

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 6.15pm

**Present:** Councillors Taylor (Chair), J. Bartrum, Bertie, Fuller and Nicholson (6.17pm)

**In attendance:** Councillor Wardrop (non-voting), Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk), 1 member of the public

### 188. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams and Brown.

### 189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillor Nicholson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 191(g) as one of the organisers of the IW Beer and Buses Weekend.

Councillor Bertie declared a pecuniary interest in item 191(g) as his company sells merchandise for the IW Beer and Buses Weekend.

- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

### 190. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 20 March 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 191. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

- a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles, the Council's Architect for The Cut project, will provide Island Roads with the additional information they requested in order for costings to be obtained for the enhancement works at The Cut.

A date is awaited from G J Banks (IW) Ltd for the trial removal of the existing mural.

One response has been received concerning the shortlisted mural competition entries.

Artists' impressions that combine elements from all three shortlisted designs will be sought from local artists, with the artists being invited to meet with Councillors to discuss their ideas.

#### ACTION

Councillor J Bartrum and the Assistant Town Clerk will contact three local artists to design a mural based on elements from the three shortlisted designs.

- b) **High Street Pedestrianisation and Bollards**

Installation of the new signage for the changes to the Prohibition of Driving Order commenced on Monday, 23 April 2018 by Island Roads. Once installed, further consideration can be given to monitoring the level of compliance with the prohibition.

- c) **Northwood Recreation Ground – Maintenance of the Skate Park**

Maintenance repairs to the fencing around the Skate Park and MUGA are due to commence from Monday, 30 April 2018. Once the fencing is repaired, the repairs to the ramps and tarmac will be undertaken.

d) **Accessibility in Cowes**

Councillor J Bartrum advised that the first Cowes Community Forum will be held on Wednesday, 16 May 2018, with Isle Access chairing the first meeting.

Councillors discussed ways to promote the availability of Radar keys, which are available to buy from the Town Council, for those needing to use Disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.

The request from the Town Council to relocate the disabled parking bays on Market Hill, by moving them to the level area at the bottom of Market Hill had still not been acted upon.

ACTIONS

1. Councillor J Bartrum will ensure that Radar keys are available to purchase at Cowes Community Forum meetings.
2. An article to promote the availability of Radar keys will be included in the next Town Council's Newsletter.
3. The sale of Radar keys will be promoted by the Town Council at the Big Lunch via their display stand.
4. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Island Roads and the IW Council to request the relocation of the disabled parking bays on Market Hill to the level area at the bottom of Market Hill/High Street.

e) **Tree Planting and appreciation / Community Orchard**

The Chairman had distributed 100 leaflets to residents of The Green and Crossfield Avenue, providing details on the proposed community orchard to be located on The Green.

A member of the public spoke on behalf of a number of residents of The Green, expressing that they are not in favour of the proposal. Alternatives suggested included siting the orchard elsewhere such as on school grounds, and asking residents to fund a tree to be planted for the benefit of community. All responses received will be collated after the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April and discussed at the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

f) **Activities to promote Cowes Town Council**

The Town Council will be having a display stand at The Big Lunch at Northwood House on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. Councillors discussed items for inclusion on the display, including 'comment cards' for people to complete.

Councillors feel that more recognition of the Town Council's grant donations and promotion of its assets will endorse the areas in the town that are supported by the Town Council. Suggestions included 'Sponsored by Cowes Town Council' plaques to be displayed on our assets, and asking grant recipients to publicise our financial support when promoting their events.

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain prices for promotional plaques.

g) **Opportunities to promote the town**

Ideas for promoting the town were discussed including the Beer and Buses Weekend, which in 2017 attracted 12,000 people to the event. This year the event is looking to be spread over a 5-day period, Thursday to Monday.

