



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall at St Mary's Church, Cowes on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7pm.

Present:- Councillor Banks (Town Mayor)

: Councillors Brown, Corby, Ellis, Hammond, Jones, McNeil, Matthews, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Walters and Wardrop, Sargent Sizer and Inspector Sam Dunlop, the Isle of Wight County Press and three members of the public.

Councillor Fuller arrived at 8.15pm.

The speaker (Mr M Ackrill of IW Council Waste Services) was unable to attend.

#### **6768 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cowan and Hall

#### **6769 ELECTION OF NEW TOWN DEPUTY MAYOR**

Proposed by Councillor Peacey – Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Nicholson that Councillor Jones be elected Deputy Town Mayor. On a vote being taken, it was

##### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Jones be elected Deputy Town Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2014**

Amend the composition of Town Council Committees

##### **RESOLVED**

- 1 That Councillor Cowan will join both the Town Improvement and Planning Committees.
- 2 That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts all councillors requesting members for the Medina Valley Area Action Plan Committee.
- 3 That Councillor Cowan remains a representative of IWALC
- 4 That Councillor Ellis continues to be the representative for the Community Bus project

#### **6770 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

- 1 Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9a, as he is the Treasurer of the Cowes Heritage Society.
- 2 No written requests have been received for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

#### **6771 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013, be taken as read, one line amended, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 6772 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One question was raised about the parking restrictions in Newport Road. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided an update about all the Parking Orders in Cowes which the Town Council consulted with Isle of Wight Council some time ago. She advised that the situation is still being discussed with both the PFI contractors and County Hall and she will keep people updated in her monthly report. Another question was raised about the problems with parking in Fellows Road, tables and chairs on the pavements in the High Street and being threatened by residents if parking on unadopted roads. The Mayor advised that the issue of the High Street is being taken very seriously by Cowes Town Council and that a meeting is currently being arranged with the Mayor, