

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Cowes on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Hall, Jones, McNeill, Nicholson, Robinson and Walters.

### 6844 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox and Wardrop.

### 6845 MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 6846 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the grant application from the I.W. Society for the Blind as he was a Trustee of the Society.

### 6847 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

An opportunity was given for members of the public to ask questions but none were asked.

### 6848 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

- a). The challenges facing the I.W. Council in setting a budget for the coming financial year. Savings being considered include reducing non-statutory services, reviewing staffing/sharing resources with other local authorities and or Town and Parish Councils and raising revenue from fees and charges. He would be holding a special budget surgery from 5pm to 6pm on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at the IW Community Club to hear suggestions from local residents.
- b). That the first meeting with Ferry Users had taken place last month although regretfully, there was no representative from Red Funnel.
- c). That following a long period of adverse weather, Princes Esplanade and Egypt Esplanade had flooded which resulted in bus services being diverted. Emergency services had attended over 100 flood related incidents since Christmas
- d). That Defra had announced a second consultation in respect of the Isle of Wight Coastal Path which runs to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- e). That he had received comments on 'minor' planning applications including one in Churchill Close where conditions were being sought to overcome some of the objections that had been raised. A site visit had been arranged to Egypt Reach in respect of the application for a proposed roof terrace for 23-29 Cliff Road prior to its consideration by the Committee later in the month. Negotiations remain ongoing in respect of The Range retail unit proposed for Place Road whilst Officers were aiming for a decision to be taken on the 99 dwellings between Place Road and Tuttons Hill in February. This date was aspirational as further information was being gathered; until all information was available it was difficult to predict what recommendation Planning Officers would be making to the Planning Committee.

f). That he had dealt with other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

**Councillor Nicholson's written report referred to the following;**

- a). That flooding in the NW and NE corners of Northwood Recreation Ground had run into neighbouring properties; residents had taken swift action which prevented entry into their dwellings. He had been told that this was the third year running that water from the Recreation Ground had flooded into neighbouring property. He had measured the depth of water in a corner of the Recreation Ground and although it had subsided to some extent, still measured 11" in depth. Residents would be happy to have excavation through their gardens for a drain to be laid to the road to solve the problem and in the other corner, flooding could be averted by a drainage ditch or channel alongside the pathway.
- b). That the I.W. Council would be facing substantial difficulties to balance their budget in the coming financial year.
- c). That confirmation was awaited regarding the characteristics and peculiarities of the Fibrovia asphalt material being used in resurfacing Island roads; concerns had been initially encountered and raised by the equestrian community.
- d). That there had been a strong reaction following a unanimously supported motion at the November I.W. Council meeting regarding the local beer industry. He would urge all members to promote and support the local food and drink industry.
- e). That an agenda item regarding Health and Wellbeing was scheduled for the next I.W. Council meeting; he was concerned that alternative medicines and treatments were not being recognised in this Country.

**Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the following:**

- a). That another tree was to be removed in Arctic Road bringing the total to five within the last year.
- b). That she was trying to unravel the housing allocation scheme and working on complaints received. She was pleased to hear that one young family had been housed via the Council just before Christmas.
- c). That following a complaint from a local resident, Island Roads had repaired a pavement within a three week period.
- d). That the light in the bus shelter by the cemetery had been repaired by Island Roads although she was still waiting for the glass/Perspex to be replaced.
- e). That the planning appeal against the I.W. Council refusal for a pair of semi-detached dwellings at 225 Arctic Road (old Bazar opposite the Youth Club) had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.
- f). That she had arranged a meeting to consider future uses for the Youth Club building.

**Councillor Bertie submitted a written report referring to the following:**

- a). That I.W. Councillors were now focussed on the forthcoming budget; with £28million of savings to be made over the next three years, residents could expect to see huge reductions to services that have been taken for granted in the past. An I.W. Council committee report has been circulated to the Town Council giving an indication of where potential savings might be made.
- b). Increased parking charges was a consideration within the report; he had been assured at an Overview & Scrutiny Committee that before any changes or charges were introduced, there would be full consultation with all affected parties. Town Councillors should contact him if they have any comments on the proposals.
- c). That a meeting had been arranged by Cowes Week Ltd. for 9<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the application of the trademark 'Cowes Week'.
- d). That the CBA were waiting for a final quotation for the maintenance of flag and banner fixing points through the High Street; he was pleased to see that the Town Council had contributed £1,800 towards this work.
- e). That the formation of a 'mini DMO' for Cowes was dragging on.
- f). That any member wishing to comment on local ferry services can address them to the CBA Chairman; she is part of a new Ferry Users Group and their next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> January.
- g). A meeting was to be held at the Royal Corinthian YC at 6pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January to discuss in general what Cowes could do to attract more yachting events, and to retain its existing events. With its Olympic background and modern infrastructure, Weymouth was eyeing up all sailing events, and this

could have an adverse effect on Cowes as the 'Centre of Yachting'. The Etchells were talking of moving their World Championships to Weymouth.

g). that August Bank Holiday weekend had traditionally been the 'Powerboat Weekend' but this was moved to a week later in 2013. This leaves an important bank holiday free in Cowes so any ideas for a new event would be welcomed.

h). That a portacabin had been moved to the old Chapel site in Sun Hill although no work had started; he would continue to monitor the site which remained an eyesore.

i). That the resident affected by the bus stop at 250 Park Road had decided to sell the property; however, the new owner may wish to proceed with the complaint.

Councillor Walters then asked a question of all the I.W. Councillors concerning the treatment of local roads; he questioned when roads were to be resurfaced as the Island Roads website only gave a one year window outlining when individual roads would be treated.

Councillor Fuller stated that the I.W. Council Economy & Environment Committee was trying to tackle this problem with Island Roads. They had requested regular six monthly programmes of work and reports on work undertaken; he would keep the Town Council informed.

## **6849 REPORT FROM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

### **PC Justin Pringle reported as follow:**

a). That crime in the Cowes/Gurnard/Northwood area was down by 12% during December and the Christmas period.

b). That cycling through the pedestrianized High Street remained a serious problem; they were continuing enforce the High Street prohibition and during December six people had been warned. Enforcement action would be taken against any repeat offenders.

c). That over the coming months the SNT would be undertaking a series of 'street mapping' days in order to hear concerns and gain the views of as many local residents as possible.

d). That local beat surgeries would be held at the local police station on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm. The local police station would be closed to the public outside of these hours.

e). That there had been no crimes worthy of particular note to report over the last month.

## **6850 MATTERS ARISING**

### **a). Trademark 'Cowes Week' (Min. No. 6838a refers)**

Councillors Corby and McNeill had attended a meeting that morning together with representatives from the CBA and Cowes Week Ltd. concerning Cowes Week Ltd.'s application of the trademark 'Cowes Week'.

It had been agreed that Cowes Week Ltd. would draft a proposal that would be forwarded for consideration by the Town Council and CBA.

### **b). Outdoor Gym Equipment (Min. No. 6839g refers)**

Councillor Brown reported that the leaflets outlining proposals for the outdoor gym at Mornington Green had been delivered to all residents in that local area. To date there had been general support; the only concern raised had related to the exact siting of the equipment. She would be arranging another meeting with the I.W. Council and would invite concerned residents to attend.

## **6851 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### **a). Supporters of Cowes Library Group**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were received.

**b). Town Council/Island Roads Meeting**

Notes of a Meeting regarding traffic issues for Cowes between the Town Council/Island Roads held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were received.

Councillor Banks reported that the accrual request for transfer of responsibility of highway assets from the I.W. Council to Island Roads had not registered the presence of the rise and fall bollards; they were not therefore, on the asset transfer list.

He also reported that the tables and chairs outside the upper part of 'Coast' were not now licenced; the licence which had been issued expired in May 2013.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Clerk writes to the I.W. Council requesting they transfer by way of an accrual request, the rise and fall bollards to Island Roads;
- 2). That the Town Clerk writes to the Head of Regulatory Services questioning why a licencing application from the Cowes Ale House to extend their licensable area to include an area 1.5metres in front of their building into Shooters Hill was refused. If it was due to too narrow a gap between them and the Coast tables and chairs this decision was based on an illegal situation as the Coast licence for their tables had expired.
- 3). That a further meeting between the Town Council/Island Roads/CBA/Police be arranged regarding outstanding High Street issues.

**c). Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of Meetings of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 were received.

**d). Finance Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 were received.

**i). Applications for grant.**

**Footprint Trust.**

The 'Warmer Cowes' scheme would assist individual residents in 'fuel poverty'.

**I.W. Society for the Blind.**

Replacement of equipment in respect of the 'talking news' scheme.

**Ability Dogs 4 Young People**

Towards the cost of a highly trained Ability Dog for a disabled young person in Cowes.

**Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.**

For servicing the dog and litter bins in Northwood Park for the financial year 2014/15.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That a grant of £200 be made to the I.W. Society for the Blind;
- 2). That no grant be made to the Footprint Trust for their 'Warmer Cowes' initiative;
- 3). That no grant be made to Ability Dogs 4 Young people in respect of their application to assist one individual although another application to generally support the group would be considered;
- 4). That the Town Council renews the contract for dog/litter bin emptying in Northwood Park for the financial year 2014/14 in the sum of £2,932.50; and
- 5). That the balance in the budget of £5,200 be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.

(Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from the Footprint Trust as he was a member of the Footprint Trust Management Committee)

(Councillor Fuller left the meeting at 8.05p.m.)

**6852 FUTURE 'LIGHTS OF LOVE' EVENTS**

Councillor Banks submitted a paper regarding the annual 'Lights of Love' carol service in aid of the Earl Mountbatten Hospice; it stated that the 2013 carol service in the Cowes Methodist Church although only moderately supported, had been an improvement on the previous outdoor events.

Councillor Banks was questioning whether future carol services should continue to be held indoors, at which venue and on what date, whether other community groups should be invited and whether advertising for the event should be increased.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council continues to hold the Lights of Love Christmas carol service indoors at the Cowes Methodist Church preferably during the Church Christmas Tree Festival; and
- 2). That increased advertising of the event be made and invitations to participate sent to other community groups including schools, scouts, cubs, brownies, sea cadets, Cowes Rotary and Yacht Clubs.

**6853 STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Walters submitted a paper regarding Standing Order 29.2 which referred to the circulation of information to Councillors; he was seeking clarification and possible modification. The inference in the wording was that if any Councillor wished to communicate by way of a report with other Councillors on any matter relating to Council business, it could only be circulated with the approval of the Clerk or Chairman. Councillor Walters maintained that if a Councillor wished to communicate a concern, a report or any other matter relating to his ward or on wider Council business to his colleagues then he should be able to do so without authorisation from the Chairman.

The Town Clerk stated that Standing Order 29.2 was added when the Standing Orders were amended in September 2013; whilst clarification could be given, 29.2 could only be modified within six months of its inclusion in Standing Orders by a special resolution, the written notice of which was signed by at least four members of the Council.

While Members agreed that SO 29.2 was ambiguous and could be construed in different ways, the Town Mayor stated that it was never intended to restrict communication between Councillors. The intention of the Order related to communications between individual Councillors; it was these individual communications that the Town Clerk and Chairman would collectively determine whether or not should be forwarded to all Councillors.

**6854 COMMEMORATION OF 100<sup>th</sup> ANIVERSARY OF WW1**

Councillor Banks submitted a paper regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW1; commemoration events were to officially take place from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (the anniversary of the war period).

Councillor Banks wished to determine whether/how the Town Council should engage in commemorating the centenary and whether arrangements should be made by a separate steering committee or left with the Town Improvements Committee.

Nationally, local groups were being encouraged to determine how best their communities could engage in these commemorations; an inaugural meeting locally would be held at Carisbrooke Castle Museum on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Hall would register to attend the meeting at Carisbrooke Castle Museum on 23<sup>rd</sup> January to represent the Town Council.

**6855 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Town Clerk submitted information regarding the General Power of Competence; this was a comparatively new power which gave local authorities the power to do anything that an individual may legally do. If adopted, all Town Council actions would be taken under this power and they would be unrestricted by Parish boundaries.

Eligibility criteria had been set by the Secretary of State and set out in the Parish Councils (GPC) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 and were:

- At least 2/3rds of the seats filled by **elected** Councillors at the last ordinary election, and when eligibility is agreed
- Qualified Clerk

The Town Council would be required to confirm that it continues to meet the required criteria at each Annual Meeting following ordinary elections.

**RESOLVED**

That Cowes Town Council confirms its eligibility to use the General Power of Competence as it fulfils the criteria required by having a qualified Clerk who has passed section 7 of CiLCA and by having at least 2/3rds of the seats being filled by elected Councillors at the last ordinary election and at the time of making this resolution.

