



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.05pm.

**Present:** - Councillors Brown (Chairman) Banks, Jones, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Walters.  
Councillor McNeil was also in attendance but non- voting.

**622 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**623 MINUTES  
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

**624 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest at this stage.

**625 SHELTER ON THE SEAFRONT**

Cllr Banks advised that the location of the gas easement had been raised by the Crown Estate Agents. No deed has yet been located. Fergus Gilmore from the legal department the IW Council has advised that to date no costs have been incurred. Until full approval has been agreed in principle, no further action can be taken.

**626 LEGAL AGREEMENT FOR THE WISHING WELL**

Although the assistant Town Clerk has chased the legal department of the IW Council, to date no information has been received. Although there is still no legal agreement, councillors were advised that the seat, door and lock were now unsafe, so required urgent repairs. The Town Council has a duty of care so:-

**RECOMMENDATION: That a contractor is engaged to make the door, lock and seat safe, and that the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to engage the contractor providing the total account is under £500.00**

Councillor Wardrop joined the meeting at 7.15pm

**627 USABLE WOOD FROM THE UMBRELLA TREE**

Cllr Jones has been to see the souvenirs that can be made from the wood. As no-one knows if residents would like to purchase items, and the wood does not belong to anyone, it was decided:

**ACTION: That Cllr Banks would advise residents of the opportunity to buy souvenirs made from the wood of the umbrella tree direct from Arreton Barns in the next edition of the Council Newsletter.**

## 628 MEMORIAL BENCH

The Assistant Town Clerk has received a request to install an additional memorial bench on the seafront. The location is on the pavement along Queen's Road. Island Roads have agreed in principle as long as there are no future maintenance costs to them. In view of the PFI contract it was agreed that:

**ACTION: The assistant town clerk contacts Island Roads for details of the cost for them to install and maintain a bench.**

## 629 CYCLISTS DISMOUNT SIGNS

At a previous meeting, the assistant town clerk was tasked with gaining prices for a "cyclists dismount" sign from Stocksigns. Cllr Peacey-Wilcox showed signs that have been erected by Bournemouth Town Council which says "Pedestrian priority – considerate cycling welcomed". It was agreed by all present that this wording was not suitable for the High Street. So it was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION: That two aluminium signs are ordered at a cost of £55.80 each and Cllr Walters will install them.**

## 630 DEVELOPING THE CUT

Cllr Banks presented a paper previously shown at the full Town Council meeting. A development for The Cut was the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority chosen by those who completed the survey, 1<sup>st</sup> was a weekly/monthly market, which could take place in The Cut. In view of the fact that the council received funds from the sale of Bridge House which is to be used for capital projects, this might be a suitable one to consider. The resolution passed by the North Medina Community Development Trust Limited (12/11/13) advised that the funds were to be distributed equally between East Cowes and Cowes Town Councils, to administer for the benefit of the local community. It was discussed that when first proposed, a small scale "makeover" was envisaged by paving the area to the toilets and moving the loading bays back to outside the toilets. It was agreed that:-

**ACTION: Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will seek out the original plans for the scheme so that costings can be obtained to "investigate the option of pedestrianising The Cut to the toilets and re-positioning the loading bays to outside the toilets".**

## 631 REPLACEMENT OF THE TRAFFIC ISLAND

Cllr Wardrop presented a paper regarding the removal of the traffic island at the junction of Granville Road and Park Road. Discussion took place regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing this busy junction.

**ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to contact the Isle of Wight Council and request a safety assessment of the junction.**

## 632 CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE TOWN

Following the dramatic increase in price in installing, lighting and removing the Christmas Trees last year from Island Roads an alternative quotation has been sought. The invoice from Island Roads for last Christmas was £2,389 plus VAT. The Assistant Town Clerk has contacted an alternative contractor as used by Ryde Town Council last year, and both Newport and Sandown Councils have requested quotations. Due to the other councils also requesting quotations, it was not received in time for the meeting. It was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That four large Christmas trees are purchased as usual.
- 2) That if the alternative quotation is less than the Island Roads invoice, the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to contract with them.

**633 MAINTENANCE OF ITEMS OUTSIDE THE COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION OFFICE**

Cllr Jones brought to the attention of the council that the crane and seats outside the Harbour Office were in a poor state of repair. The Town Clerk wrote to them asking them to provide some maintenance. The Harbour Master has written back advising that the walkway between Town Quay and the Harbour Office is the responsibility of the Isle of Wight Council. It was decided that:

**ACTION: To ask Cllr John Corby (who is the CTC representative on the Cowes Advisory Board) to find out who owns the crane and the seating on that walkway.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 6.15pm.

**Meeting ended at 8.10 pm.**

**CHAIRMAN**