

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 6 September 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Glendinning, Hammond, Jones, Oliver, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; three members of the public.

7771 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie & Nicholson.

7772 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777b5 as the Chairman of Governors at Cowes Primary School is his daughter's partner.

Councillor Glendinning declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777b4 as she pays for tennis coaching sessions at Northwood Park.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777e as she is Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.

Councillor Glendinning declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7786 as her husband formerly worked for the Regional Development Agency and now works for Homes England.

Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777b5 as he is a Governor at Cowes Primary School.

Councillors Hammond and Ellis declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777b4 as they collect revenue on behalf of Northwood House for the Northwood House car park.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7777b4 as she is a member of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

7773 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Local Safer Neighbourhood officer sent his apologies for the meeting but had provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days up to 6 September 2018 showed 10 assault with injury; 6 criminal damage; 9 theft; 1 theft from a motor vehicle. In respect of anti-social behaviour the report showed 9 personal and 7 community. Councillors were concerned that data received from police.uk emails did not tally with the figures provided from the monthly report. Councillors are also concerned about young people and vulnerable adults being coerced or threatened into delivering drugs on behalf of drug dealers. Councillors believe that there is a real drug problem in Cowes. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the local Safer Neighbourhood Officer to establish why the two sets of crime statistics do not match up.
2. The Town Clerk will ask the local police whether they are aware of the risk to young people and vulnerable adults delivering drugs and what are they doing about this problem.

3. Subject to the replies received it may be necessary to invite a senior police officer to a future Town Council meeting to discuss the policing matters in Cowes.

7774 MINUTES

RESOLVED

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

7775 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were raised by members of the public.

7776 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson and Peacey-Wilcox.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to the ongoing maintenance of the Floating Bridge and that she will be attending the Floating Bridge User Group meeting on 24 September 2018. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox also referred to ongoing negotiations regarding the Youth Club in Arctic Road being taken over by UKSA, the equipment within the building having been recently removed.

Councillor Fuller was advised that the height of the kerbs along Crossfield Avenue and other areas are causing problems for people with reduced mobility. Councillor Fuller asked for details of the areas to be emailed to him so that he can investigate the matter. Councillors also asked whether it would be possible for Cowes to regain their Blue Flag status.

Councillor Nicholson was unavailable for questions but Councillors made comment that he had not reported on the planning application for 66 homes in Northwood in his report.

Councillor Bertie gave his apologies for the meeting and did not provide a report. Councillors were concerned that they are not being updated on matters in the Cowes North area.

It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to enquire what the cost would be to reinstate the Blue Flag status in Cowes.
2. The Town Clerk will write to Councillor Bertie to ask for regular updates on matters in the Cowes North area.

7777 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 26 July 2018 and 16 August 2018 were received and noted.

Councillors Ellis, Glendinning & Hammond left the meeting while Minute No. 7777b4 was discussed.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting while Minute Nos. 7777b4 and 7777b5 were discussed.

Councillor Jones left the meeting while Minute No. 7777b5 was discussed.

- b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee
The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meetings held on 24 July 2018 and 28 August 2018 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
1. That the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2018 be noted and approved.
2. That Cowes Town Council transfers the funds held at Nationwide into another Nationwide Business 1 Year Fixed Rate Saver Account with a gross interest rate per annum of 0.75%.
3. That a grant be made to TeamSpy Race Team in the sum of £1,000.
4. That a grant be made to Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd in the sum of £2,786.
5. That a grant be made to Cowes Primary School in the sum of £750 towards the cost of a defibrillator.
6. That Cowes Town Council renews the SLCC membership of the Town Clerk in the sum of £147.
- c) Projects Committee
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 14 August 2018 were received and noted.
- d) Community Waste Forum
The Notes of the Community Waste Forum meeting held on 18 June 2018 were received and noted.
- e) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meetings held on 18 June 2018 and 20 August 2018 were received and noted.
- f) IWALC AGM
The Minutes of the IWALC AGM held on 19 July 2018 were received and noted.
- g) Informal Meeting with Island Roads
The Notes of the Informal Meeting with Island Roads held on 2 August 2018 were received and noted.
- h) Public Conveniences Working Group
The Minutes of the Public Conveniences Working Group meeting held on 30 August 2018 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
1. That Cowes Town Council agrees to suspend Financial Regulation 10.3 for the replacement roof at The Parade.
2. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £5,750 plus VAT for Christopher Scott Ltd to undertake an invasive survey of the roof at The Parade public conveniences and report their findings, detailing required repairs from which a specification for the works can be drawn up; management of tender documents and process, and project management through to completion; and also approves the cost for a contractor to open up parts of the building to allow for a detailed inspection and making good

the building, with the costs to be met from the 'Public toilets refurbishment' budget.

3. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £447.70 to supply and fit a new baby changing unit at the first cubicle at The Cut, with the cost to be met from the 'Public toilets refurbishment' budget.

4. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £1,500 plus VAT for Community Payback to carry out redecoration and tiling repairs at the four public conveniences at Medina Road, Mornington Road, The Parade & Northwood Recreation Ground, with the cost to be met from the 'Public toilets refurbishment' budget.

5. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £825 plus VAT per door, for two new outward opening doors at Medina Road and Mornington Road public conveniences, with the cost to be met from the 'Public toilets refurbishment' budget.

7778 CYCLISTS IN THE PEDESTRIANISED AREA

Over the years the Town Council has worked with the IW Council, Island Roads and the Police to address concerns arising from cycling in the High Street in the pedestrianised zone. The problem remains and complaints are regularly received by Councillors and the Clerks regarding cyclists not dismounting and the aggressive nature of some cyclists when asked to dismount. The existing signage does not specifically say 'Cyclists Dismount' however Island Roads maintain that the signs provide adequate indication of the restriction. Some cyclists may not be aware of the restriction or do not consider that 'no vehicles' applies to cyclists. Councillors considered options to try and reduce the problem. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads to ask for a walk through the High Street with Councillors to look at current signage issues and possible reinstatement of the 'Cyclists Dismount' signs that are no longer in situ and to consider painting a 'No Cyclists' sign on the highway.