Councillor Bertie circulated a new cruise leaflet which is aimed at attracting cruise companies to visit the Island. He advised that the first cruise ship will be arriving this weekend, with passengers being dropped off at Trinity Landing. More needs to be done to encourage cruise ship passengers to stay in the town. Revival of the Rope Walk was discussed, with the possibility of linking the Cowes Heritage Trail with it. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council supports the rejuvenation of the Rope Walk trail.**

### ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will research information on the Rope Walk.

#### h) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

The IW Council's public consultation on residents' parking on the Island has now concluded and is undergoing analysis. Councillors recognise that visitors, businesses and commuters all need suitable parking provision in the town, along with those travelling to the mainland to receive healthcare treatment.

### ACTION

The four IW Councillors for the Cowes area will arrange a meeting to discuss parking in the town.

#### i) **Drinking Fountains**

Enquiries are being made with drinking water providers for the cost to provide drinking water fountains in the town. Currently two of the town's public conveniences have drinking water taps situated on the outside of the buildings. Costs have been sought to fit drinking water taps to the remaining three public conveniences in the town. Clarification regarding permission to install new drinking water taps will be sought from Island Roads. Councillors feel that a local water company may contribute to the installation of additional drinking water facilities.

A number of shops in the town have agreed to provide free water refills to encourage re-use of water bottles. They will display a sign in their windows to notify passers-by of this facility.

### ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Island Roads regarding permission for drinking water taps on the public convenience frontages.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Southern Water to seek their assistance in providing additional drinking water facilities in the town.

#### j) **Green spaces and beach cleans**

At the last meeting the Chairman invited all Councillors to periodically clean up their local green spaces and beach areas, with equipment being available from the Town Council office to assist. Councillors were supportive of a suggestion to hold a pre-Cowes Week litter pick.

### ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk sets a date for a pre-Cowes Week litter pick, which will be advertised in the Summer edition of the Town Council's Newsletter.

#### k) **Residential on-street charge points for electric vehicles**

This item was postponed until the next meeting as information on the number of electric cars on the Island had not been received.

#### l) **Cowes as a pesticide free town**

Grounds maintenance contractors paid for by the Town Council in the town have been requested to provide information on the products and methods they use to control weeds. Other councils who have pesticide free status have been contacted for provide information on attaining that status.

### ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will continue dialogue with our grounds maintenance contractors to identify where and how they use Herbicides, and ask if they have considered or would consider alternative methods of weed control such as a vinegar and salt mix.

## 192. NEW PROJECTS

### a) **Street Banners**

An initiative to display 'Welcome to Cowes' banners throughout the High Street is being investigated by Cowes Business Association. Banners would be displayed all year round and incorporate the logos of all participating stakeholders.

#### ACTION

Councillor Bertie will obtain costings and contact stakeholders for their support.

### b) **Mornington Woods Management Plan / Mornington Road Car Park**

Initial talks between the Town Council, the IW Council and the Mornington Woods Volunteer Group have been held to consider the transfer of the Woods' management to the Town Council. A management plan will need to be established.

Mornington Road car park was discussed. Councillors will look at ways of increasing its usage for the benefit local residents and also helping towards the upkeep of the Woods.

### c) **Town Maps**

A new town map for 2018 has been produced by Destination Cowes and was circulated at the meeting. 50,000 copies have been printed which will be distributed to visitors, businesses and mainland areas to promote Cowes as a visitor destination.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 8.10pm.

### d) **Promoting the Outdoor Gym**

Ways to promote the outdoor gym were discussed.

#### ACTIONS

1. Councillor J Bartrum will contact Age Friendly Island to promote use of the outdoor gym by their members.
2. Councillor Brown will be asked to provide an article and photograph promoting the outdoor gym for inclusion in the Summer Newsletter.

### e) **WW1 Centenary Celebrations**

Councillors noted the centenary event, which is being celebrated at various locations across the Island.

## 193. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

### a) **Street Furniture**

The condition of the public benches on the Parade was raised.

#### ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will request Island Roads to varnish the benches on the Parade.

## 194. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- High Street planting and cleanliness to be included under the item 'Promoting the Town'

The proceedings terminated at 8.22pm.

**CHAIRMAN**