



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Monday 11 March 2013 at 7.08pm.

**Present:** - Councillor Walters (Chairman)  
Councillors Banks, Brown, Jones, Matthews and Robinson

**481 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Wells.

**482 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

**483 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Banks as his company had provided a quotation for the repainting of the Town Clock.

**484 The Horizon Plaque**

Councillor Banks has requested quotations from three local companies, despite reminders no quotations have yet been received.

Martin Hayles has submitted his account for payment, plus requested a cheque for the Planning Permission.

Much discussion took place about the name "horizon plaque" as many of the items listed do not show on the horizon. The problem is that much of the horizon is sea, so it was agreed to add historical references to items which occurred just off the Cowes coastline.

The plaque may be re-titled as an Information Board or Interpretation Board but no decision has yet been made.

The artwork was discussed and agreed :

**RECOMMENDATION: That Cowes Town Council agrees the artwork produced by AFX Design.**

**485 The Town Clock and Well, Shooters Hill**

The Town Council made a resolution on Thursday night to allow the Town Clerk to make the decision on the contractor to paint the Town Clock.

IW Council has still not been able to make their position clear even though the Assistant Town Clerk has contacted several departments, although it has been confirmed that the Well is not part of the P.F.I. contract.

A suggestion had been previously made by Councillor Banks that the Well is demolished and a mains operated Town Clock be installed in its place. The position of Cowes Carnival Committee is also still unclear except an email has been received advising that "the Carnival Committee wishes to retain the well". The Town Council minutes (28/06/06) state that:

The Town Council recommends to the IW Council that the Cowes Carnival Committee assumes responsibility for the Wishing Well in order that they can enhance and use it as a money making source for the local carnival; and that subject to the Carnival Committee assuming responsibility for the wishing well, the Town Council donates a sum of £200 towards its refurbishment.

Councillor Banks advised that the Well was constructed by Southern Water and given to IW Council some time ago, and even though the Town Council is not responsible for the well, it does have a responsibility to ensure that such structures are presentable.

Many of the local businesses have contacted councillors advising that the Well is an eyesore as it is poorly maintained and acts as a rubbish bin. After much discussion it was decided that:

**ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk constructs a survey so that written evidence can be sourced from the local shopkeepers regarding the Well.**

#### **486 The Flag Poles on the Parade**

There has been various responses from the IW Council - they are clear that the flagpoles could not be used for advertising purposes, unless planning permission is obtained, and coastal management would require an involvement in the further discussion. The plan was only to fly international flags to enhance the area, not to raise income. Discussions did not reach any conclusions as to the future of the project.

#### **487 The P.F.I. Contract**

Councillor Walters is now the Cowes Town Council representative for District One (Cowes, East Cowes, Gurnard, Northwood and Whippingham councils). There is still a lot of confusion as to which assets are going to be maintained by the P.F.I. contractor (Island Roads). Cllr Walters is trying to ascertain some clarity over the footpath to St Mary's Church and the road to the Sheltered Accommodation (Park Court) in Northwood Park. Also mentioned were the benches and interpretation panels supplied by Cowes Town Council but placed in Northwood Park. He will continue to have discussions with the P.F.I. contractors and will keep councillors informed.

#### **488 Land at the bottom of Market Hill**

Councillor Walters is in discussions with the owner who has now applied for planning permission for two houses on the plot. One resident has contacted him and offered financial assistance to the council if the land was developed as a community area. Until the planning application has been discussed by IW Council, the owner is not willing to discuss any other options, so there can be no further action at this stage.

**489 Toilets at the Northwood House Car Park**

Following last month's meeting, a letter was sent to the Trustees of Northwood House to open dialogue about the future of the toilet block. A letter has been received advising it has been passed to a directors meeting, but no further information has been received. This will be carried over to the next meeting.

**490 The Churchill Plaque**

Councillor Walters has received a request to consider a plaque on the Esplanade to commemorate the fact the Winston Churchill's parents met there 140 years ago. There is going to be several days of celebrations this August to mark the event. Councillors discussed the fact that there is a plaque to commemorate their meeting at Rosetta Cottage, on the Parade and that another one was not required, therefore no further action will be taken.

**491 Bunting**

2,500 metres of bunting has been received from Party Packs and a quotation received from Bison Entertainment for the erecting, maintenance and removal of the bunting for the summer season. After much discussion it was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION: That Cowes Town Council engages the services of Bison Entertainment to erect, maintain and remove the bunting at a cost of £1,000 for the season.**

**Meeting ended at 7.50 pm.**

**CHAIRMAN**