2. The Town Clerk will write to the local police to ask if they can spend half an hour two mornings a month in the High Street to educate and advise cyclists using the High Street during the times of the pedestrianised zone.

3. The Town Clerk will write to ask CYCLEWight if they would be prepared to attend the High Street to educate cyclists using the High Street during the times of the pedestrianised zone.

7779 PROPOSAL TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS

Councillors discussed a proposal that Committee Chairmen can be in position for a maximum of two years as is the case of the appointment of Town Mayor, with changes being in place for the start of the Municipal Year 2019 / 2020. A named vote was taken, those in favour being Councillors J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Ellis, Fuller, Glendinning, Hammond, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox & Wardrop; those against being Councillors Brown, Bustin, Oliver & Taylor; Councillor Adams abstained. It was:

RESOLVED

That Standing Orders, as from the Municipal Year 2019 / 2020, will state that the position of a Committee or Working Group Chairman shall not be held by the same Councillor for more than two consecutive municipal years.

Councillor Hammond left the meeting at 8.46pm.

7780 PROPOSAL – HANGING BASKET PROJECT

Councillors discussed the hanging basket project which is due to end on 30 September 2018. Business owners have commented that they would like to build on this project over the winter and to develop ideas for the future. In order to facilitate this it is proposed that Cowes Town Council gifts the brackets and hanging baskets to the Cowes Business Association, passing responsibility for future initiatives to the Cowes Business Association and the local businesses. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council gifts the hanging basket brackets and hanging baskets along the extended High Street to the Cowes Business Association when the current project ends on 30 September 2018.

7781 DESTINATION COWES

Councillors discussed that as a destination Cowes appears to be failing. In recent times a number of cruise ships full of visitors have arrived at Trinity Landing only to be met by coaches, some mainland, and taken out of Cowes to attractions elsewhere on the Island. On returning to Cowes, very few visitors actually stopped to look around Cowes but went straight back to the cruise ship. Cowes appears to be a convenient transit facility not benefitting anyone in Cowes. Councillors asked what 'Destination Cowes' is doing to promote visitors to stay in Cowes and asked for an update from the Town Council's representative on Destination Cowes, which is Councillor Bertie. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to Councillor Bertie asking for an update in relation to Destination Cowes meetings he has attended; the report to be received within 14 days of his return from holiday.
2. The Town Clerk will write to Destination Cowes to ask why cruise ship visitors are not staying in Cowes and why Cowes is not being promoted as a destination.
3. Once an update has been received from Councillor Bertie this matter can either be referred to the Projects Committee or a Working Group to look at ways to make Cowes attractive for visitors to stay in Cowes and to liaise with Stuart Mackintosh regarding cruise ships visiting Cowes.

Councillor Adams left the meeting at 9.05pm.

7782 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY 2018 AND AUGUST 2018

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of July 2018 and August 2018. Cheque payments for July totalled £20,505.05; petty cash payments totalled £89.67. Cheque payments for August totalled £26,793.58; petty cash payments totalled £70.00. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for July 2018 of £20,505.05 and petty cash payments for July 2018 of £89.67; and the cheque payments for August 2018 of £26,793.58 and petty cash payments for August 2018 of £70.00 be received, noted and approved.

7783 CONCLUSION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

The Town Clerk reported that the conclusion of the external audit for the year ended 31 March 2018 had been received. The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, have raised no matters of concern. Councillors thanked the Town Clerk for the successful conclusion of the External Audit. It was:

RESOLVED

That the conclusion of the external audit for the year ended 31 March 2018 be received, noted and approved.

7784 APPOINTMENTS TO THE FINANCE, ACQUISITIONS & STAFFING COMMITTEE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Councillor Bertie from the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee and the Projects Committee there is one vacancy on both Committees. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillor R. Bartrum be appointed to the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor Bustin be appointed to the Projects Committee.**

7785 APPOINTMENT TO COWES MOBILITY FORUM

The recently formed Cowes Mobility Forum are requesting a representative and deputy representative from Cowes Town Council. It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor J. Bartrum be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Cowes Mobility Forum and Councillor Fuller be appointed deputy representative.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 9.20pm.

Councillor Glendinning left the meeting for the next item.

7786 LETTER FROM MR GEOFF BANKS REGARDING GATEWAY COWES

Mr Banks supplied a letter giving some background to the Gateway Cowes project of which Cowes Town Council is one of the five stakeholders; this being in response to Cowes Town Council wishing to hold an extraordinary Town Council meeting with the other four stakeholders. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council request sight of the Gateway Cowes plan before any further financial contribution is made to the project.

7787 NEW ROAD NAME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND AT AND REAR OF 86 VICTORIA ROAD

Councillors were asked to consider two suggestions for the name of the development of land at and rear of 86 Victoria Road. The suggestions being 'Sovereign Close' due to the royal theme and 'Leopards Close' as the developer's family like leopards. Councillors felt that neither name was appropriate – Sovereign Close could be associated with Sovereign Housing, Leopard Close meaning nothing to anyone. Further suggestions have been discussed with the developer. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports the new road name as either Victoria Close or Clarks Close.

7788 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 inspection of play areas; fly tipping at St Mary's Road car park; drain problems in Francki Place; lifebelt inspection; stray dogs; dog fouling; fly posting. Councillors wished to formally record their thanks for the hard work of the Environment Officer.

7789 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7790 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 9.25pm.

CHAIRMAN