

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **COWES TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 5 March 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Corby, Cowan, Fuller, Jones, Matthews, Nicholson, Spalding & Wardrop.

PRESENTATION: A presentation was made by Anita Cameron-Smith, Head of Public Health Strategy for the IW Council, and Bryan Hurley, Health Improvement Manager on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). ABCD is a strategy for sustainable community-driven development; communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilising existing assets, talents and skills and thereby respond to local needs within the community. When asked 'what makes a good life for you?' it is not doctors, nurses or social workers, it is having a loving and secure family, friends and networks. Talents and assets held within the community can be used to ensure that the community stays strong. People can stay independent and feel that they can contribute to the community for longer. An asset register will be developed to identify what people have got to give to their community. A 'Vanguard Bid' has been made which could access a large amount of funding for the Isle of Wight and it was agreed that Cowes Town Council would write a letter of support for this bid. However, not all projects have a cost associated to them and many community projects can be developed without the need for financial support.

A two-day workshop on ABCD has been arranged for 20 & 21 April 2015 to be held at the Riverside Centre. Cowes Town Councillors are invited to attend, if not for both days, the first day would be advantageous.

Councillor Jones thanked Anita Cameron-Smith & Bryan Hurley for their fascinating presentation and commented that ABCD relies on professionals and the community helping each other.

7044 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown, Ellis, Hammond, McNeill & Peacey-Wilcox.

7045 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

7046 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record, subject to one minor amendment in paragraph 2, and signed by the Chairman.

7047 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Margaret Ankers, Chair of the IOW Literary Festival, approached Cowes Town Council to request some financial support for their forthcoming Literary Festival in October – their 4th event. They already have a number of prominent authors booked and they will be using Northwood House as the venue. They have been offered some sponsorship from Red Funnel for travel costs of the authors and advertising the event.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor meet with the Chair of the IOW Literary Festival to see how Cowes Town Council may be able to assist. They will feedback any information to a future Town Council meeting.

7048 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox gave apologies for the meeting but she had provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. In her absence two points were discussed:

1. Where is the public footpath that is referred to in the report?
2. Concerns about the accident at the junction of Mill Hill Road and Victoria Road.

RESOLVED

1. That the Town Clerk would request information about where the public footpath is located.
2. That Cowes Town Council write to Island Roads to see what action can be taken in this area requesting that they review safety issues and potential hazards at this junction.

Councillor Fuller provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Fuller spoke on matters relating to the Place Road Planning Appeal; Floating Bridge charges and other planning matters, specifically the need for Town & Parish Councillors to be given more planning training.

Councillor Nicholson provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. An opportunity to ask questions was not taken up.

Councillor Bertie gave apologies for the meeting but he had provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. In his absence a point was raised regarding the subject heading **Economy & Tourism** and the cost of £10,000 for Cowes stakeholders to be represented at Visit IOW and the IW Destination Management Organisation.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council ask Councillor Bertie to clarify what the cost of £10,000 relates to and to give some more detail about this stakeholder group.

7049 REPORT FROM COWES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Acting Sergeant Gary Knight gave his apologies for the meeting. A written report was subsequently received and circulated to all Councillors.

7050 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Skip for St Mary's Road Car Park (Min. Nos. 6976/6996a/7015a/7034a refers)

Having reached agreement that the skip can be placed in St Mary's Road Car Park there is now a problem in obtaining the appropriate licence. Island Roads believe that they are the issuing authority; the Isle of Wight Council believe that they should issue the licence. It is now with them to resolve who the issuing authority should be, once resolved the licence will be issued and the skip can be put in place. The appropriate sign has been made and is ready to be installed when the skip is in place.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Fuller takes up this matter, on behalf of Cowes Town Council, with Island Roads & the Isle of Wight Council to seek a resolution to the issuing of the appropriate licence.

b) Medina Yard (Min Nos 7018 / 7034b refers)

Councillors received the letter dated 24 February 2015 which has been sent to the Isle of Wight Council Planning Officers giving Cowes Town Council's comments on the proposed Medina Yard development. Councillor Corby was thanked for his work in formulating a questionnaire for present site occupants, as suggested by the Isle of Wight Council. There was little interest in completing the questionnaire but he did get some verbal feedback from a variety of businesses. It was felt that the survey would not be representative as people are too busy to take part and they do not think that the survey will help.

c) The Lease for the Town Council Office at Northwood House (Min Nos 7022 / 7034c refers)

An amended Lease and 'Letter of Comfort' has been received which has addressed the issues raised by the Town Council.

RESOLVED

That the Town Mayor & Town Clerk sign the Lease for the Town Council Office at Northwood House.

7051 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee Meetings held on 5 & 26 February 2015 were received.

b) Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2015 were received. A Financial Statement, as at 31 January 2015, was received and Applications for Grants were discussed. Four quotations for the replacement of the IT systems in the Council Office were received, circulated to all Councillors, and discussed.

RESOLVED

1. That grants are awarded to:	Alzheimer's Café-Cowes	£500
	Community First Responder Scheme	£1,450

2. That the shortfall of £300 in the grant budget be taken from the contingency budget.

3. That the Town Clerk reviews the Grant Application Form to enable greater accessibility for organisations to access / apply under the small grant scheme.

4. That the contract to supply and install the new IT system in the Council office be awarded to Island Computer Systems.

c) Medina Valley Area Action Plan Group Meeting

An update from the Medina Valley Area Action Plan Group Meeting held on 24 February 2015 was received.

7052 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Councillor Spalding a representative is required on the IWALC Executive Committee.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Fuller will represent the Town Council on the IWALC Executive Committee and the Year Book be updated accordingly. Councillor Cowan to deputise when necessary.

7053 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (Min Nos 6999.6 / 7039.2 refers)

The Town Clerk circulated draft Terms of Reference for Planning & Licensing Committee; Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee (or Working Group) and Projects Committee (or Working Group). After some discussion it was:

RESOLVED

1. That the Terms of Reference, as circulated, are adopted for:

- a) Planning Committee;**
- b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee;**
- c) Projects Committee.**

2. That the existing Committee system remains in place.

3. That the Town Clerk presents a paper to the next Town Council meeting with regard to other recommendations made which were put on hold until Terms of Reference had been adopted.

7054 TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY IN COWES NORTH WARD

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no call for an election for this vacancy and the Town Council are now considering the co-option of an eligible person. The close date for applying is Thursday 12 March; interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday 18 March 2015 starting at 6.45pm.

7055 COWES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Town Council discussed whether to renew their Associate Membership of Cowes Business Association for 2015 at a cost of £15.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council renew their Associate Membership of Cowes Business Association for 2015.

7056 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous correspondence were circulated to all Councillors.

7057 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Community Sports Facility – Cowes Enterprise College (Councillor Spalding)
- b) Paul Savill from Community Action Isle of Wight will present information about a new project regarding “My Life a Full Life” on Thursday 9 April 2015.

(The proceedings terminated at 8.53 pm)

CHAIRMAN