

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 9 March 2017 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Jones, Spalding (6.20pm) and Taylor

In attendance: Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk), Debbie Faulkner (Town Clerk)

114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McNeill.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) No declarations of interest were received.

b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

116. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2017 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

117. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut**

The Chairman updated the Committee following a site visit with Councillor Banks, Martin Hayles (the Town Council's Architect) and Brett Lindsay of Island Roads. Discussions took place with regard to simplifying the scheme in order to utilise the base structure of the existing roadway. The proposal is to raise the road level behind the relocated loading bay to the height of the existing pavement, retaining the existing granite edging, finishing with a coloured tarmac/bitumen surface to make the area level and visibly attractive for use by the community. Bollards at either end would stop unauthorised vehicles from using The Cut, but allow access to statutory vehicles. Island Roads have a schedule for resurfacing the area and the Town Council's scheme could be considered as enhancement works. Island Roads have requested a meeting at their offices to further discuss the way forward. Councillors stressed the importance that the finished scheme takes into account accessibility for all users. Martin will be requested to ensure the scheme gives consideration to accessibility when he amends the drawings. Martin will be asked to seek permissions from all parties on behalf of the Town Council.

Action: The Assistant Town Clerk contacts Brett Lindsay of Island Roads to set up a meeting between Island Roads, Martin Hayles and Councillors Nicholson and Banks.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground survey results**

Councillors had been circulated the results of the survey of users of the Recreation Ground. The comments received from users of the Recreation Ground regarding the current facilities were discussed. Several comments had been received regarding the poor standard of the footpaths behind the Cricket Club. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that she had brought this to the attention of the Isle of Wight Council, and was advised that they were undertaking an assessment in January. She would raise the matter again during a site visit with an Isle of Wight Council representative arranged for the following day. Councillors felt that the existing dog bins were of a lower quality than the previous Glasdon bins and several were in need of replacement. One currently had a broken lid which allowed water to mix

with the contents, and others had slipped down the pole due to poor quality fixings. Comments regarding poor cleanliness, litter and the condition of the public toilets were noted and the Assistant Town Clerk assured Councillors that she was in regular discussions with the cleaning contractor when issues arose. She also reported that the annual RoSPA safety inspection of the skatepark was due to be carried out in May, and this would identify any maintenance issues requiring attention in this area. Councillors discussed requests to extend the current skatepark, or provide a skatepark for younger children. Councillors felt this was something the Town Council could consider. There had been several requests for refreshments to be made available to users. The Chairman advised Councillors that the Isle of Wight Council had recently been offering licences to create business opportunities for other areas on the Island, and felt this might be suitable at the Recreation Ground.

Actions:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk contacts Island Roads to request that they consider replacing the dog waste bins with better quality ones, and that the bins' fixings are more secure to stop the bins sliding down the poles.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the Isle of Wight Council to ask that they consider offering a licence for the siting of a mobile refreshment unit at the Recreation Ground as a business opportunity for interested parties.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the company who designed and installed the existing skatepark to enquire about extending the current facilities.

c) **Disability Assessment of the Town**

The accessibility audit carried out by Isle Access on behalf of the Town Council had been previously circulated to Councillors. Councillors felt the Audit was very well written. It contained both statutory requirements and recommendations for improvements to be made to improve accessibility in the town. Councillors felt the initial emphasis should be on meeting statutory requirements. Councillor Bartrum offered to take a lead on the project and work with the author of the Audit to identify which points raised are statutory requirements and which are recommendations for improvements.

Actions:

1. Councillor Bartrum will contact Isle Access to identify the improvements raised to meet statutory requirements.
2. Councillor Bartrum will walk through the town with another volunteer to identify which of the recommendations made in the Audit would be the most beneficial to visitors to the Town in the first instance.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk will provide copies of the Audit report to Island Roads and the Isle of Wight Council to make them aware of areas identified for improvement under their control.
4. The Assistant Town Clerk will provide Martin Hayles with the recommendations from the Audit in relation to improvements to The Cut area to ensure these are considered as part of the proposed enhancements.
5. The Assistant Town Clerk sends a copy of the Audit report to Councillor Paul Bertie, for his information, as Ward Councillor.
6. The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk will look to include the recommendations raised in the Audit regarding information on accessibility on the Town Council's website.
7. The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk will obtain prices and samples from web designers to improve the Town Council's website if it is found that the current website isn't meeting the requirements of the Town Council.

118. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Additional ORP Blyskawica Plaque

The proceedings terminated at 7.35pm.

CHAIRMAN