

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 18 July 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Bertie, Brown, Ellis, Jones, Rafferty, Reynolds (7.09pm),
Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; County Press Reporter.

Prior to the start of the meeting a moments silence was held in recognition of former Town Councillor Bob Robinson who recently passed away.

7971 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Bustin, Fuller, Hammond, Nicholson & Oliver.

7972 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

7973 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 month of June 2019 showed 13 assaults; 6 criminal damage; 7 theft; 1 theft of a motor vehicle; 3 malicious communications; 2 drug offences; 3 public order offences.

Their priorities are Shed breaks: in light of recent breaks Island-wide; Drug related harm: to identify and reduce harm to people who may be affected in the community; Op Sceptre: force-wide educational initiative / awareness into knife crime. It was reported that following a recent PACT meeting that these priorities will be changing to include anti-social behaviour and the night time economy in Cowes.

Concerns were raised about the increased number of assaults but this could be one incident with several people involved which can make the figures appear worse than they actually are.

Concerns were raised about cars racing against each other up and down the dual carriageway and other areas, including Cowes. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the local Safer Neighbourhood officer asking what is being done to stop the racing of cars around the local area.

7974 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6 June 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7975 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present therefore no questions were raised.

7976 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

A question was raised to all Isle of Wight Councillors present, in relation to Councillor Fuller's report, about the reconfiguration of St Mary's roundabout. Councillor Peacey Wilcox, in Councillor Fuller's absence, advised that the new scheme being proposed removes the roundabout and increases the traffic flow by adding additional traffic lanes. Southern Electric will take the opportunity, while these works are undertaken, to lay a new large electricity cable under the dual carriageway between the College and up through Forest Road. This new cable will reduce the number of power cuts experienced in this area. The scheme is due to start on 30 September 2019; any delays will cause project costs to rise.

Councillor Bertie reiterated his comments in his report regarding the lack of information relating to the La Trinite – Cowes to St Malo race on 12 July 2019. He was surprised that no one seemed to know about this race which was organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will write to the RORC with a request for information to be circulated in regard to any future sailing events.
2. The Mayor of Cowes will write a letter to the Mayors of the towns or yacht clubs involved in the race, acknowledging their visit and hoping that they will return for future events.

Councillor Bertie advised Councillors that the owner of the Cowes Central & Post Office needs the Town Council's help to move forward his planning application with the IW Council for a mini boutique hotel at the site. It was agreed:

ACTION

The planning application for Cowes Central will be added to the next Agenda for Cowes Town Council's Planning & Licensing Committee.

7977 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 20 June 2019 and 11 July 2019 were received and noted.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 11 June 2019 and 9 July 2019 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

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

c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 June 2019 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That a grant be made to Victim Support in the sum of £150.
2. That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Community Club in the sum of £800.

- d) IWALC Executive Committee
The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 20 June 2019 were received and noted.
- e) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meetings held on 13 May 2019 and 8 July 2019 were received and noted. It was agreed:
ACTION
The Town Clerk will write to the Supporters of Cowes Library to commend them for the excellent job that they do and for bringing so many interesting and varied events to the Library.
- f) Isle of Wight Council Community Plastic Forum
The Minutes of the Isle of Wight Council Community Plastic Forum held on 20 June 2019 were received and noted.
- g) Floating Bridge User Group
The Minutes of the Floating Bridge User Group meeting held on 24 June 2019 were received and noted. It was noted that the new chains have now been fitted and the bridge is a lot quieter. Timings still need to be resolved.

7978 THE MAYORAL CHAIN

The Mayor reported that the Mayoral chain had not received any regular maintenance / cleaning for a number of years until recently when the Mayor's husband paid for a clean and some minor repairs. The jeweller who undertook these works advised that the whole chain needs to be re-gilded in the near future and the engraving needs to be updated. It is unfair for the current Mayor to have to fund this from the annual Mayor's allowance and some provision should be made by the Town Council to fund future maintenance work to preserve this iconic chain. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That as from the financial year 2020 / 2021 a budget heading of 'Civic Regalia' will be included in the Town Council's budget.**
- 2. In the financial year 2020 / 2021 a sum of £1,000 will be included in the budget heading 'Civic Regalia'.**
- 3. That any funds remaining in the 'Mayor's Allowance' budget heading for 2019 / 2020 will be earmarked for 'Civic regalia' purposes.**

7979 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2019. Cheque payments totalled £18,131.40; petty cash payments totalled £80.00. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £18,131.40 and petty cash payments of £80.00 be received, noted and approved.

7980 APPOINTMENT TO THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk advised that one vacancy remains on the Projects Committee. Councillors were asked to make an appointment to the Projects Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rafferty be appointed to the Projects Committee.

7981 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A review of Cowes Town Council's Statement of Purpose was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Statement of Purpose.

7982 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S KEY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

A review of Cowes Town Council's Key Service Objectives was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Key Service Objectives.

7983 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR THE AUDIO RECORDING OF TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A review of Cowes Town Council's Policy for the Audio Recording of Town Council and Committee meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy for the Audio Recording of Town Council and Committee meetings.

7984 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LAND AT MARKET HILL WORKING GROUP

Following the resolution from the Projects Committee (Min No. 7977b) a 'Land at Market Hill Working Group' is established. The Terms of Reference were agreed and the working group will comprise of five Councillors. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Terms of Reference for the Land at Market Hill Working Group be approved.**
- 2. That the Land at Market Hill Working Group will comprise of five Councillors.**
- 3. That Councillors Bertie, Brown, Jones & Rafferty be appointed to the Land at Market Hill Working Group.**
- 4. That the vacancy on the Land at Market Hill Working Group be added to the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.**
- 5. That a date for a meeting of the Land at Market Hill Working Group be set.**

7985 CCTV SERVICE CHANGES FOLLOWING THE IW COUNCIL'S SAVINGS MADE TO THE PFI CONTRACT

Councillors received details of the CCTV service changes following the IW Council's savings made to the PFI contract. All current CCTV cameras on the Island will still operate from fixed positions in their original locations but will not be live monitored. Footage from the cameras will still be available for evidence purposes on request from the Police. The IW Council have determined to supplement the remaining service by an additional £50,000; the Police will still be supported to review the CCTV footage and will also be able to access the control room, on request, to view specific cameras or use the CCTV control room for the purposes of specific operations.

7986 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now completed its review of the IW Council and have provided a summary of the Commission's report setting out their final recommendations for the Isle of Wight. The final recommendations propose that the Isle of Wight Council should have 39 Councillors; this is one fewer than the current number of Councillors. The boundaries of 30 divisions will change and some divisions will have new names. There have been some minor changes to Cowes' boundaries. The proposed changes must be implemented by order subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. A draft order will be laid in Parliament and will provide for new electoral arrangements for the Isle of Wight at the local elections in 2021.

7987 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken included playground inspections; toilet inspections; fly-tipping, dog fouling and litter in Cowes. Councillors acknowledged how busy the Environment Officer has been and are disappointed at the current levels of vandalism and fly-tipping in Cowes.

7988 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7989 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Cowes Week update and the use of the seafront for other sailing events – Councillor Wardrop

The proceedings terminated at 8pm

CHAIRMAN