

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 14 August 2018 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Taylor (Chair), Adams, J. Bartrum, Brown and Peacey-Wilcox

In attendance: Councillors Glendinning and Wardrop (non-voting); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

210. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fuller.

211. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 213g as she has requested that parking be considered by the IW Council's Scrutiny Committee.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

212. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 17 July 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

213. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut**

An informal meeting was held with Island Roads on 2 August 2018 regarding The Cut enhancements. Island Roads will provide a budget figure for the next meeting of the Projects Committee. There will be additional fees and ongoing maintenance costs if the project goes ahead.

Plans for a new mural at The Cut are continuing and designs will be discussed with local artists.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will arrange for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Councillor Brown to meet with the three artists to discuss designs for a new mural.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground – Maintenance of the Skate Park**

All maintenance repairs have been completed at the Skate Park. A summer skate club is being held between 11am and 1pm on every Wednesday of the summer holidays, paid for by the Town Council, which has been well supported. There being no further maintenance issues at this time, this item will be removed from the agenda.

c) **Accessibility in Cowes**

Cowes Mobility Forum have invited Wendy Perera from the Isle of Wight Council to be a guest speaker at their next meeting to answer questions regarding building regulations and planning relating to accessibility. They are awaiting confirmation of Wendy's attendance.

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

The Community Orchard project has been put on hold due to tree management issues. Alternative locations for the Community Orchard were discussed. Councillor Taylor has met with Councillor Jones to discuss Tree Warden responsibilities. The Mayor will ask for volunteers / community tree wardens in the next newsletter.

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

Posters and flyers promoting the Town Council's areas of responsibilities and activities were considered, which will be available from our stand at Cowes Christmas Fair on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November 2018 at Cowes Yacht Haven. Councillors feel that a late night shopping event on the same day as the Christmas Fair and Festive Light switch-on event will increase what is on offer to visitors and encourage them to stay longer.

ACTION: Councillors J. Bartrum and Peacey-Wilcox will discuss a late night shopping event with Emma from Helly Hansen.

f) **Opportunities to promote the town**

There are a number of forthcoming events being held in the town in the coming months, including: August – Cowes Carnival (main and illuminated) and Powerboat Festival; September - Isle of Wight Day; October - the Literary Festival; November – Christmas Fair and Festive Lights Switch-on. Councillors will support and promote wherever possible.

g) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

The results of the IW Council's consultation on residents' parking zones will be considered by the IW Council's Cabinet on 13 September 2018. Availability of commuter parking in the town was discussed. Councillors felt that this could be explored with Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Ltd (NHCTCL).

ACTION: Councillor Brown will contact NHCTCL to discuss commuter parking.

h) **Drinking Fountains**

The provision of new drinking fountains in the town will not be pursued at this time, however, Councillors are supportive of 'Refill' - a national campaign that aims to provide free water bottle refills. Participating shops, cafes, restaurants and other businesses display a sticker in their window alerting passers-by to the fact they are welcome to come in and fill up their bottle. Stickers are available from Southern Water.

ACTIONS:

1. The Town Council will promote their support for the Refill campaign in the next Newsletter.
2. Councillor Adams will provide a list of businesses in Cowes that provide free water refills.

i) **Cowes as a pesticide free town**

Councillor Taylor has written to Councillor Hobart, IW Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage, advising of the Town Council's resolution to take a pesticide free approach to work towards a pesticide free Cowes. Councillor Hobart has agreed to pass to IW Council officers to consider our request. Councillors are concerned about the unknown quantities of Glyphosate that is being used in our town and will ask the IW Council for this information.

The Assistant Town Clerk has written to the grounds maintenance contractor for Northwood Park requesting that no Glyphosate be used in the Park grounds except for brambles, bindweed and nettles, and that where it is used that the area is appropriately signposted and cordoned off until the area has dried.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Lee Matthews to request details of the IW Council's use of Glyphosate-based products and a listing of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides used by the IW Council contractor in Cowes.

- j) **Street Banners**
There is no update on this item and it will be removed from the agenda.
- k) **Mornington Woods Management Plan / Mornington Road Car Park**
Further discussions need to be had with IW Council officers regarding further management of Mornington Woods and Mornington Road car park management.
- l) **Promoting the Outdoor Gym**
Councillor J. Bartrum has contacted Age UK and Age Friendly Island regarding promotion of the outdoor gym. There has been difficulty in finding suitably qualified instructors to demonstrate the correct use of the equipment. The IW Council will be asked if their Leisure staff are able to assist. Councillor Brown has written an article on the outdoor gym for inclusion in the next newsletter.
ACTION: Councillor J. Bartrum will contact Alex Minns to discuss the availability of the IW Council's leisure staff to demonstrate the outdoor gym equipment.
- m) **Community Composting**
There was no update on this item and it will be removed from the agenda.
- n) **Community-Led Housing**
Councillors observed the guidance booklet on the Community Led Housing Programme Grant Fund. As the Town Council do not own any land or buildings, there are no locations identified to forward such a scheme at this time and it will be removed from the agenda.

214. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

- a) **Street Furniture**
The seafront railings between Cowes and Gurnard were discussed. The IW Council have carried out essential repairs to ensure the safety of the railings, however, the railings have not been painted for some time.
ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the Alex Minns to ask what the IW Council's painting regime schedule is for the seafront railings.

215. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Updating the Town maps.
b) Bollards in the High Street.

The proceedings terminated at 7.40pm.

CHAIRMAN