

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COWES TOWN COUNCIL held at Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Wells (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Birch, Giffard, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Mazillius, Sanderson, Thwaites and Walters.

### 6347 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, McGregor, Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox.

### 6348 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

An opportunity was given for members of the public to ask questions but none were asked.

### 6349 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Brown had apologised for his absence.**

**Councillor Mazillius had nothing of significance to report.**

**Councillor Fuller circulated a written report referring to the following:**

- a). That the exhibition to unveil proposals for the new Secondary School in Cowes had been well attended; he had asked Tree Officers to investigate the protection of trees and woodland on the school site..
- b). That the next meeting of the Cowes Town Plan Working Group would be held at St. Thomas' Church Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30p.m..
- c). That work on the pavement link in Baring Road between Park Road and Crossfield Avenue would start on 14<sup>th</sup> June and would last for 6 weeks.
- d). That the Briary Court Management Company were unlikely to look favourably on a bus shelter outside the premises; it could provide a meeting place for youngsters which would have adverse crime and disorder implications for the property.
- e). That he had received complaints concerning the removal and cutting down of trees in the woodland at Battery Road.
- f). That there were issues arising from the perceived non-enforcement of 6 ft 6 width restrictions particularly in Baring Road; he had spoken to Highways Officers regarding a plan for construction traffic following recent planning permissions for sites in Egypt Hill and Queens Road.
- g). That he had been approached by Head Teachers, school governors and residents regarding issues connected with school reorganisation.
- h). That he had received a complaint concerning the sale of cars at the Roundhouse junction; for the last few months cars had been rotationally offered for sale at that location. He had asked the Licensing Department to investigate and although there had been one or two re-occurrences the sale of cars from that location had abated. He was also looking into an abundance of vans and lorries being parked in Crossfield Avenue.
- i). That the Council's Street Inspection function was to be integrated with the Environment and Neighbourhood Officer function which could achieve savings of £250,000 from the Council's budget.

## **6350 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

### **Sgt. Julie Cocks reported as follows:**

- a). That the police had been dealing with a complaint of anti-social behaviour at the Brunswick Road playground and noise from the neighbouring church. The police had not identified a problem during their routine patrols; Sgt. Cocks had therefore undertaken a 'street mapping' exercise in the area. Apart from the initial complainant, only one other person had mentioned an issue with the playground and none regarding noise from the church.
- b). That the Hampshire Constabulary would be 'rolling out' a summer anti social behaviour campaign – each area would select a top three list of individuals and locations to target. For our area the three locations would be around Somerton School, St. Faiths Church to the Cemetery and Gurnard beach and the three individual targets had each signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in the presence of their parents.
- c). That the police had seen a rise in the amount of alcohol being seized from juveniles; she was concerned that should the police fail to seize the alcohol, youngsters could become involved in criminal damage or anti social behaviour. Her team were therefore, concentrating on stopping the supply of alcohol to youngsters; they would be undertaking a series of 'test purchases' throughout the town and they would be targeting individuals who purchase alcohol for youngsters.
- d). That the police would be utilising a new law that creates an offence for persistently possessing alcohol in a public place; if the police seize alcohol three times in a twelve month period from a young person under eighteen, on the third occasion that youngster would be arrested.
- e). That she was hopeful the application for the Crime Prevention Grant for the basketball court would be successful.

## **6351 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

### **Neil Perry had submitted a written report which referred to the following issues that he had dealt with during the last month:**

- 1 untaxed car (CLE2 had been issued)
- 1 case of anti social behaviour/damage
- 9 instances of graffiti (all had been removed)
- 1 case of fly posting (removed)
- 3 instances of fly tipping of domestic waste (evidence found in 1 case, tagged and reported)
- 5 assorted defects had been reported to various departments
- Early patrols for littering/dog fouling continued (5 FPN's or warnings had been issued)

During the build up to the I.W. Festival Neil would be in Cowes on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June through to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## **6352 MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **6353 MATTERS ARISING**

### **a). Francki Place (Min. No. 6346d refers)**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from Southern Water which stated that the second phase of essential construction works that 4Delivery had been carrying out on behalf of Southern Water in Francki Place had now finished; the work had been part of Southern Water's ongoing environmental improvement programme to help reduce the risk of flooding from sewers.

Correspondence from the I.W. Council Principal Estates Surveyor was also submitted regarding the erection of the flagpole in Francki Place. It stated that the I.W. Council had no objection providing the Town Council complied with a number of conditions that had been set out in order to protect the public interest including a planning consent if necessary.

Finally, the Town Clerk submitted a quotation for the supply of flags as follows:

2 yard sewn Union (6'x3') rope & toggled, ready to fly	£53.24
2 yard St. George (6'x3') rope & toggled, ready to fly	£37.64
Printed Cowes T.C. flag (6'x3') rope & toggled ready to fly	£76.45
Recreating artwork for C.T.C. flag if necessary	£50.00
Packing & carriage to I.W.	£12.00

#### **RESOLVED**

1). That the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase the three flags as listed above.

#### **b). I.W. Councillor Newsletters (Min. No. 6290a refers)**

Following a request from Councillor Fuller that his monthly newsletter be placed on the Town Council website, it had occurred to the Town Mayor that his monthly report for the Beacon magazine should be reproduced on the website.

Councillor Birch suggested a compromise solution in respect of I.W. Councillors; if they wished to place their monthly news on their websites, the Town Council could provide a link to those pages.

#### **RESOLVED**

1). That the Town Mayor's report be placed on the Town Council's website on a monthly basis; and  
2). That the Town Council would have a link on their website to the individual websites for I.W.

Councillors for the Cowes area.

#### **c). Emergency Flood Plan (Min. No. 6323b refers)**

Councillor Walters requested permission to reproduce copies of the Cowes Emergency Flood Plan for circulation to those properties most at risk from flooding. The Flood Plan should be of a size and in a format that would make it both useable and be retained by householders.

The Town Council wished to record their thanks to Councillor Walters for the work he had undertaken in producing the Emergency Flood Plan document.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council prints 200 copies of their Emergency Flood Plan for circulation to houses in the areas most at risk from flooding.

#### **d). CCTV (Min. No. 6312a refers)**

The Town Clerk submitted correspondence from the Community Safety Operations Manager, a copy of which had been circulated to each member. It stated that obtaining the wayleave agreements had caused some delays; these agreements were now in place. Seven of the ten cameras for Cowes between the Floating Bridge and Hursts were now operating 100% with excellent picture results; a faulty piece of equipment which had now been re-ordered had delayed the installation of the remaining three cameras. The Community Safety Operations Manager wished to have all 10 cameras up, running, tested and commissioned before signing the system off and inviting Town Councillors to visit the Control Room.

#### **e). Vacancies, Cowes Medina and North wards (Min. no. 6330 refers)**

The Town Clerk reported that the required ten electors from the Medina ward had requested an election be held to fill the vacancy in that ward; the official notice of the election would be published in the I.W. County Press and a copy had been placed on the Town Council notice board. If the election was to be contested it would cost the Town Council approximately £1,000 plus a further £1,200 if the Town Council required poll cards to be issued to the 3,127 electors in the ward. The required signatures requesting an election be held in the Cowes North ward had not been received; the Town Council had no other option than to fill the vacancy by co-option.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Town Council does not issue poll cards in this instance for a contested election in the Cowes Medina ward but would opt to publicise it by other means.

## 6354 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

### **a). Annual Town Meeting**

The Minutes of the twenty sixth Annual Town Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

### **b). Northwood House**

Councillor Thwaites stated that following receipt of the I.W. Council letter outlining deadlines for the transfer of various functions relating to the Northwood House estate and their unilateral decision to terminate discussions with the Trustees and the Town Council, the Trustees had been obliged to concentrate on seeking, briefing and taking legal advice. The most urgent and probably wide reaching issues related to insurance.

In spite of long standing, oft repeated requests the I.W. Council had not provided the Trustees with the type of information they required including income due to the estate from car parking etc. to pay for urgent requirements such as insurance and legal advice which the Council recommends the Trustees take.

The I.W. Council had over many years installed and run facilities such as the Park Road car park, public conveniences, tennis courts, bowling and putting green as well as play equipment; they were now threatening to withdraw from running, maintaining and insuring these areas of the Estate. If that occurred, the Trustees may have no option other than to close any of the affected facilities as in the absence of suitable insurance cover or funds to run and maintain the facilities the Trustees would not have any alternative.

