

Cowes Town Council

Minutes of the Town Improvements Committee Meeting held at Town Council Offices, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on 7th June 2011 at 7.00p.m.

Present

Cllr Banks, Birch, Brown, Jones, Matthews, McGregor, Sanderson, Robinson, Walters, Wells,

314 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hammond, Wilcox and Peacey-Wilcox.

315 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Wells was nominated as chairman.

Cllr McGregor declared a personal interest.

Cllr Wells was unanimously elected.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Wells be chairman of the Town Improvements Committee.

316 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2011 be taken as read and approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

317 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs Wells and McGregor declared a personal prejudicial interest on the Victoria Plaque.

318 a **NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND**

 i **TOILET LEASE**

Councillors discussed items 13 and 18.3.3 of the lease. It was considered that paying the landlord's solicitor's fee to register this lease of £30.00 (18.3.3) was a reasonable cost. Lease does not state if it's a full repair lease, but presumably is implicate that this is the case.

RESOLVED

To take no further action at this stage and bring to next meeting if appropriate at the time.

 ii **TOILET CONDITION REPORT**

Report of fire in ladies toilet requiring a safety certificate. Have instructed an electrician to check this safety and issue a certificate. Need clarity with IWC over who will pay for this and who is responsible.

Cllr Banks reported that the toilets need a deep clean and minor works to refresh the toilets. Still not been able to look in the accessible toilets and cleaners cupboard. Cllr Banks has attended to try and coincide with the cleaner's visit and the cleaner did not attend.

RESOLVED

That Cllr McGregor will seek further details on the responsibilities for the electrical safety certificate from the IW Council.

To write to IWC with condition report requesting that these are put right before signing lease, once the draft report is re-presented to TI committee before writing to IWC.

 iii **BASKETBALL COURT**

FUNDING

Cllr Walters circulated figures for the MUGA showing the current funds and monies allocated.

Cllr McGregor reported that Section 106 funds of £3,000 are ear-marked for Cowes area. Not currently allocated and Lee Matthews has stated that this will not be allocated to another project while CTC try and secure other funds to make-up the funding shortfall.

The Asst. Town Clerk reported that there is a new Sport England fund which the Town Council is not eligible to apply for as it does not cover either multi-use games areas or basketball courts. It was also reported that towards the end of the summer the IWC may have some unallocated Play Builder grant funding available and that an indication had been given that this project could be awarded some funding from this stream. However the amounts and processes around this are currently unclear.

Currently shortfall is £13, 441 (for court without lighting)

Cllr Wells has spoken to a national contractor who is keen to support the community in Cowes. The contractor's will look at the project and see if they can re-quote for this facility.

Cllr Walters suggested moving £20 000 for the Cut and from this year's new project's budget (subject to agreement) making around £25 000 of new funds for the basketball court. This could be possible as these funds were under spend in previous years and not ring-fenced to The Cut specifically.

Discussion over how the decision was made to build a basketball court v's MUGA took place and the history of the project. A range of views were stated but there was a consensus that the plan provides an excellent opportunity for young people to get together to do sports.

Pedestrianising The Cut as a first step would allow CTC to then take a view on other improvements in the long term. This would allow funding for both The Cut and the basketball court.

RESOLVED

To wait for a new quote for the basketball court with the potential to transfer monies to this project from the Cut and thus scale-back The Cut project.

iv **PICNIC BENCHES**

Cllr McGregor reported that families have been seen picnicking regularly and have suggested that these be provided.

RESOLVED

That the Asst. Town Clerk gather further information about the likely costs of providing benches and report this at the next meeting.

v **DOG HITCHING POSTS**

The Asst. Town Clerk reported that the tendee has re-submitted his quote as he mis-priced his original quote.

RESOLVED

To re-quote for this work from each of the original tendees, ensuring that they quote to the specification.

vi **PLAQUE FOR NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND**

The Asst. Town Clerk reported that the members of the public who initially bought the missing plaque to the attention of the Town Council had again contacted the Town Council. The Asst. Town Clerk had responded that this matter was still under investigation as the council had agreed to take no further action until the exact wording of the plaque could be established. The Asst. Town Clerk had contacted the County Press for details of how to access their archives, but had received no reply, she had also spoken with George Chasteney who had some information and had offered to look into the matter further.

RESOLVED

That no further action be taken unless further information comes to light.

THE CUT UPDATE ON THE MURAL

Cllr McGregor thanked Cllr Banks for the re-rendering of the wall which is now completed. This weekend Jane Popov will be starting the preparation of the surface for painting next week. Entries on design have been low, but have been encouraged from some other entrants. Block painting will take place in 2 weeks-time. Jane Popov will submit receipts for the materials to the Town Council.

Style of Wight

Keen to still be involved in the project, plans to do an article in Sept / Oct edition requesting some funding / donations in-kind from local companies.

ii APPOINTMENT OF CUT MANAGER

The Asst. Town Clerk reported that she had contacted three civil engineering / architectural firms for quotes on managing this project. All had expressed an interest and one had submitted a quote. The remaining two had requested further information on the project. The closing date for tenders has been set as the 17th June 2011.

c QUEEN VICTORIA PLAQUE

Cllr Wells reported that AJ Wells and Sons are finding difficulty in sourcing plastic wood as you need to buy in large quantities. Suggesting that a hardwood frame on an aluminium backing be used.

Cllr Banks suggested slate back ground and edging in a limestone or similar stone. He stated that aluminium is not a suitable backing.

RESOLVED

Cllr Banks will progress this with his contact in the Cowes Stone Shop. Cllr Wells will get sign back from AJ Wells and Sons.

d SEA WALL

Cllr McGregor reported that Cllr Banks had put a schedule of works together to deal with the sea wall. Since this the IWC have reported that following a complaint from a visitor the IWC will fix the wall at no cost to Cowes Town Council.

Hanging Baskets on Parade

IWC have put a parking charge board up so that the hanging baskets can't be replaced on one lamp post on the Parade.

RESOLVED

That in first instance that Cllr Jones see if the sign can be moved and if needed the Assistant Town Clerk contact the IWC to move the parking sign to allow the replacement of the baskets.

f UP DATING OF TOWN MAPS

The Town Council has been requested to update the existing maps as they are getting quite out of date, including clock and finger posts.

All the Town Council signs and street furniture need to be properly cleaned and decorated and up dated.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Jones undertakes a survey of all street furniture and street maps to highlight any areas which require development or improvement.

Item for Future Agenda

Free Town Maps paid for by advertising – Cllr Banks

Meeting Ended 8.47p.m.