

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Brown, Bustin, Fuller and Taylor

In attendance: Councillors Gilpin and Wardrop (Non-voting); Debbie Faulkner (Town Clerk), Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk); 3 members of the public

262. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Nicholson was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Taylor, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Fuller, followed by a unanimous show of hands. It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Nicholson be appointed as Chairman of the Projects Committee for the Municipal Year 2019 / 2020.

Councillor Nicholson thanked those Councillors present for their support.

263. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie and Peacey Wilcox.

264. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) No declarations of interests were received.

b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

265. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 16 April 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

266. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) is working to complete the outstanding drawings and documents as requested by the Planning Officer at the IW Council and Island Roads will forward them to the relevant parties in due course. Once received, Island Roads will be able to provide final costings for the project.

The Cut - Mural

The anti-graffiti coating has been removed and the wall has been repaired and painted in readiness for the new mural to be installed. The artist will install the grid and outline the design ready for painting. Amey have offered to save any surplus gloss paint they receive which can be used to offset the cost of the paint. Amey and Red Funnel have also expressed an interest to provide staff to assist with the painting. Once completed, the mural will have a new anti-graffiti covering added to protect the design from vandalism.

b) **Tree Planting and appreciation**

The Western Red Cedar at Northwood Recreation Ground has died. The IW Council's Parks Officer was going to inspect and advise about its removal. An Aspen, located at Northwood Recreation Ground and supplied by the Town Council has also died, along with a Rowan, located on The Green, Crossfield Avenue which was supplied by the IW Council. As some of the trees were only recently purchased it was suggested that the supplier be contacted to enquire if any replacements can be offered free of charge or discounted. Councillors Taylor

and Gilpin and the two volunteer tree wardens are completing a survey of trees in the town. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council's Parks Officer for an update on the removal of the dead tree.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the supplier of the recently purchased trees to enquire if any replacements can be offered free of charge or discounted.

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

The Town Council had a promotional stand at The Big Lunch on 2 June 2019 which was operated by Councillors and the Assistant Town Clerk. A number of comment cards were completed by residents on the day. These included a request to have the Town Council's newsletter sent out electronically. Councillors are in support of the idea, which can be promoted in the next newsletter and via Facebook. The newsletter is also available on the Town Council's website. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The next newsletter will include an invitation to residents to request an electronic copy of the newsletter.
2. The next newsletter will be promoted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

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

The IW Council were asked for their agreement to the Town Council trialling a Glyphosate-free product on the weeds around the Skate Park and MUGA areas for a six month period. The IW Council advised that the person who undertakes the work needs to be qualified and licenced to use pesticides. The Assistant Town Clerk sent details of the product to the IW Council to see if there is a way to carry out the trial, and also enquiring about training available to become qualified in the application of pesticides. A response is awaited. It was agreed

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will request a reply from the IW Council regarding the Town Council being permitted to trial a Glyphosate-free product on the Skate Park and MUGA areas and the availability of training to become licenced in the use of pesticides.

e) **Mornington Road Car Park**

The car park at Mornington Road continues to be underutilised. The IW Council are looking at parking services on the Island and may be willing to discuss the use of the car park at Mornington Road. It was agreed

ACTION: Councillor Fuller will contact the IW Council's Strategic Highways and Transportation Manager to discuss the future use of Mornington Road car park.

f) **Updating the Town Maps**

Alan Rowe of Potting Shed Cartoons has produced a draft design of the new town map. Councillors discussed the new design and requested an amendment to the map boundary as they felt that a smaller part of East Cowes should be included in the design. It was agreed

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the map designer to move the boundary area of the map.

g) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**

At an informal meeting with the Police on 16 May 2019 the Mayor thanked PCSOs Paul and Anker who supported them, through Speedwatch, with the promotion of the prohibition of vehicles through Cowes High Street. The Police confirmed that when they are present in the High Street and see cyclists riding through the pedestrian zone they do take appropriate

action. They will endeavour to assist with further Speedwatch sessions if resources are available. Complaints continue to be received from residents regarding cyclists in the High Street and Shooters Hill who are ignoring the prohibition.

