

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 15 March 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Bertie, Brown, Glendinning, Hammond, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox (7.31pm) Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration, IW Council; Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; PC Adam Dollery; two members of the public.

PRESENTATION FROM CHRIS ASHMAN, DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AT THE IW COUNCIL

Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration at the IW Council was welcomed to the Town Council meeting by Councillor Fuller. Mr Ashman advised Councillors that he is working with Northwood Parish Council to undertake a business audit / survey in their area and asked Councillors whether they would like Cowes to be included in this audit. Northwood Parish Council are contributing £3,000 to the project along with £3,000 from the IW Council. An amount of £3,000 would be required from Cowes Town Council to extend the business audit into Cowes. The benefit to Cowes Town Council would be to understand the range and breadth of businesses in Cowes i.e. retail / manufacturing, to understand any issues that these businesses may have, to assist the Town Council when considering any business planning applications and to gain business intelligence in the local area. Mr Ashman was asked whether he had approached Destination Cowes or Cowes Business Association for financial support; he advised that he had not yet spoken to either organisation. The survey will take place by face to face and telephone interviews and all answers will be collated into a survey monkey which will generate a report. The results will be used to feed into the IW Council's Regeneration programme and depending upon the results there may be some grant opportunities available. Mr Ashman asked the Town Council whether he can formally write to request financial support in the sum of £3,000 to extend the business audit / survey to Cowes. The survey is about to commence and is expected to be completed during May 2018. Councillors agreed that they would consider a formal request to be made in writing. Councillor Fuller thanked Mr Ashman for his attendance.

7644 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis, Jones & Oliver.

7645 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wardrop declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7650a7 as Cowes Town Council's representative on Cowes Deauville Twinning Association and host for the forthcoming twinning visit.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7650e as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7650g as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on The Big Lunch.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 7654 & 7656 as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor J. Bartrum declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7650a11 as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on Destination Cowes.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7650a9 as she is working with the Royal British Legion to co-ordinate the event.

7646 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

PC Dollery attended the meeting and also sent a report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days up to 27 February 2018 showed 8 assaults; 16 criminal damage; 4 theft; 2 theft from a motor vehicle. In respect of anti-social behaviour the report showed 2 environmental; 4 personal; 6 nuisance. Their priorities remain as the night time economy; safeguarding / prevention / domestic violence; youth anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

**7647 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1 February 2018 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 19 February 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7648 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor Hammond left the meeting for this item.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the Medina Yard planning application which was due to be considered by the IW Council's Planning Committee on 13 March 2018 but had been postponed until 27 March 2018. The question raised issues around the 98 individual objections and objections from other organisations, including Cowes Town Council, which had not been taken into account when considering this significant planning application. The member of the public said that the planning application should be withdrawn and the planning officer should go through each and every objection before making a recommendation. The plans show that there should be 1191 parking spaces but it is noted that there is a shortfall of 583 parking places, which will have a huge effect on parking in Arctic Road, Pelham Road, Thetis Road and Newport Road, areas which already suffer from severe parking problems. There is no affordable housing in the development and S106 monies of around £3 million will be used for some affordable housing in Cowes but also Northwood, Gurnard and Newport. The member of the public felt that all the affordable housing should be built in Cowes and the Town Council should have a bigger say on planning matters in Cowes. Councillor Fuller advised the member of the public that he will be attending the IW Council's Planning Committee meeting on 27 March 2018 where he will make objections on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Cowes.

7649 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and had been circulated to all Town Councillors. Councillors were available for questions but none were raised. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised that she has joined the IW Council's Scrutiny Committee.

7650 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 13 February 2018 were received and noted.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting while resolution 7650a7 was discussed. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting while resolution 7650a9 was discussed.

It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2017 be noted and approved.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of five larger diameter posts to hold the new signage for the Prohibition of Driving Order in the sum of £1,478.40 with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £400 for repairs to the fencing at the Skate Park and the MUGA with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park, MUGA and Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council extends the toilet cleaning contract with All Round Cleaners from 1/4/18 – 31/3/19 for the sum of £29888.98.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council extends the contract for Northwood Park Grounds Maintenance with Andy Butler Sports Ground Specialist from 1/4/18 – 31/3/19 for the sum of £9,810.00.**
- 6. That a grant is not made to the Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society.**
- 7. That a grant be made to the Cowes Deauville Twinning Association in the sum of £500.**
- 8. That a grant be made to the Friends of St Mary's Church, Cowes in the sum of £500.**
- 9. That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £250 for the Royal British Legion Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day 2018.**
- 10. That the unspent funds from the ORP Blyskawica 75th Anniversary event of £4,798.20 be set aside under the budget heading 'High Street Environment'.**
- 11. That Cowes Town Council does not provide financial support to Destination Cowes at this time.**

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Destination Cowes to advise that financial support is not available at this time. However if they request funding for a specific initiative or can advise if their recent bid for a grant was approved, the Town Council may re-consider giving financial support.

