

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 6 August 2019 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (6.20pm)(Chair), Adams, Brown, Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty and Taylor

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

277. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

278. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) No declarations of interests were received.

b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

279. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 July 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

280. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was not in attendance but had provided an update on the project. The revised documents have been submitted to Island Roads and the Planning Department at the IW Council. Martin expects to receive the final budget costing for consideration at the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

The Cut - Mural

Painting of the new mural is due to be completed by Thursday 8 August 2019, weather permitting. Once completed, the mural will have a new anti-graffiti paint covering added to protect the design from vandalism. Councillors considered holding an official unveiling of the new mural and felt that the three school children from Cowes Primary School whose designs the mural has been based on should be invited to attend. It was suggested that they each be presented with a Book Token to honour their contribution to the final design.

It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Cowes Primary School to make arrangements to invite the three students to an unveiling of the mural.
2. Three book tokens will be purchased to present to the students, with the cost to be met from the Mayor's Allowance.

b) **Cowes Town Council engagements to promote the town**

The Chairman advised that a survey had been undertaken by Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council to seek residents' views on what they wished to have in their town. The survey was commissioned as a result of the 'Building better places' parliamentary initiative. A number of the suggestions made by Newport residents could also be relevant to Cowes. The Chairman will request information from Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council's survey that may be helpful or relevant to us, for consideration at the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

The Town Council's floor-standing display stand will be displayed at Cowes Christmas Fair to increase public awareness of the areas of responsibility of the Town Council.

At the last meeting of the Projects Committee Councillors were asked to seek their neighbours' views on the Town Council's quarterly newsletter. Councillors discussed the responses they had received and it was felt that an alternative method of communication with residents could be considered. The Mayor suggested a regular, shorter article in the Beacon magazine, which had been done previously, and she offered to make enquiries regarding costings. These can then be compared with the current cost of printing and delivering the quarterly Newsletter. Residents' views will be sought immediately following distribution of the next edition of the Newsletter and any feedback considered at a future meeting of the Projects Committee. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Nicholson will request information from Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council's survey that may be helpful or relevant to us.
2. The Mayor will trial a different style for the next edition of the Newsletter.
3. The Mayor will contact the Beacon magazine to obtain costings for a regular article.
4. The Assistant Town Clerk will provide the Mayor with the current costs of printing and delivering the quarterly Newsletter.

c) Cowes as a pesticide free town

Councillor Taylor offered to trial a Glyphosate-free weed killer on an area of weeds at Northwood Park and will seek permission from the Park's Maintenance Supervisor. Councillors suggested Northwood Cemetery could be a possible alternative site if permission is not given for the trial at Northwood Park. It was agreed

ACTION:

Councillor Taylor will seek permission to undertake a controlled trial on an area of weeds at Northwood Park.

d) Mornington Road Car Park

Councillors were concerned at the length of the closure of Mornington Road car park and nearby on-street parking for the King's Cup, SailGP and Cowes Week sailing events. It was felt that the Town Council and residents had not been consulted with prior to the decision being made, despite the IW Council saying it wanted to have more engagement with town and parish councils. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the Cabinet Member for Resources to raise the Town Council's concerns at the restriction on parking along the esplanade area and the lack of consultation with the Town Council and residents.

e) Updating the Town Maps

Alan Rowe of Potting Shed Cartoons is designing a new town map for the large map display cases throughout the town. He is working on the final black and white drawing of the streets prior to adding the colour.

f) High Street Bollards and Cycling

Councillor Bertie is producing a bollard cover which will promote the prohibition of vehicles in the High Street. This will be presented at a future Town Council meeting.

A request has been received from a resident, asking for the Town Council to consider installing a dedicated cycle lane in Birmingham Road and the High Street. A similar request had previously been made but was rejected by Island Roads on safety grounds. Councillors reiterated the reasons why this is not possible, including: parked cars in Birmingham Road wouldn't see oncoming cyclists until they have nearly exited their parking space; the No Entry signs on Shooters Hill and the High Street at the entrance to Fountain Yard prohibit all

traffic, including cyclists, from travelling against the one-way restriction in these roads; the High Street is not wide enough to accommodate a cycle lane without it putting cyclists directly into the path of oncoming vehicles; pedestrians could walk into the path of oncoming cyclists when exiting shops, causing injury to themselves and/or the cyclist. The shared pedestrian/cycle path works well along the seafront where there is adequate visibility and width to safely accommodate both types of users, however, the High Street and Shooters Hill do not have adequate width or visibility and have the addition of vehicles between 7am and 10am daily, many of whom are large delivery lorries. Cycling against the direction of the one-way restriction is not permitted at any time of day or night and is enforceable by the Police. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will provide a response to the request for a designated cycle lane.

- g) **Recreational Pathway and Community Orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground**
People Powered Community Interest Company (CIC) are obtaining the costings they need to submit with the bid for funding for the recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground. Once all costings have been obtained they will finalise the bid and submit it.
- h) **Community Emergency Plan**
Creation of a community emergency plan for Cowes was raised at a previous meeting of the Projects Committee. Councillors discussed various organisations located in the town that, subject to the agreement of the relevant owners, could be used in the event of a community emergency. It was agreed
ACTION:
The Assistant Town Clerk will write a standard letter and send to a number of local organisations where there are suitable facilities, seeking their permission to be included in a community emergency plan.
- i) **Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland**
The idea of an area of woodland adjacent to the Moorgreen Reservoir public open space being made accessible to the public as an extension of the public open space was raised at the previous meeting of the Projects Committee. The land has been confirmed as being in the ownership of the IW Council. The woodland is currently leased to a local allotment society, along with the adjacent allotments. Councillors are interested to see the tree species that grow in the woodland area and believe there are a number of established paths located therein. They would like to visit the site, subject to the agreement of the current leaseholder. It was agreed
ACTION:
The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the leaseholder to seek permission for two Town Councillors to visit the woodland area.
- j) **Historic points of interest**
At the previous meeting, Councillors discussed promoting historical and cultural connections in Cowes to visitors and residents in a bid to be more tourist friendly and raise awareness of the town's history. Councillors felt a number of places of interest can easily be missed and ways of promoting them should be considered, such as installing a small plaque on the relevant building. The Chairman tabled a number of examples of historic walks which are already established, which provide information on historical features in the town. The walks are available on the Beer and Buses and IWCAMRA websites. Councillors agreed the links to the historic walks could be promoted on the Town Council's website and felt it would be beneficial if Cowes Harbour Commission could also promote the links in their next Harbour

Handbook. Visit IOW may be able to assist with making historic points of interest interactive on their website. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will investigate costings of suitable plaques for installation on historic buildings.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will include a link to the historic walks on the Town Council's website.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Cowes Harbour Commission to consider promoting the historic walks in their Harbour Handbook.
4. Councillor Nicholson will contact Visit IOW to discuss making historic points of interest interactive on their website.

281. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The large map display unit at the junction of Birmingham Road and Mill Hill Road has been repaired with new Perspex.

282. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Wight Book – Councillor Adams.

The proceedings terminated at 7.40pm

CHAIRMAN