

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillor McNeill (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Corby, Hammond, Jones & Wardrop.

6 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brown.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9 DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

The Committee discussed Cowes Town Council's letter, dated 14 October 2014, which was sent to the Isle of Wight Council with proposals for Grounds Maintenance, Beach Cleaning and Environment Officers from 1 April 2015.

The Town Clerk submitted the response from the Isle of Wight Council's Strategic Manager for Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces, dated 23 January 2015. The letter confirmed the Isle of Wight Council's position in regard to discretionary services in the Cowes area from 1 April 2015.

a) Principal Parks

Cowes Town Council acknowledges that from 1 April 2015 the Isle of Wight Council will continue to maintain Princess Green on the Esplanade, although this will only include summer and not winter bedding.

b) Community Sites (grounds maintenance to be undertaken by Cowes Town Council)

i.e. Park Road Rose Bed.

Cowes Town Council requested full responsibility for this area and the issue of a long term lease. The Isle of Wight Council have agreed that this site will be managed and maintained by Cowes Town Council from 1 April 2015.

Action: Cowes Town Council will write to the Isle of Wight Council requesting that the lease be issued, asap, to take effect from 1 April 2015.

c) Community Sites (grounds maintenance to be undertaken by Isle of Wight Council)

i.e. Park Road Recreation Ground; Moorgreen Reservoir; Mornington Green; The Cut; Arctic Park & St Mary's; Egypt Point; Parade Bandstand.

Cowes Town Council offered to pay 50% of the grounds maintenance based on the current costs of £11,409 on the assumption that these areas are maintained to existing standards. Cowes Town Council requested full details of specifications and tender documents for grounds maintenance so that they may consider whether to assume full responsibility in the future; specifications and tender documents have not been received. The Isle of Wight Council have stated that these

community sites in Cowes, being maintained by the Isle of Wight Council, will only be maintained at a specification commensurate with the Town Council's contribution i.e. maintenance work will be cut by 50%.

Action: Cowes Town Council will write to the Isle of Wight Council requesting that they provide grounds maintenance to the existing standard for 2015 / 2016 with a 50% contribution towards the cost from Cowes Town Council. Full details of grounds maintenance specification and tender documents are required so that Cowes Town Council may consider whether to assume full responsibility for these areas in the future.

d) Environment Officers

Cowes Town Council are not prepared to contribute towards any cost relating to Environment Officer services, therefore the Isle of Wight Council will only provide a minimum (core) service from 1 April 2015.

Action: Cowes Town Council will monitor the effect of the minimum (core) service as from 1 April 2015.

e) Beach Cleaning

Cowes Town Council acknowledges that the Isle of Wight Council will only deliver the minimum requirements for beach cleaning under the Environmental Protection Act. The Isle of Wight Council have stated that for the period May to September 2015 litter picks will reduce from daily to weekly but will remain daily during the school holidays. Cowes Town Council may consider making a contribution to beach cleaning costs in Cowes if full details and contract specifications are received.

Action: Cowes Town Council will write to the Isle of Wight Council to ascertain the difference in cost for providing statutory beach cleaning and providing the same level of cleaning that they provided last year during the summer period. Full details and contract specifications are required.

10 PUBLIC TOILETS

The Isle of Wight Council has launched a survey with regard to a proposed Community Toilet Scheme. The closing date for comments is 17 April 2015.

The proceedings terminated at 6.57pm.

CHAIRMAN