

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE held in the Community all at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 26th May, 2010 at 7.40pm.

Present: Councillor McGregor (Chairman)

Councillors Birch, Giffard, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox, Wells and Wilcox.

In attendance: (Non voting) Councillor Fuller (I.W. Council)

268 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor McGregor be appointed Chairman of the Town Improvements Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

269 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, Matthews and Mrs. Martin-Dye.

270 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

271 PROJECTS IN HAND

a). Enhancement, The Cut

The Town Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with Martin Hayles and Mike Wheeler regarding a revised planning application for enhancement works at The Cut; it had been hoped that a new permission could be obtained quickly and the works undertaken between October and December 2010. Mr. Hayles had subsequently advised that he had completed an amended survey and based on the discussions had prepared Sketch Design Drawings in readiness to submit the formal planning application. However, at a pre-application meeting with the Principal Highways Surveyor it had transpired that further internal consultations would be necessary with Highways, Traffic etc which would be neither easy nor quick. Mr. Hayles did not now believe the necessary approvals would be obtained to meet the original timescale; he could not envisage work would be able to commence until mid January 2011.

The Town Council had 'ring fenced' £60k for the enhancement work which Mr. Wheeler considered could be sufficient to complete the scheme.

b). Basketball Court, Northwood Recreation Ground

Councillor McGregor reported that applications had now been submitted to the following for grants towards the costs associated with the new basketball court:

- Youth Opportunities Fund (up to a maximum of £10k)
- Police – I.W. Youth Inclusion Forum (up to £3k)
- Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention (up to £3k)
- Sports England Small Grants (up to £10k)

One further application was about to be submitted specifically towards the cost of the floodlighting as follows:

- Awards for All (up to £6.5k)

A decision regarding all applications should be know within 4-6 weeks; the Police had advised that they would then be able to further apply for a PTCG top up grant for £3k. With the £7.5k already 'ring fenced' for the basketball court, if the Town Council was successful with all the applications there would be sufficient funding to complete the project.

c). Adventure Play Equipment, Northwood Recreation Ground

Councillor McGregor reported that the adventure play park was now well under construction; she made the following observations regarding the project:

- that there had been some delays with materials; the actual play equipment would not be installed until the last moment.
- that the Parks Officer had advised that byelaws regarding dogs were difficult to enforce and generally ineffective; he recommended a Dog Control Order for the site.
- that a competition to design a sign to inform dog owners not to let their dogs onto the playpark and to name the play area had been held; Primary and Middle Schools had been invited to participate. The winners had been chosen and prizes would be awarded at the official opening; all youngsters who had taken part would be given a certificate. The winning designs had been sent to the I.W. Council who would hopefully fund the signs.
- that the Town Council would arrange an Official Opening on a weekday towards the end of June; a budget would be required for prizes for the competition winners and perhaps a token gift for all youngsters attending.
- That all minor amendments to the contract had been agreed by Groundwork Solent; an invoice for £36,029.23 as the first stage payment on the contract had also been agreed.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Council allocates up to £200 for costs associated with the official opening of the new playpark and towards the prizes for the competition winners.

d). IT facilities for the Elderly

The Town Clerk reported that there may soon be office facilities available for the Town Council in Northwood House; this could provide an opportunity for the provision of the IT facility for the elderly.

As a possible back up arrangement, Councillor Peacey-Wilcox agreed to pursue discussions with the Library Service with a view to extending the service they already provide.

272 THE BANDSTAND

The Town Clerk reported that he had obtained some information from the internet for tensile fabric structures; the cost of a covered structure 10m x 8m ranged from £21k to £50k.

There were concerns that youngsters who already climb on the toilet roof at the bandstand, would then jump onto the fabric canopy.

Following much discussion it was agreed that the Town Council should not pursue a covered structure at the bandstand at this stage; members agreed that soft landscaping could provide a significant improvement to the area and undertook to give further thought as to how this might be achieved.

