road; diversions would be in place..
- b). That she had requested a date for the implementation of Cowes Traffic Orders; some of the Orders were requested up to 3 years ago!!!.
- c). That she had requested an update in respect of the Cowes Youth Club site; she understood a report was soon to be published.
- d). That she had requested the I.W. Council install a Stop sign at the Victoria Road/ Mill Hill Road junction; this had been refused on the grounds of cost and because all of the accidents had been caused by driver error.
- e). That she continued to receive ongoing concerns from residents regarding the proposed asphalt plant.

**Councillor Brown reported as follows:**

That responsibility for the Cowes Enterprise project within the I.W. Council had been transferred to the Director for the Economy and Environment during November 2012. He confirmed that certain management aspects surrounding the build were under ongoing examination.

Commercial and legal dialogue was proceeding between the I.W. Council and the contractor; he stated that it would be inappropriate and potentially damaging to issue any public information until those discussions had been concluded. However, he could confirm that the I.W. Council had undertaken a detailed inspection of the site on a room by room basis and that they had brought in a variety of experts to investigate areas of specific concern. A significant number of defects had been identified that would have to be rectified before the building could be occupied. The Council's inspection reports and the reports of the various experts had been provided to the contractor and the I.W. Council were working with them to find the best approach in respect of rectifying the identified issues. No estimated date was yet available for completion of the required remedial works.

## 6705 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

**PC Justin Pringle apologised that Sergeant Mike Sizer was unable to attend; he reported as follows:**

- a). That the last Local Action Group meeting had determined that drug dealing, road safety and dog fouling be the three priority areas for the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team to concentrate on.
- b). That eight drug related arrests had been made.
- c). That the Police had undertaken their usual Christmas Drink Drive campaign; the crash car that had been on show around the Island had proven very effective.
- d). That a series of traffic checks had been made in Park Road; a number of penalty notices had been issued for minor offences but no cases of excess speeding had been identified.
- e). That there had been a spate of damage to vehicles parked in the car park at Park Court; a male had been apprehended in connection with these incidents.

## 6706 MINUTES

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 6707 MATTERS ARISING

### **a). Town Council Committees (Min. No. 6615 refers)**

The Town Clerk reported that following their election to the Town Council both Councillors Cowan and Flury had requested they be appointed to the Town Council's Planning and Licensing Committee.

### **RESOLVED**

That Councillors Cowan and Flury be appointed to serve on the Planning and Licensing Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2013.

### **b). Membership of the I.W Association of Local Councils (IWALC) (Min. No. 6700a refers)**

The Town Mayor stated that this item had been deferred from the December meeting; the Town Clerk had recognised the value of membership of IWALC and he requested the Town Council seriously consider supporting that view.

The Town Clerk reported that membership would cost the Town Council £900 in a full year but that there could be potential financial benefits particularly in this election year; IWALC would be providing a full programme of Councillor core skills training that will be free to members and £50 per session for non members. The Town Clerk also recognised the benefits and occasional need for timely advice particularly in these difficult and bewildering times as 'Localism' rolls out.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council re-join IWALC with immediate effect; and
- 2). That the Town Clerk records and monitors the level of support that the Town Council receives from IWALC.

### **c). Toilet cleaning contract (Min. No. 6688c refers)**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the I.W. Council which stated that a new contract for cleaning public toilets was out to tender and would be in place by 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The I.W. Council would no longer be undertaking cleaning of toilets on the Town Council's behalf; the Town Council would need to contact the successful new contractor to arrange for their facility to be cleaned. The I.W. Council would supply the contractor's details once the contract was awarded; there would be set rates for cleaning and the Town Council could access these prices by contacting the new company.

It was agreed that the Town Council re-consider this item when it had been determined who the successful contractor would be.

**d). Highways PFI contract (Min. No. 6688 refers)**

The Town Mayor reported that he had met with the Highways PFI team; they had confirmed that all Town Council assets would remain in the ownership of the Town Council but that Vinci Ringway would maintain them for the 25 year period of the highways contract. If the Town Council wished to provide additional street furniture they would have to negotiate with the contractor regarding a maintenance charge for the duration of the PFI contract period. The Town Mayor had expressed particular concern with regard to the CCTV equipment; he had been told that if the equipment became obsolete and could not be maintained then it would be replaced by the contractor!!! The cost of the annual operating licence would continue to fall to the Town Council. He had requested that all these points be confirmed in writing.

In respect of highway repairs, he considered that local Town & Parish Councils were best placed to determine priorities; he had been informed that although the contractor had tests to determine the roads most in need of repair they were keen to work with local Councils regarding priorities.

In the meantime, he had requested the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with Northwood, Gurnard, East Cowes and Whippingham, the other Town & Parish Councils in District 1 of the contract, to discuss concerns that may be common to all. Councillor Fuller suggested that such meetings should continue for the duration of the contract.

