



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Monday 12 January 2015 at 6.15pm.

Present: - Councillors Brown (Chairman) Banks, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Spalding.
Cllr Wardrop joined the meeting late, but is unable to vote as not part of the committee.

649 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence were received from Councillors

**650 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

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

651 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

652 CLERK'S REPORT

John Groves Limited has been contracted to complete the safety work on the Wishing well.

Martin Hayles has been commissioned to complete the paperwork to obtain planning permission for the shelter on the seafront, which will be submitted on Friday 23rd January 2015.

Cllr Banks has written a specification for the cleaning and repairing of the crane and seats outside of the Cowes Harbour Commission office.

After much discussion it was:

ACTIONS:

- 1) Request that John Groves Limited completes the work on the seating area of the Wishing Well while awaiting delivery of the new doors from the Forge.**
- 2) Advise Cowes Harbour Commission of the work, email them a copy of the specification and request a financial contribution to the work**
- 3) Request a financial contribution to the work from the Cowes Waterfront Trust**
- 4) Request a financial contribution to the work from Red Funnel**

653 DEVELOPING THE CUT

Cllr Peacey-Wilcox provided copies of plans which were produced by the IW Council in March 2007, which show a much simpler scheme to that which has already been granted planning permission. This scheme moves the loading bay back to the entrance with Cross Street, levels the land which is then covered with golden gravel (to match Franski place). Seating would be installed with some planters, but, mostly leaving a large pedestrianised area which could be used for markets, entertainment etc. It would require the installation of an additional bollard to maintain the Pedestrian Precinct.

ACTIONS:

Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will take these plans and ideas to Martin Hayles and request a price for new plans.

RECOMMENDATION: That Cowes Town Council agree in principal to revisiting the project of pedestrianising The Cut in accordance with the plans produced in 2007 by Isle of Wight Council.

654 OUTDOOR GYM

A response had been received from IW Council advising the best location for an Outdoor Gym would be Northwood Recreation Ground. Cllrs still favour Mornington Green, so that it can be used by both residents and visitors. In view of this:

ACTION: Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will make enquiries at IW Council regarding the location.

Cllr Wardrop joined the meeting at 6.45pm.

655 FESTIVE STREET LIGHTING

Cllr Jones provided a verbal report about the lack of festive lighting in the Town. Although the Town Council is very interested in supporting any proposals to improve the lighting, they need to work with the CBA who have the necessary permissions. It was discussed that as the High Street is quite narrow a very effective display could be obtained with just 20 feet of white lights. It would be important to have a specialist company involved, and Cllr Banks advised that several have indicated to him their willingness to come to the Island and carry out a full survey and quotation free of charge. Therefore it was decided that:

ACTION: A working group is set up with the CBA. CTC representatives would be Cllrs Banks, Jones, McNeil and Spalding.

656 WATERING CONTRACT

Two quotations were presented to councillors. Cllr Jones advised that several plants died last summer due to lack of watering, so the Assistant Town Clerk increased the watering from twice per week to three times during the dry, hot spell. To overcome this, it was decided:

ACTION: That Cllr Jones will write a watering specification

RECOMMENDATION: That Drainmaster is engaged to complete the watering contract for summer 2015 subject to the new specification.

657 BENZIE'S CLOCK

Cllr Banks has received three telephone calls and a letter regarding Benzie's clock. Although the clock is privately owned, it reflects badly on the town that it has stopped working. CTC did pay some years ago for repairs, which kept it working for a while. It was pointed out that Island Roads have responsibility for the health and safety of any objects above the highway, but not to ensure they are working. Cllr Banks has obtained quotations to have the workings replaced with an electronic motor which would cost £530 for a unit inside the shop, and £860 for a unit inside the clock – both options are plus VAT. After much discussion it was decided that:

RECOMMENDATION: That Cowes Town Council takes over the responsibility to repair Benzie's clock.

ACTION: That Benzies are contacted for their permission and requesting a financial contribution.

658 FREE TOWN MAP

The CBA are currently collecting advertisers to produce a free Cowes Town Map and are requesting financial support from the Town Council. Cllr Banks has been through the town and collected several maps which are available to buy. He has also contacted a company who produce a free Isle of Wight map for the Isle of Wight Council. After much discussion, it was decided that:

ACTION:

- 1) Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will make enquiries at County Hall to find out where the maps are located and where they have been distributed in Cowes**
- 2) That Cllr Banks will contact the publishers and request a price for a re-print of 2,000 and 5,000 copies to be delivered to Cowes.**

RECOMMENDATION: That no funding is provided to the CBA for the Cowes Town Map.

659 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be decided following the meeting to discuss the possibility of amalgamating committees and working groups.

Meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN