



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Monday 2nd June 2014 at 6.15pm.

Present: - Councillors Banks, Brown, Jones, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox and Robinson
Cllrs Matthews and Walters were also in attendance (non-voting)
Cllr Wardrop arrived at 6.35pm (non-voting)

586 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Cllr Banks (as Mayor) invited nominations for chairman. Cllrs Brown and Peacey-Wilcox were both nominated. Cllr Peacey-Wilcox withdrew and Cllr Brown was seconded and duly elected.

587 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

**588 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17TH March 2014 may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

589 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest at this stage.

590 POSSIBLE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

Cllr Brown provided an update in that although the Gym concept was well presented, the Newsletter produced only one comment sent to the assistant Town Clerk via email. This was positive. However, as expected, phone calls were not forthcoming as people are reluctant to use this direct method of communication unless they have a strongly felt opinion. Due to lack of space the Newsletter only stated that responders to the locally distributed leaflets were in the majority against the proposal which could have been misleading as they amounted to half a dozen in real terms. At the present time IWC officers are not responding favourably to any CTC requests due to lack of funding and uncertainty as to who will manage sites in the future.

She suggested that until we know for certain which amenity areas CTC will be responsible for and what powers will be vested in it, that we hold this item over. The proposal already has the support of the Deputy IWC Leader and potential support of at least one council officer.

Cllr Banks advised that a possible alternative location for the outdoor gym could be on the Tennis Court at Northwood Park.

RECOMMENDATION: That the project is suspended until decisions are made by the Town Council regarding which services CTC may take over from the IW Council, and keep the ring fenced monies in balances.

591 DOG WASTE

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the dog waste bins for the Parade and Egypt Point have been ordered from Island Roads, and they have advised that there will be no charge for installation if they can find a suitable post on which to locate them. An email was received today confirming that suitable location posts have been found.

ACTION: That Island Roads are asked to install the dog bins as soon as possible.

592 SHELTER ON THE SEAFRONT

Cllr Banks provided an update. He met with Fergus Gilmore from the IW Council legal department. The chosen location would be the first groin from Cowes which is halfway between the shelter at the Ice-cream Shop on the Green and the beach huts at Gurnard. This is owned by the Crown Estates and the Southern Gas pipeline comes ashore as this point so there is an easement right. Due to this, no permanent structure can be located, but a prefabricated unit attached to the concrete pad should be acceptable. Cllr Banks is suggesting an open structure constructed from Oak which requires no maintenance and with no glazing would be the most suitable. He is happy to provide a sketch for the next meeting of the committee which can be used to present to Crown Estates, Southern Gas and Planning. The Isle of Wight Council are supportive of the scheme. No quotations will be sought until all the relevant permissions have been agreed.

593 WISHING WELL

The Legal Services department of the Isle of Wight Council is still trying to establish legal ownership, but are unable to confirm. They are suggesting that a notice is attached to the structure advising of CTC intention to claim ownership if no-one comes forward. Once ownership is established, the Town Council has can steps to improve, repair to demolish the structure.

RECOMMENDATION: That a laminated notice is attached to the Wishing Well advising that Cowes Town Council are considering taking over the well, unless anyone can provide legal ownership. The notice must be dated, allowing 30 days for anyone to contact the Town Council office. This intention should also be advertised in the Isle of Wight County Press and the Council notice board.

594 TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS

Cllr Jones has completed the condition survey. The bench in the Cut is not included in the Island Roads contract. IW Council has confirmed responsibility for the repairs, but have no funds to carry out any maintenance at this time. Mr T King has kindly carried out the repairs on a voluntary basis. Half of the benches owned by CTC located in Northwood Park have been repaired/repainted at a cost of £450.00. The remaining six will cost the same. Most of the other Street Furniture has been taken over by Island Roads, any other items that the Town Council is still responsible for do not require maintenance this season, except the base of the Town Clerk requires repainting again – a quotation of £70 has been received from Moss Hayman.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That Moss Hayman is employed to repair/repaint the remaining six benches at a cost of £450.00.**
- 2) That Moss Hayman is employed to repaint the base of the clock at a cost of £70.00.**

ACTION: That Cllr Jones provides a list of street furniture (and the location) to the Assistant Town Clerk for which Island Roads are now responsible, so she can advise them of the maintenance requirements.

595 USABLE WOOD FROM THE UMBRELLA TREE

At the recent Annual Town meeting, a question was asked about the possible use of the wood from the Umbrella Tree. Cllr Banks advised that he has been in contact with a wood turner (Andy Fortune) who has been to look at the wood that has been salvaged from the diseased Umbrella Tree. He should be able to produce one platter which could be inscribed for the Town Council. He will then see if he is able to provide some small mementoes, coasters were suggested by councillors. So far, there has been no cost to the council for his investigations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That Andy Fortune is employed to construct a platter from the trunk of the Umbrella Tree, to be inscribed for the Town Council.**
- 2) That Andy Fortune is employed to construct coasters from any remaining suitable wood that can be sold to members of the public for a small fee.**

596 UNVEILING CEREMONY FOR THE HORIZON PLAQUE

Cllr Banks advised that the plaque has not yet been installed by DMR Engineering, and that due to the length of time the project has taken a formal unveiling ceremony is not necessary. After some discussion it was:-

RECOMMENDATION: That no formal unveiling ceremony takes place, but once installed the plaque is photographed for inclusion in the Newsletter, and mentioned on the website.

597 MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR THE PLAQUES ON THE BANDSTAND

Cllrs Banks and Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in that they are both members of the Blyskawica society.

Cllr Banks had previously provided photographic evidence of the poor state of some of the plaques owned by or the responsibility of the Town Council and others. The Isle of Wight Council has no funds to provide an annual cleaning programme for the plaques. The Free French plaque requires some enamelling to be completed. Cowes Deauville Twinning also has a plaque which was presented to them this year to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Association. If this was installed on the Bandstand it would require a weather proof mounting and an inscription.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That CTC advises the IW Council that they wish to take over the annual cleaning of all the Bandstand Plaques, and that an advertisement is used to source a suitable contractor**
- 2) That quotations are obtained to re-enamel the Free French plaque**

ACTION: That the Assistant Town Clerk obtains permission from the Isle of Wight Council for the installation of the Cowes Deauville Twinning Association plaque.

598 ROSETTA STONE PLAQUE

It was reported at the Annual Town Meeting that the plaque outside Rosetta Cottage had been broken. Cllr Banks has inspected the plaque and reported that it has been scored by something very heavy (possibly a digger), but it is not broken. In time, the score lines will weather in and it would be very difficult to prove who had caused the scoring. In view of this:

RECOMMENDATION: No further action is necessary at this time.

599 LEAFLET REGARDING THE VARIOUS YACHTING CLASSES AND RACES

Cllr Banks advised that many residents and visitors like to watch the yacht racing off Cowes but are not aware when the races start and finish or which classes the yachts belong to. It was reported that the Isle of Wight County Press produces a Solent Guide which is available at a cost of £12, which provides this information. Also the information is also available in the Cowes Port Handbook.

RECOMMENDATION: That this item is not taken forward.

Meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN