

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 6.15pm

**Present:** Councillors Taylor (Chair), Brown and Bustin

**In attendance:** Councillor Wardrop (non-voting); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

### 230. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adams.

### 231. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) No declarations of interests were received.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

### 232. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 October 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 233. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

#### a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles was not in attendance but had provided an update. He is working on the technical information requested by Island Roads to progress the Cut project and is awaiting confirmation of the likely timescale for the project from Island Roads.

Councillors Fuller, Peacey-Wilcox and Taylor have met to consider the two draft mural designs. Opinions were divided on both designs and Councillors felt it would be beneficial if all Town Councillors viewed the designs prior to the final decision being made by the Town Council. Councillors hope to involve community arts projects in the painting of the mural. It was

**RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council approves Artist A as the new mural designer.**

**ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk will invite all Town Councillors to view the two mural designs in the Town Council office.

#### b) **Accessibility in Cowes**

There is no update on this item and it will be removed from the agenda.

#### c) **Tree Planting and appreciation / Community Orchard**

A response has been received from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society following the Town Council's request for their thoughts on the community orchard proposal for the Moorgreen Reservoir site. The Allotment Society felt unable to offer their support with the orchard on this site. It was noted that the site does not have a water supply available, meaning any water would need to be transported to the site manually. Northwood Recreation Ground has been previously mentioned as a potential site for a community orchard and Councillors felt that this option could be revisited.

**ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to seek their thoughts on siting a community mini-orchard (9 trees) at Northwood Recreation Ground.

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

Late night shopping evenings in the town are confirmed for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The Town Council will be having a stand at Cowes Christmas Fair in Cowes Yacht Haven over the weekend of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, from 10.30am to 4.30pm each day. The Festive Lights Switch-on will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm outside of Sainsbury's in Cowes High Street.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Councillors to volunteer to man the Town Council's stand at Cowes Christmas Fair.

e) **Opportunities to promote the town**

There is no update on this item and it will be removed from the agenda.

f) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

At the previous meeting, Councillors discussed the concerns raised by residents regarding the parking at the top of Seaview Road. Councillors suggested that Councillor Nicholson presents the issues raised in his ward report for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.

Changes to the IW Council's Resident Parking Zones Policy will increase the number of spaces available for residents and visitors but will have an effect on a number of businesses in the town who currently benefit from business parking permits for use in residential zones, forcing them to look for parking elsewhere.

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Councillor Nicholson to suggest he presents the issues regarding the parking at the top of Seaview Road in his next ward report for consideration at the next Town Council meeting.
2. Councillor Brown will contact Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited regarding the parking strategy for their long-stay car park.

g) **Drinking Water Stations**

New drinking water taps are due to be fitted at the public conveniences at Medina Road, The Cut and The Parade. The faulty drinking tap at Northwood Recreation Ground will be replaced.

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

At the previous meeting the Assistant Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage, requesting acknowledgement that Cowes Town Council has resolved that Cowes will be a pesticide free town and advising that it will tailor its weed control accordingly. No response has currently been received.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, requesting a response to our previous letter.

i) **Mornington Woods Management Plan / Mornington Road Car Park**

A meeting between IW Council officers, a local landowner/volunteer from Mornington Woods Volunteer Group and Councillors Fuller, Peacey-Wilcox and Taylor had been held to discuss the future management of Mornington Woods. A draft plan was considered and amendments suggested. A further meeting will be set up between all interested parties to further this project. Councillors reiterated the careful management needed of the ancient woodland and felt that it needs to be treated differently to general parks tree works. It is

extensively a remnant of ancient oak woodland and new oak trees should be encouraged at the site to continue their presence for years to come.

j) **Updating the Town Maps**

Members of the Projects Committee had been asked to research designs for maps used in other areas and to identify what features in the town should be included and promoted on the new town map for consideration at the meeting. Councillors felt that an informal meeting should be convened to fully consider the options for a new town map.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will set up an informal meeting with Councillors to discuss the design and features to be included in a new town map.

k) **High Street Bollards**

A meeting to discuss the bollards was held at County Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with Trevor Pugh - Interim Director of Neighbourhoods at the IW Council, Kevin Burton – Island Roads and Councillors Fuller, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor and Wardrop. Island Roads agreed to produce an A5 flyer that Town Councillors will hand out at signage and bollard points into the High Street to alert vehicle drivers/cyclists to the current restrictions before consideration is given to reinstating any bollards.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will request sight of the completed flyer.

l) **Visiting coaches / cruise ships to Cowes**

The Town Council, at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, established a Visitor Cowes Working Group to consider and develop ideas for what is on offer to visitors to the town. This item will be removed from the Projects Committee agenda.

**234. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS**

a) **Street Furniture**

Councillor Fuller attended a meeting with officers from the IW Council and representatives from Gurnard Parish Council to discuss the seafront railings between Cowes and Gurnard. An update will be provided at the next meeting. The IW Council have approximate costings for different options to replace the railings, following their survey of the area in 2016. They will undertake a current condition survey of the railings and posts.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 7.32pm.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The MUGA fencing has been repaired. Quotations are being sought for additional matting for the static outdoor gym equipment. Fresh Air Fitness have replaced the faulty Elliptical Cross Trainer. The drinking water tap sited on the front of the toilet block is faulty and a new tap is on order.

**235. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.35pm.

**CHAIRMAN**