- b) Projects Committee
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 20 February 2018 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
1. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £41.17 to frame the Tree Charter poster with an oak frame for internal display, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.
2. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £720 for summer School Holiday Skateboard sessions, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.
- c) Planning & Licensing Committee
The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 7 February 2018 & 27 February 2018 were received and noted.
- d) IWALC Executive Committee
The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 18 January 2018 were received and noted.
- e) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library AGM and meeting held on 22 January 2018 were received and noted. Councillors thanked the team of supporters for their hard work.
- f) Cowes Business Association Committee
The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association Committee meeting held on 12 February 2018 were received and noted.
- g) The Big Lunch
The Notes of the Big Lunch meeting held on 16 February 2018 were received and noted.
- h) Meeting between Cowes Town Councillors and the Police
The Notes of the meeting between Cowes Town Councillors and the Police held on 22 February 2018 were received and noted.

7651 THE BECKFORD CENTRE

Councillor Hammond advised that The Beckford Centre's Committee have either passed on or are too old to continue. The Beckford Centre has been at the heart of the community in Cowes for well over 25 years, holding all types of classes for retired people. Cowes Town Council played a very important part in the Centre nearly 20 years ago when it rented the Centre for Housing Benefit and Council Tax advice and the rental enabled the Centre to pay its mortgage off. Councillors Hammond and Wardrop will be attending a meeting at the Centre on Monday 19 March 2018 and hope it will be the start of bringing life back into the Beckford Centre and it once again becomes a place of activity for the older community. The Committee needs to be more proactive and promote themselves. Councillor Hammond will report back to the Town Council again in due course.

7652 CLEAN SEAS INITIATIVE / PLASTIC FREE COWES

Cowes has a serious issue of plastic pollution on the beaches, parks and streets and this plastic pollution is affecting the seas alongside the town. A national newspaper recently highlighted the high level of plastic pollution on the Island. However, other coastline areas are effectively tackling this issue. Penzance has recently become the first coastline area which has 'plastic free status'. This motion is brought to recognise the problem of plastic pollution in Cowes, acknowledges the IW Council's recent passed motion on plastic reduction and makes the commitment to effectively develop strategies to tackle this issue and work towards achieving plastic free coastline status. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. Cowes Town Council resolves to support the efforts of the IW Council in having a commitment to a reduction of plastic marine and town plastic pollution.**
- 2. Cowes Town Council resolves that staff examine how the Council itself uses single use plastic in its day-to-day activities and events.**
- 3. Cowes Town Council appoints a Member Champion to liaise with the IW Council Cabinet Member for procurement, waste management, special projects and forward planning in taking forward any future IW Council plastic free policy.**
- 4. That Councillor R. Bartrum be appointed Member Champion to liaise with the IW Council Cabinet Member for procurement, waste management, special projects and forward planning in taking forward any future IW Council plastic free policy and Councillor J. Bartrum be appointed Deputy Member Champion.**

7653 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE

Councillor Fuller advised that the IW Council's Scrutiny Committee will be meeting in April to discuss the issues raised regarding the Floating Bridge.

7654 COWES WEEK 2018 – SHORESIDE UPDATE

Following a meeting between Cowes Town Council and Cowes Week Ltd on 18 January 2018, Cowes Week Ltd have responded positively to the discussions and put forward some preliminary suggestions for Cowes Town Council to consider for supporting Cowes Week 2018. These suggestions include water stations around the town and family orientated activities. Councillors agreed to continue discussions with Cowes Week Ltd. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council's Shoreside Representatives discuss possible sponsorship opportunities for Cowes Week 2018 with Cowes Week Ltd in greater detail.

7655 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018

The Town Clerk presented details of cheque payments and petty cash payments for the month of February 2018. Cheque payments totalled £14,928.06; petty cash payments totalled £239.96. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £14,928.06 and petty cash payments of £239.96 be received, noted and approved.

7656 2018 COWES WEEK PARADE VILLAGE CONTRACT (MINUTE NO. 7627g REFERS)

At the Cowes Town Council meeting on 1 February 2018 the Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council to ascertain the rationale for granting the 2018 Cowes Week Parade Village contract to Taylor Events. The IW Council responded by saying that they had been in discussion with Cowes Week Ltd about them taking greater responsibility for the delivery of the Cowes Week event as a whole. An agreement is about to be concluded whereby Cowes Week Ltd will be responsible for the delivery of key shoreside elements of the event (traffic management plan and its implementation, firework night arrangements and management of Princes Green etc.) which were previously carried out by the IW Council. The Parade is part of the agreement and it is assumed that Cowes Week Ltd are contracting Taylor Events to deliver The Parade Village.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the contract for The Parade Village being awarded to a mainland company, who are expected to charge high amounts of rent for the pitches and the money raised will not benefit the Island. Councillor Bertie advised that he is having a meeting with Ashley Curzon, IW Council's Head of Economic Development, to discuss The Parade contract and he will report back to the Town Council in due course.

