

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 6.00pm.

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

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Jones & Peacey-Wilcox.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE – COMMUNITY SITES

Cowes Town Council agreed to make a 50% contribution based on current grounds maintenance costs of £11,409 to the Isle of Wight Council on the assumption that the community sites were maintained to existing standards i.e. £5704.50. (Min No. 6967e(i)).

The Isle of Wight Council responded by stating that the community sites will only be maintained at a specification commensurate with the Town Council's contribution i.e. maintenance work will be cut by 50%.

Representatives from the Acquisitions Committee met with Officers of the Isle of Wight Council to discuss revising their specifications for the following community sites.

The Acquisitions Committee discussed The Isle of Wight Council's revised specification for grounds maintenance works on community sites in the Cowes area as detailed below:

A. The Parade Bandstand

The Isle of Wight Council's revised specification proposes that Cowes Town Council directly maintain the Parade Bandstand.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Cowes Town Council does not take responsibility for the weekly emptying of the two litter bins on the Bandstand, as this is currently part of the Island Roads contract.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council takes responsibility for the planting of bedding plants in the existing troughs at the Bandstand.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council continues to maintain the plaques in situ at the Bandstand.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council will not be taking on any responsibility for the maintenance of the bandstand structure.**

B. Moorgreen Reservoir

The Isle of Wight Council's revised specification proposes that maintenance work will stop in this area and the Isle of Wight Council will be responsible for all extraordinary or urgent maintenance to this area as and when necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cowes Town Council continue to pay for the weekly emptying of one litter bin at the cost of £161.57 for 2015 / 2016.
2. That Cowes Town Council arrange a meeting with the Allotment Association to discuss grounds maintenance in this area, with a view to them taking over this work.
3. That Cowes Town Council monitors the condition of the grounds following the withdrawal of Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance works.

C. Mornington Green (inc Jenny's Wood & Mornington Woods)

The Isle of Wight Council's revised specification proposes a reduction in grounds maintenance work which could amount to a 50% reduction if the litter bin in the top car park is removed. The Isle of Wight Council will maintain the ditch / stream at their cost.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cowes Town Council accept the revised specification for 2015 / 2016 of £928.20 which includes retaining the litter bin in the top car park.
2. That Cowes Town Council monitor the effect of the revised specification and follow up with the Mornington Woods Volunteer Group.

D. Arctic Park (inc St Mary's Park)

The Isle of Wight Council's revised specification proposes a 50% reduction in costs.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cowes Town Council accept the revised specification for 2015 / 2016 of £737.76.
2. That Cowes Town Council monitor the effect in this area of the revised specification.

E. Northwood Recreation Ground

The Isle of Wight Council has proposed retaining the current specification in this area.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cowes Town Council accept the proposal to retain the current specification for 2015 / 2016 at a cost of £7222.24 as this is an important community amenity.
2. That Cowes Town Council consider a long term strategy for this area with the possibility of securing a lease or license from the Isle of Wight Council in the future.

F. Grounds Maintenance Costs for Community Sites

The total grounds maintenance costs for 2015 / 2016, using the revised specification, is £9049.77 which is an additional amount of £3345.27 to the amount already agreed.

RECOMMENDED

1. That Cowes Town Council pay the Isle of Wight Council the additional grounds maintenance costs for 2015 / 2016 in the sum of £3345.27.

BEACH CLEANING

Cowes Town Council acknowledge 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 1st May to 30th September 2015 litter picks will reduce from daily to three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) but litter picks will remain daily during the school holidays.

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council accept the Isle of Wight Council's reduced specification for beach cleaning.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council monitor the effect that the revised specification has on the beaches in Cowes.**

The proceedings terminated at 6.35pm.

CHAIRMAN