The Trustees had to work for the benefit of the Trust at all times; there were currently five Trustees and various specialist advisors but also two vacancies and they wished to recruit a dedicated minute secretary. It had recently been reported that Michelin Starred chef, Robert Thompson, had been hoping to open a temporary restaurant at Northwood House for the summer; the Trustees were interested in seeing the house come to life in that way but were awaiting sufficient detail to determine whether or not this would bring benefit to the Trust.

The Trustees were grateful for the efforts that the Town Council had been making to be a helpful partner in dealings with the I.W. Council; they were aware that the Town Council was not part of the I.W. Council decision to terminate negotiations. In the meantime, the Trustees would continue their dialogue with the Charity Commission and to seek professional legal advice.

### **c). Northwood House Sub Group**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1). That with the current information available from the I.W. Council and the Trustees, Cowes Town Council regrets that it cannot pursue taking on the role of Custodian Trustee. The Town Council is aware that the I.W. Council and the Trustees are engaged in communication that may bring about a fundamental change in the operation of the Trust and the Town Council's involvement at this stage would not be constructive. Cowes Town Council remains very concerned for the future of Northwood House and they will continue to carefully monitor the situation as it develops; and
- 2). That Cowes Town Council will continue to provide as much assistance as possible to the Trust to help them achieve their aims for Northwood House and its grounds.

(Councillor Thwaites, as Chair of the Northwood House Charity declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and she left the room)

### **d). Cowes Community Partnership**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Cowes Community Partnership held on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

### **e). Cowes Week Ltd. Shoreside Committee**

Notes of a Meeting of the Cowes Week Ltd. Shoreside Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

**f). I.W. Society Village Design Statement Working Group**

Notes of the Meeting of the I.W. Society Village Design Working Group held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

**g). Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were received.

(Councillor Hammond left the meeting at 8.38p.m.)

**h). Finance Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

**1) Annual audit and final accounts 2009/10.**

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Internal Auditors report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 be received and noted;
- 2). That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor; and
- 3). That the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor.

**2) Application for financial assistance for special event.**

The Carnival Committee were seeking financial assistance towards the 2010 programme of carnival events.

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council requires further clarification regarding the Carnival Committees paperwork and accounts prior to the application being further considered at a future meeting.

**3) Payment of item included in the estimates.**

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk be authorised to release the Town Mayor's allowance for the current financial year.

**4) Renewal of insurance.**

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk be authorised to renew the Town Council's insurance policy through Allianz Insurance in the sum of £1,927.13.

**i). Town Improvements Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were received.

**1) New adventure play park, Northwood Recreation Ground.**

**RESOLVED**

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

**2). The War Memorial**

**RESOLVED**

- 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.

**3) Additional Town Council notice board.**

**RESOLVED**

- 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.

**4) Covered shelter, Egypt Esplanade.**

**RESOLVED**

- 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.

**5). 'Cowes' sign, Egypt Esplanade.**

**RESOLVED**

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

**6). Benches, Northwood Park.**

The Town Clerk also reported that members of the Bowling Club in Northwood Park had requested the benches, initially provided by the Town Council for around the bowling green, be re-stained; Bowling Club members would undertake the work.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk be authorised to provide the materials necessary for the benches around the bowling green in Northwood Park to be re-stained.

**6355 MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

- a). An application to Vary a Premises Licence for Cowes Parade
- b). An application for a Premises Licence for Extreme Sailing Series, Egypt Point.
- c). \*Details of Code of Conduct Training sessions.
- d). \*Details of the Area Action Plan consultation.
- e). A request that the Town Council support an application for a Continental Village Market that is to be held in Cowes on 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- f). \*Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

(\* copies circulated to all members)

**RESOLVED**

- 1). That the Town Council has no objection to the grant of a Premises Licence for Cowes Parade in respect of Cowes Week but they do object to the licence being extended to include periods for Round the Island weekend and August Bank Holiday weekend on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance as the extended periods would be a serious imposition for the very many local residents living in the area;
- 2). That the Town Council has no objection to the grant of a Premises Licence for the Extreme Sailing Series, Egypt Point;
- 3). That Councillors will notify the Town Clerk if they wish to attend the Code of Conduct training; and
- 4). That the Town Council supports the proposed Continental Village Market to be held in Cowes on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.12pm)

**CHAIRMAN**