Councillor Jones questioned whether the Town Council had agreed to hand over their assets to the contractor for 25 years; he could not remember a vote on this issue.

It was agreed that the Town Council would return to this item at their next meeting when many of their concerns may have been addressed at the Vinci Ringway PFI 'roadshow' on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**e). NHS consultation (Min. No. 6691g refers)**

The Town Mayor stated that various Councillors had commented on the I.W. NHS Trust consultation regarding their application to become an NHS Foundation Trust; all views and questions raised had been collated and forwarded to them for consideration. A response to these questions and comments had been received from the I.W. NHS Trust and all of this correspondence had been circulated to all members.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council writes to the NHS stating that they fully support the application for NHS Foundation Trust status but that they wish their submitted comments to be fully considered when the NHS Foundation Trust application was refined.

**6708 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

**a). Southern Water 'Planning for the Future'**

The Notes of a Meeting of Southern Waters 'Planning for the Future' Stakeholders Workshop held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were received.

Councillor Matthews reported that delegates attending were concerned that there was no Southern Water local representation on the Island and that the Island was regarded somewhat as a 'backwater'. Nick John the Customer Excellence & Liaison Officer stated that he lived on the Island and would be pleased to act as the conduit on matters affecting stakeholders here.

Councillor Banks stated that in the past Southern Water held regular Customer Consultative Committee meetings on the Island and that these should be reinstated.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk writes to the Customer Excellence & Liaison Officer requesting he considers resurrecting a Southern Water Customer Consultative Committee on the Island.

**b). Town Improvements Committee**

The Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were received.

The Town Clerk stated that in respect of Christmas decorations for the town, a recommendation from the Committee that £1,000 be returned to Town Council balances and £1,000 returned to CBA could not be considered.

.At their 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012 meeting the Town Council resolved that they and the Cowes Business Association each commit £2,000 to invest in Christmas lights for the town.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 meeting it was further resolved that the Town Council would place all orders and manage the funds for Christmas lighting for the town.

Standing Order 10.1 states that a decision of the Council shall not be reversed within six months save by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least four Members of the Council. No signed resolution had been received.

**c). Finance Committee**

The Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were received.

**i). Bank accounts.**

The Town Clerk reported that in accordance with Standing Order No. 10 a written notice bearing the names of four members of the Town Council had requested that in the light of additional information, the Council reconsider their decision regarding the transfer of funds into the CCLA Investment Management Public Sector Deposit Fund.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council revokes the decision to transfer funds into the CCLA Investment Management Public Sector Deposit Fund and instead maintains their Treasurers and Business Accounts with Lloyds Bank.

**ii). Budget and precept.**

**RECOMMENDED**

1). That the Town Council approves the following budget in the sum of £101,700 for the financial year 2013/14:

<b>I N C O M E</b>
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Precept	£91,000
Funding taken from Reserves	£10,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£101,700</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>
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<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Salaries/Income Tax/NIC	£21,000
Office Expenses	£8,200
Stationary and Office Supplies	£1,000
Office Equipment	£500
Telephone/Broadband	£600
Postage	£200
Travelling	£200
Conference fees	£400
Councillor Training	£200
Hire of Rooms	£300
Subscriptions	£1,200
Insurance	£2,500
Audit & Accountancy fees	£1,500
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TOTAL</b>	<b>£37,800</b>

<b>MISCELLANEOUS TOWN EXPENDITURE</b>	
Mayor's Allowance	£1,400
Plants & Cowes in Bloom	£3,400

Northwood Recreation Ground electricity	£1,000
Northwood Rec - Skatepark/MUGA maintenance	£3,800
Northwood Rec - Playpark maintenance	£2,000
Northwood Rec - Toilet maintenance	£4,500
Dog / Litter bin emptying (inc: Northwood Park)	£3,600
CCTV Licence fee	£3,000
Beacon Newsletter	£1,400
Computer expenses	£300
Grants (including support for Special Events)	£12,000
Elections	£4,000
Contingency	£2,000
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TOWN EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>£42,400</b>

<b>TOWN IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
Street furniture maintenance	£1,000
Civic Realm	£5,500
New Projects and Services	£15,000
<b>TOWN IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,500</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£101,700</b>
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2). That the Town Council makes a precept on the Isle of Wight Council in the sum of £91,000.

#### **6709 TREE PLANTING SCHEME, MORNINGTON GREEN**

Councillor Fuller presented a paper in respect of replacement trees for Mornington Green; he had been informed by the I.W. Council that owing to waterlogged ground conditions and the possibility of further tree movement this winter that further planting would not take place until Autumn/Winter 2013. The I.W. Council did not wish to see further 'memorial' trees planted but they would welcome the views of local residents and the Town Council regarding preferred species and the precise locations for the trees. Councillor Fuller suggested that a letter drop to residents in the area seeking their views on replacement trees would be welcomed.