273 DEDICATION SIGN, NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

The Town Clerk reported that a sign which stated that the Northwood Recreation Ground had been given to the people of Cowes by the Ward Estate had been removed from a pillar at the entrance to the recreation ground; a local resident had requested it be replaced. Research by a local historian had not definitively identified the exact wording on the plaque; it was agreed that the Town Mayor would and Councillor Fuller would appeal for information through their articles in their respective newsletters.

274 THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Town Clerk reported that the Cowes Community Partnership had requested the War Memorial project be transferred to the Town Council; the CCP had obtained a grant of £952 towards the scheme and the Town Council had 'ring fenced' £4,700 but there remained a shortfall of approximately £5,500. Councillor Fuller suggested that Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils could be invited to contribute towards the project.

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That the Town Council assumes responsibility for the completion of the War Memorial project; and
- 2). That the Town Council obtains revised quotations for the works prior to determining how best to fund any shortfall for the project.

275 ADDITIONAL NOTICE BOARD

The Town Council had referred the possible provision of an additional notice board to be used primarily for community notices to the Town Improvement Committee for consideration. Councillor McGregor stated that the Knowledge Zone idea of interactive boards through the town would not be implemented in the short term.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1) That the Town Council does not provide an additional notice board specifically for community notices; and
- 2). That subject to available space, the Town Clerk is given the discretion to display community notices on the Town Council notice board.

276 EGYPT ESPLANADE

a). Additional bench, Egypt Light

The Town Council had been asked to provide an additional bench at Egypt Light facing to the west. Further enquiries to be made prior to a decision.

b). Covered shelter.

Councillor Fuller had received numerous requests for a bus shelter outside Briary Court. A further suggestion had been made that the Town Council provide a covered shelter for pedestrians on the seaward side of the Esplanade.

Concern was expressed that any covered shelter would be utilised by youngsters at night; Town Council should concentrate on the projects they already had in hand and therefore they should not proceed with a covered shelter at this stage.

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That the Town Council does not proceed with the provision of a covered shelter on the seaward side of the Esplanade; and
- 2). That the Town Council supports Councillor Fuller in his endeavours to have a bus shelter installed outside of Briary Court.

c). Cowes sign.

The Cowes sign on the Esplanade had deteriorated and was in urgent need of re-painting.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to instruct a local builder to re-paint the Cowes sign on The Esplanade.

277 ARCTIC PARK

The Committee had been requested to consider whether or not Arctic Park should be designated a 'dog free' area or whether it should be adapted as a play area for youngsters; the Town Mayor stated that he had received numerous responses to his Beacon article on this subject. All those responding had been against the idea of a play area; they all considered that Arctic Park should be retained in its current format. However; although the area was used by many responsible dog owners, many were not responsible and dogs fouling the area remained a serious problem.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would examine with the I.W. Council exactly what options and Orders might be available to help eliminate the problem of dog fouling in Arctic Park; he would also request early morning and evening patrols by the Dog Warden.

278 SEAT, HIGH STREET

Councillor Jones stated that he had received numerous complaints that the seat outside Baileys shop in the High Street had been removed; he had been informed that it had been damaged and removed but that it would not be replaced on Health & Safety grounds.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox had also received numerous complaints that the seat had been removed; she had been informed that a replacement seat for that location would cost approximately £760.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk make an official approach to the I.W. Council for clarification prior to further consideration.

279 BLACKBERRY LANE

Councillor Fuller stated that it had now been established that the I.W. Council owned both the road and footpath in Blackberry Lane; he wished to see the provision of a litter bin, a street light and improvements to the pavement in this well used access road between Park Road and Cowes Primary School and the Crossfield Estate. Councillor Fuller would be arranging meetings with representatives from the School and Travel Plan Governors regarding these issues and questioned whether a representative from the Town Council would attend to support him.

It was agreed that the Town Council would support the improvements suggested for Blackberry Lane and that the Town Mayor would attend any future meetings that were arranged on the subject.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.12p.m.)

CHAIRMAN