Councillor Bertie is producing a bollard cover which will promote the prohibition of vehicles. This will be presented at a future Town Council meeting. Councillor Fuller offered to discuss the issue of installing new bollards in the High Street with Island Roads and requested an update on the current position. It was agreed

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will advise Councillor Fuller on the current position regarding the installation of bollards in the High Street.

h) **Recreational Pathway and Community Orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground**

Cowes Town Council agreed to provide funding of £600 from money set aside for 'Consultation Events – Recreational Pathway' to People Powered CIC to enable them to write a bid for funding for a recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground. The IW Community Club and Isle Access have given their support in principle to the recreational pathway. People Powered CIC are to commence the bid writing in mid-June 2019.

i) **Community Emergency Plan**

Contact details for properties to be used as community space in the event of an emergency will need to be obtained and included in the Town Council's Community Emergency Plan. The previous action remains outstanding.

ACTION: Councillors Fuller and Peacey Wilcox will compile and collate a list of suitable facilities in the town that can be used in the event of a community emergency.

267. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Land at Market Hill**

A request was received from a local resident asking the Town Council to consider purchasing a parcel of land currently for sale on Market Hill. The estate agent's particulars were circulated as a background paper prior to the meeting. The land is currently overgrown and located in a residential area just off the High Street. A number of concerns were raised including known subsidence in the area; the cost of the parcel of land; source of funding the purchase; whether this is a good use of public money; additional costs if the Town Council purchases the land, including solicitor's fees, planning permission, landscaping or development costs. Suggestions for the use of the land included development for social housing or the creation of a community or memorial garden. There is also a Tree Preservation Order on a tree sited on the land. It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council establishes a 'Land at Market Hill Working Group' to look at the viability of purchasing a parcel of land on Market Hill.

268. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The town map display unit at the junction of Birmingham Road and Mill Hill Road has been vandalised. The Perspex will need replacing.

Repainting of the following items of street furniture belonging to the Town Council is being undertaken throughout June 2019:

- 'Cowes Town Council' sign at Carvel Lane (side wall of Hursts).
- Cowes Town Council Noticeboard at Carvel Lane (side wall of Hursts).
- All Cowes Town Council finger posts (7 in total) and arms (48 in total).
- All Cowes Town Council town map display units (6 in total).

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Annual safety inspections were carried out on 9 May 2019 by RoSPA inspectors on the Outdoor Gym, Skate Park and MUGA areas at Northwood Recreation Ground. The Static Gym met with all relevant standards, however, the grass matting has been lifted and requires refitting. Contractors will be refitting the matting shortly. In the Skate Park, rust under the skate ramps needs monitoring and descaling before painting. Ramp surfaces are slippery and need repainting with grip paint. Tarmac repairs are needed to damaged areas. One of the diagonal frame supports has been bent and requires straightening. One of the platform railings has also been bent. This has been caused by vandalism.

Routine inspections were carried out by the Assistant Town Clerk on 28 May 2019. The bent section of MUGA fencing has not yet been replaced. One of the large entrance gates of the Skate Park was removed from its hinges by vandals. The gate is being stored off-site until it is refitted by JR Fencing. The painting of the ramp surfaces and tarmac repairs are on hold pending the refitting of the entrance gate. Councillor Fuller requested that the contractor refitting the gate be asked to straighten the bent frame support and platform railings. The dog bin located at the rear of the Cricket Club has lost its lid. Island Roads have agreed to fit a new lid. Wood chip is required under the swing seat of the Playbuilder. Two poles at the top of the slide have been removed by vandals. The IW Council will undertake the repairs. The drinking water tap sited on the front of the toilet block was replaced in May, however, it was too large for the original anti-vandal guard and has been left in an unsatisfactory condition, severely restricting its usage. The plumber has been requested to install a larger guard which will permit the tap to be adjusted and provide a connection point for the water bowser. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask G Filer Engineering to inspect the underside of the skate ramps and advise if any rust found is considered acceptable following the recent sandblasting and painting.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask JR Fencing to straighten the bent frame support and platform railings when they refit the entrance gate.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk will follow up the repair to the drinking water tap.

269. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Grass cutting – Councillor Brown
- Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland – Councillor Taylor
- Historic points of interest – Councillor Taylor

The proceedings terminated at 7.29pm.

CHAIRMAN