It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Town Improvements Committee for further consideration; in the meantime, Councillor Fuller would organise the letter drop to local residents of Mornington Green.

#### **6710 NUNNERY STEPS**

Councillor Banks submitted a paper and photographs regarding the Nunnery Steps and the extremely poor condition that they have been left in following the cessation of remedial works. He referred to the £19,332 Economic Improvement Funding (EIF) awarded by the I.W. Council to the Town Council for initiatives in the town that would contribute to economic wellbeing and in particular to £6,312 of that allocation that was awarded by the Town Council to the Northwood House Trust for them to match fund and deliver a project to improve the Nunnery Steps entrance to Northwood Park.

One of the qualifying criteria of the award was that projects had to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013; this had been confirmed by the I.W. Council Corporate Governance Manager in an email dated 8<sup>th</sup> January. It was important to the Town Council that the allocated EIF was not lost to them; if it could not be utilised for the Nunnery Steps work in the qualifying timescale they should utilise it against one of their other approved projects.

## RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk writes to the Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited requesting that they provide a written report regarding the current situation in respect of the works to Nunnery Steps and details of their intent regarding completion including whether or not there was likely to be additional cost implications. The Town Clerk to enclose with the letter a copy of the email correspondence from the Corporate Services Manager.

## 6711 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). Renewal of the Town Council's associate membership of the Cowes Business Association (CBA).
- b). To appoint a representative to attend the next meeting of the Cowes, Northwood, Gurnard Good Neighbour Volunteers Scheme.
- c). \*Details of Town Council accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December 2012.
- d). \*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.  
(\* copies circulated to all members)

## RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Clerk renews the Town Council's associate membership of the Cowes Business Association in the sum of £15;
- 2). That Councillor Matthews represents the Town Council at the Cowes, Northwood, Gurnard Good Neighbour meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013; and
- 3). That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December 2012 be noted and approved:

		£ . p
Bison Enterprise	Repairs to bunting	50.00
BT	Telephone	47.61
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
DN Associates	Office Rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S Waters	Salary	344.75
Mr. J. Matthews	Perspex and sealant for map boards	108.13
Gurnard Parish Council	50% bin emptying charge, Egypt Esp.(Min No 6243a) and Shared cost of new bin, Crossfield Ave. (Min. No. 6651d)	183.61
John Palmer	Town Clock repairs	30.00
SLCC	Reference books	40.00
R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
Royal British Legion	Donation for refreshments, Remembrance Day (Min. No. 6651a)	200.00
Royal British Legion	Donation towards poppy appeal (Min. No. 6651a)	50.00
DMR Eng.	Repairs to town map frames (Min. No. 6660b)	120.00
Southern Electric	Northwood Rec., toilets	33.61
BT	Telephone	48.64
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
Bison Enterprise	Removal of summer bunting (Min. No. 6670c)	450.00
Petty cash		300.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
WBS	Stationery	36.98
IW Council	Legal and surveyors fees – outdoor gym (Min. No. 6660b)	750.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	344.55

R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No. 6630e)	250.00
Haylands Farm	Christmas trees (Min. No. 6660b)	60.00
Lightmain	Outdoor gym equipment (Min No 6660b)	6,751.25
IW Council	Town Clerks parking permit 2013 (Min. No. 6555c)	40.00
Beacon Media	Newsletter (Min No 6157e)	110.00
St. Mary's Church	Hire of hall April – Sept.	124.25
BT	Telephone	47.43
Earl Mountbatten Hospice	Grant (Min. No. 6689c)	400.00
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
ASTO	Grant (Min. No. 6660c)	223.97
Lamps & Tubes	Christmas trees (Min. No. 6689c)	1,970.00
IW Council	Toilet cleaning contract, Northwood Rec. (April '12 to March '13)	1,380.85
SSE Contracting	Christmas tree sleeve, Market Hill (Min. No. 6670c)	919.70
Cowes Medina Bowling Club	Grant (Min. No. 6639e)	400.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
R. Hendey	Salary	903.20
S. Waters	Salary	517.58
HMRC	NI & Tax (Oct. – Dec.)	1,194.03
<b>Petty Cash Payments October to December 2012</b>		
Post Office	Stamps	22.00
Post Office	Postage	7.80
Walter Gray	Commissioning fee – outdoor gym	10.00
Honor & Jeffrey	Mixed bulbs	4.99
W. Hurst	Release oil	3.83
Post Office	Stamps	19.20
W. Hurst	String	1.49
Post Office	Stamps	7.20
Post Office	Postage	1.85
R. Hendey	Travelling	41.50
R. Hendey	Postage	1.80

## 6710 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- a). Harbour Commission Revision Order (Councillor Walters)
- b). Cowes Events (Councillor Walters).

(The proceedings terminated at 8.44pm)

**CHAIRMAN**