



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 6.45 pm.

**Present:** - Councillors Banks, Brown, Hall, Hammond, Jones, Peacey – Wilcox, Robinson and Wardrop. Councillor Nicholson was also in attendance but non-voting.

**492 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Banks (as Town Mayor) requested nominations for the chairman's position. Councillor Brown was nominated and as no other nominations were received, seconded and duly elected.

**492 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowan and Matthews.

**493 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

**A matter arising not on the agenda** – there has been correspondence from the Isle of Wight Council advising that the Bunting is too low and in some places is obscuring the CCTV. A meeting will be arranged with Cllr Banks (Town Mayor), the Cowes Business Association, IW Council and Trevor Cole (who installs the bunting on behalf of Cowes Town Council) to see if any action can be taken to improve the situation.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 6.50pm.

**494 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**495 THE HORIZON PLAQUE**

The Artwork of the plaque has been agreed by the Full Town Council and both Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent was granted by the Isle of Wight Council on 29/04/13.

Quotations for the construction of the plaque has been sought from:-

|                         |                 |          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Sign Industries Limited | Stainless Steel | £1775.00 |
| Delabole Slate          | Slate           | £2872.00 |
| Signs Express           | Aluminium       | £4261.11 |

AJ Wells Enamel £3500.00 (including the backing plate)

Quotations for the backing plate have been sought from:-

DMR Engineering £729.40 supply only or £1009.40 supply and fit.

Seateck Engineering no quotation received

Total Fabrication unable to provide a quotation

**RECOMMENDATION:- That a sign is purchased from Sign Industries at a cost of £1,775 but that a decision on the backing plate is held over until further quotations can be obtained.**

#### **496 THE TOWN CLOCK AND WELL, SHOOTERS HILL**

Following the last meeting, a survey was constructed and hand delivered to the business's in closest proximity to the Wishing Well. Only two replies have been received.

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. Cllr Banks advised that the well was gifted from Southern Water to Medina Borough Council during 1989/91. This information will be passed onto the IW Council. The new doors which were made by a Company in Ventnor (Trevor Nobes (no longer is in business) cannot be recovered. The well was due to be cleaned by the Carnival Committee last weekend but they were unable to provide this. Following the local consultation, it seems clear there is no-one supporting the well in it's present condition but there is a need for seating in the area. It was suggested that once legal ownership is established, a circular metal seat could be considered with the Town Clock in the centre. This item will be discussed again once legal ownership is agreed.

#### **497 THE FLAG POLES ON THE PARADE**

This item was first discussed in 2003/4, but following the installation of temporary Flag Poles for the Queen's visit last year, it requires the council's attention once more. It was agreed that 8 poles would need to be installed at a height of 8 metres each. Advertising revenue would not be suitable, just the flying of International Flags. It was agreed that:-

**RECOMMENDATIONS:-**

- 1 Martin Hayles is approached to obtain the necessary Planning permission and Listed Building Consent.**
- 2 Councillor Banks will obtain quotations for the work of constructing and installing the poles.**
- 3 Cowes Harbour Commission will be approached by the Assistant Town Clerk to consider this as a joint project financially and possible involvement with the lower/raising of the flags.**

#### **498 LAND AT THE BOTTOM OF MARKET HILL**

Councillor Walters has provided the contact details of the owner of this land. Currently the planning permission has not been granted or refused so no further action can be taken at this time.

**ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk to monitor the Planning Application and advise councillors when a decision has been reached.**

**499 TOILETS AT THE NORTHWOOD HOUSE CAR PARK**

A letter has been received from the Chairman of the Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited advising that they are willing to enter into a short term leasing contract for the toilet block with Cowes Town Council at market rental value. However the Town Council would be responsible for all legal and surveyor costs to ensure the charitable trust status of Northwood House is not compromised. Discussions took place about the length of time this facility has been closed and how necessary it is for residents.

**RECOMMENDATION: That this item is not taken any further and that the Assistant Town Clerk informs the Trustees of that decision.**

**500 TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF A TOWN GUIDE FOR ALL RESIDENTS**

Councillor Banks showed some examples of Residents Guides from other towns in Dorset and Somerset which are issued to every household and left in local shops for visitors. Some of them have a lot of advertisements which pay for the guide, some did not. As there is no Tourist Information in Cowes, it was agreed that this could be a worthwhile project for residents and visitors alike. This could be a joint funded project with the Cowes Business Association and Red Funnel. After much discussion it was agreed that:-

**RECOMMENDATION: That Councillor Brown contacts local printers to discuss the project and obtain costings.**

**501 DOG FOULING**

Councillor Brown had prepared a report which was issued to all councillors present. The situation has increased due to the lack of Dog Wardens employed by the IW Council. Councillors need to be aware of the situation in their own wards, so it was suggested that:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1 That councillors walk their wards and prepare a survey of both where dog bins are situated and the worst areas of dog fouling.**
- 2 That Councillor Brown contacts Mike Rowlands from the IW Council to discuss the situation.**

**502 THE MONTHLY BEACON ARTICLE**

Councillor Brown had prepared a report which was issued to all councillors present. Discussions were held about the cost of the article and the benefit to the residents of Cowes. Councillor Banks advised that due to the Quality Status of the Town Council, contact details of all Councillors are published twice per year, but it does not have to be via The Beacon article. Councillor Banks also advised that he would be holding Public Meetings twice per year (as he had done when Mayor previously). For the moment the Beacon article will continue to discuss Town Council issues, advise of the meetings and opening hours of the office, and refer readers to the website. Discussions took place about the possibility of a Newsletter instead, especially as the distribution of the Beacon is becoming sporadic in some areas of the town. This again could be a joint project with the Cowes Business Association, Cowes Harbour Commission and Red Funnel.

**RECOMMENDATION: That the cost of producing and delivering a twice yearly newsletter is investigated starting with the Assistant Town Clerk speaking to Sandown Town Council about their newsletter.**

**503 LITTER BINS**  
Councillor Brown had prepared a report which was issued to all councillors present. There is a problem at the entrance to school sites in the town where a great deal of litter is generated without any means of disposal. Dual Purpose bins could be considered which may address the dual problems of litter and dog fouling, as this has proved successful in Northwood Park.

**RECOMMENDATION: That Councillors walk their wards to check the availability of litter bins and monitor the litter situation, and consider the installation of dual purpose bins.**

**Meeting ended at 8.20 pm.**

**CHAIRMAN**