**6856 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

a).\*Accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December 2013.

b).\*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

(\* Copies circulated to all members)

**RESOLVED**

That the following accounts and petty cash payments for the period October to December 2013 be noted and approved:

R Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No 6630e)	250.00
SLCC	Conference fee (Min. No. 6796b)	395.00
Top Mops	Office cleaning (Min. No. 6733)	90.00
Top Mops	Cleaning – Northwood Rec. toilets (Min. No. 6729c)	320.97
WBS	Printer cartridge	69.99
Berry Electrical	Check toilet wallgate following fire	31.00
DN Associates	Office Rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
BT	Telephone	39.99
R. Hendey	Salary	912.13
S Waters	Salary	348.08
HMRC	Tax/NI	384.11
RBL Cowes	Contribution towards refreshments (Min. No. 6815d)	200.00
RBL poppy appeal	Donation for poppy wreath (Min. No. 6815d)	50.00
Cowes Good Neighbour	Grant (Min. No. 6815d)	300.00
Petty Cash	Float	300.00
St. Mary’s Church	Hire of Parish Room	124.00
WBS	Stationery	238.36
R. Williams	Skatepark Cleaner (Min No. 6630e)	250.00
Sign Company	Sign for QDJ tree (Min. No. 6803f)	25.00
I.W. County Press	Advert – Public Meeting (Min. No. 6788)	75.60
WBS	Service on printer	45.00
Top Mops	Office cleaning (Min. No. 6733)	60.00
Southern Electric	Electricity charges – Northwood Rec.	447.10
Top Mops	Cleaning – Northwood Rec. toilets (Min. No. 6729c)	320.97
Lightmain	New basketball hoop (Min. No. 6815c)	178.95
Cowes Methodist Church	Hire of hall – Public Meeting	30.00
Bison Entertainment	Removal of High Street bunting (Min. No. 6739b)	500.00
BT	Telephone	40.30
DN Associates	Office rent (Min No 6397b)	585.00
R. Hendey	Salary	912.33
S. Waters	Salary	410.29

HMRC	Tax/NI	399.51
Leander Architectural	Notice board (Min. No. 6803f)	875.00
WBS	Stationery	4.69
Ecoburotic	Printer cartridges	240.00
R. Williams	Skatepark cleaner (Min. No. 6630e)	250.00
I.W. Council	Town Clerk's parking permit (Min. No. 6555c)	40.00
ASTO	Grant (Min. No. 6815d)	300.00
Royal Mail	Return postage charges	27.88
DN Associates	Office rent (Min no 6397b)	585.00
Top Mops	Office cleaning (Min. No. 6733)	60.00
DMR Engineering	Replace basketball hoop and repair old (Min. No. 6815c)	71.50
Wight leaflets	Delivery of newsletter (Min. No. 6814a)	192.50
Thompson Plant	Christmas trees (Min. No. 6787e)	543.27
BT	Telephone	40.42
Top Mops	Cleaning – Northwood Rec. toilets (Min. No. 6729c)	320.97
WBS	Stationery	31.02
Hallams	Hire of curtains for QDJ plaque unveiling	50.00
R. Williams	Skatepark cleaner (Min. No. 6630e)	250.00
DN Associates	Office rent (Min. No. 6397b)	585.00
I.W. Council	Replenish woodchip at playpark (Min. No. 6828a)	265.00
Sign Company	Dog waste signs for litter bins (Min. No. 6828g)	165.00
Earl Mountbatten Hospice	Grant (Min. No. 6839d)	400.00
Cowes Business Assoc.	Grant (Min. No. 6839d)	1,880.00
Cowes Sports F.C.	Grant (Min. No. 6839d)	1,000.00
SLCC	Town Clerk's 2014 membership fee (Min. No. 6842a)	147.00
R. Hendey	Salary	912.33
S. Waters	Salary	348.08
HMRC	NI & Tax	383.91
John Groves (IW) Ltd.	Repairs to door, Northwood Rec. toilet store	108.63
Ringway Island Roads`	Emptying of bins, Northwood Park (Min. No. 6689a)	1,844.70
NHCT Co. Ltd.	EIF grant refurbishment Nunnery Steps (Min. No. 6814c)	6,312.00
Top Mops	Additional cleaning Northwood Rec. toilets	80.00
WBS	Stationery	16.72
Berry Electrical	Check electrics, Northwood Rec. toilets	30.00
Top Mops	Office cleaning (Min. No. 6733)	60.00
<b>Petty Cash Payments July to September 2013</b>		
Post Office	Stamps	18.00
R. Hendey	Travel charges etc. for conference at Leicester (Min. 6796b)	50.00
Aldi	Milk and biscuits for Public Meeting	6.46
Super Drug	Stamps	10.80
Royal Mail	Excess postage charge	1.50
Post Office	Stamps	20.00
Post Office	Stamps	19.20
R. Hendey	Travelling – April to June	41.50
R. Hendey	Postage	3.60

(The proceedings terminated at 8.22pm)

**CHAIRMAN**