ACTION

The Town Clerk will add this matter to the agenda for the April Town Council meeting.

7657 DISABLED ACCESS & EXCESSIVE NOISE OF THE FLOATING BRIDGE (MINUTE NO. 7627h REFERS)

At the Cowes Town Council meeting on 1 February 2018 the Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council to ascertain why wheelchairs are allowed in the passenger section of the Floating Bridge but mobility scooters have to be accommodated on the car deck; also to ask if there will be a fair outcome to the enquiry regarding the excessive noise of the Floating Bridge if the IW Council are investigating themselves. The IW Council responded by saying that the Floating Bridge has two covered areas on the south west and south east side of the vessel for mobility scooters; the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) advised that this was acceptable due to the short crossing time. With regard to the enquiry into the excessive noise of the Floating Bridge, the IW Council have commissioned independent consultants to undertake noise and vibration assessments to an agreed methodology. Some works to mitigate noise have already been undertaken and the same independent consultants will be on site to assess whether the works so far have mitigated noise and vibration at all. This work is currently ongoing and no further information is available at this stage.

7658 PASSENGER LAUNCH – IW COUNCIL'S EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT (MINUTE NO. 7631 REFERS)

At the Cowes Town Council meeting on 1 February 2018 the Town Clerk was actioned to request a copy of the IW Council's Equality Impact Statement in relation to the passenger launch being used to cross the River Medina. The IW Council have now provided a copy of the Report which states that the launch does not meet all needs of those with protected characteristics with regard to wheelchair users and mobility scooters. Options to resolve this issue are being considered and they are to limit the provision of a launch to a minimum; to ensure that any planned works are communicated; to investigate the provision of a shuttle bus between the two towns;

to investigate an innovative solution to the slipway and boat design; not to provide the service as there is no statutory duty to deliver this service.

7659 CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES WEST WARD

The Town Clerk advised that there had not been a call for an election to the Cowes West Ward therefore the process of co-option has now started. The vacancy has been advertised on the Town Council notice board and website with a request for applications by the deadline of Tuesday 3 April 2018. Interviews will take place at a date to be agreed in April with a recommendation for co-option to be approved at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on 17 May 2018. Councillors wishing to take part of the interview panel are Councillors J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Bertie, Brown, Fuller, Glendinning, Hammond, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

7660 APPOINTMENT TO THE AGE FRIENDLY ISLAND WORKING GROUP

An appointment was sought for the vacant position on the Age Friendly Island Working Group. No nominations were forthcoming and the vacancy remains unfilled.

7661 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Issues raised included fly-tipping in Arctic Road; public toilet inspections; safety inspection of play equipment; dealing with owners of dogs off their leads.

7662 ISLE OF WIGHT DAY 2018

Cowes Town Council have been approached to consider holding the Isle of Wight Day People's Parade in Cowes on 22 September 2018. To support this event the organisers will require a donation of £6,000. The Town Clerk advised that the first Isle of Wight Day Parade in 2016 held in Newport attracted no cost to Newport Parish Council; the second Isle of Wight Day Parade in 2017 held at Ryde, was given a voluntary donation of £500 from Ryde Town Council. Councillors agreed Cowes could host the Parade but as the Town Council is a public body, and accountable for any spending of public money, the organisers should make an application for grant following the agreed process. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will contact the organisers of The Isle of Wight Day requesting that they make an application for grant to support the event.

7663 COWES TOWN WATERFRONT TRUST

Councillors discussed details of the Cowes Town Waterfront Trust Limited's letter dated 23 February 2018 giving details of their accounting procedures and details of their representation on the Trust. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for Cowes Town Council to be a member of the Trust however the Town Council would be interested to receive updates on their activities. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will request that the Town Council receives updates on the activities of the Cowes Town Waterfront Trust Ltd.

7664 APPOINTMENT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ORP BLYSKAWICA SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An appointment was sought for a Councillor to join the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society's Executive Committee. No nominations were forthcoming but it was agreed to ask Councillor Jones, who was absent from the meeting, whether he would be prepared to accept the appointment. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Councillor Jones to ask if he will accept the appointment to the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society's Executive Committee.

7665 HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL'S SCRUTINY OF 'HATE CRIME'

Councillors received details of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel proactive scrutiny of 'Hate Crime' with a number of key questions being raised. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillors make individual responses to the scrutiny process.

7666 DEFRA'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO TACKLE CRIME AND POOR PERFORMANCE IN THE WASTE SECTOR

Councillors received details of DEFRA's consultation on proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillors make individual responses to the consultation.

7667 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous publications and correspondence received was circulated to all Town Councillors.

7668 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Town Maps & Tourism – Councillor Wardrop

The proceedings terminated at 9.09pm.

CHAIRMAN