



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 6 November 2012.

Present: - Councillor Matthews (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Robinson and Wells
Councillor Sanderson was also in attendance but non-voting

443 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones, McGregor and Walters

444 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

445 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

The items on the agenda were moved around to accommodate Councillor Banks who had to leave at 7pm to attend another meeting.

446 The Wishing Well

Councillor Banks had prepared a report showing the history of the well. All agreed it is now in a bad state of repair. Councillor Hammond had emailed prior to the meeting stating that the "care" of the Well was now in the hands of the Cowes Carnival Committee but they have no funds to refurbish it. As it appears that both the Isle of Wight Council and the Carnival Committee have no funds, it was suggested that a plan to dismantle the Well, cover it over in glass and reinstate the block paving be considered. This would negate the need for any future maintenance and appease the local restaurateurs who have told Councillors that it is an eyesore, collects rubbish and is a place that attracts anti-social behaviour. The Well has no historical value - but a plaque could be incorporated to show when it was found.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to contact both Councillor Hammond and the IW Council (Highways) to confirm ownership before suggesting a possible solution.

447 The Flag Poles on the Parade

Councillor Banks had prepared a report as this project was previously considered by Cowes Town Council in 2002. The IW Council installed temporary flagpoles on the Parade for the Queen's visit which all present agreed looked very good. Previous costings were obtained for a total of eight fibreglass poles attached to the seaward side of the parade wall. A Planning Application was started using the professional services of Martin Hayles but later withdrawn when the project was abandoned by CTC. Conservation permission would also be required. After much discussion, it was agreed that:

ACTION: Councillor Banks will obtain new estimates for the work and contact Martin Hayles to establish the current cost of making a planning application and obtaining conservation permission.

Councillor Banks left at 7pm.

448 The Bandstand

At last month's meeting, Councillor Wells agreed to contact the IW Council to discuss the long term future of the area. There was no progress with this item so it was carried over to the next meeting.

449 The Horizon Plaque

Councillor Matthews showed the new design which has been produced by APX Design. Everyone agreed this was much better but still needed a little fine tuning. It was mentioned that Fawley Power Station being decommissioned and that that an image of the Oil Refinery would be more appropriate.

ACTION: Councillor Matthews to continue to work with the designers to ensure a final draft and to take photos from the point on the parade to ensure the graphics match the skyline. This will be brought to the next meeting.

450 Festive arrangements for the town

Christmas Trees – two large trees have been donated by a Gurnard Resident and two have been ordered from Haylands Farm at a cost of £3 per foot plus £10 delivery charge.

SSE has been commissioned to install a sleeve for a Christmas tree with a lighting box at the bottom of Market hill.

20 Solar Light Christmas Trees (3 foot high) have been bought by the council (with half the funding coming from the CBA) which will be delivered and stored at Hurst's.

The Lights of Love Carol Concert for the Hospice will be held around the Christmas tree at the bottom of Market Hill. The Co-op has agreed to donate mince pies and the manager of the Waterside has agreed to supply some mulled wine.

Both local Primary Schools have been invited and have offered their school choirs. The Cowes Concert Band is unable to provide music, so we are working on finding a suitable replacement.

451 Summer Bunting for 2013

The Council needs to consider if they wish to purchase bunting for next summer. Several Councillors commented that local residents were very appreciative of the bunting supplied for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Assistant Town Clerk has obtained some quotations to indicate the possible costs for next year.

Nylon Bunting from Charnwood	£1,000.00
The Cotton Bunting Company	£5,900.00
Grapefruit Limited	£3,062.50
Cost of putting up the bunting, taking it down and maintenance for the season	£1,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:- That a figure of £3,500 is set aside in next year's budget for bunting.

ACTION: That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts the three companies and requests samples and also considers gaining some additional quotations.

ACTION: That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts the Cowes Business Association to enquire about match funding for the bunting.

452 Installation of the Outdoor Gym Equipment

The lease has now been agreed and will be signed by Councillor Banks and the Assistant Town Clerk. IW Council are unable to redraw the plan but the site has been agreed which will not compromise the root system of the trees.

The Installation will start on Monday 12th November (weather permitting) and should last just one week.

Britvic will arrange an opening ceremony, but the date is yet to be agreed. A grant of £6,000 toward the project will be applied for as soon as the invoice has been received from Lightmain.

453 Street Furniture

A survey of all the street furniture was carried out in Spring 2012 by Councillor Jones and work was completed on most of the "poor condition items". The probation service was commissioned to paint the benches but this still has not happened.

Finger Posts – a quotation has been received from Leander Architectural for additional arms. Each arm would be: - £110.74 for 90mm deep or £144.54 for 150mm deep. A finial is also missing from the post outside Lancasters, which can be replaced at £157.00 (all prices exclude VAT).

There was discussion about any additional items to be signposted to and that maybe Shepherd's Wharf should be included.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the Harbour Commission to see if they would like a signpost to Shepherd's Wharf and if so, enquire if they would sponsor it.

Town Maps – 6 of the 8 maps have now been replaced, although those at the bottom of Market Hill still need sealing. DMR Engineering has helped as many of the screws had become corroded.

Some of the metal frames containing the Town Maps need the gold lettering re-painting; this requirement will form part of an updated survey which the sub-Committee agreed was needed.

ACTION: Councillor Jones and Matthews to update the survey of all street furniture and provide a list of any items which need attention. Once this has taken place, the Assistant Town Clerk will obtain quotes for the work.

RECOMMENDATION: That a new finial is purchased from Leander Architectural at a cost of £157 plus VAT.

454 War Memorial

Councillor Matthews has been working with Charlie Taylor who has prepared a list of possible candidates to have their names added to the War Memorial. As the 100th anniversary of the First World War is approaching, they are concerned that they may be inundated with requests from relatives, so there needs to be a policy in place to easily identify those people who would qualify for inclusion. After much discussion it was agreed that:

ACTION: The Policy is that for anyone to be considered to have the name added to the War Memorial, they must have been a permanent resident of Cowes and have been killed in action or died directly as a result of their war injuries.

Meeting ended at 7.54pm.

CHAIRMAN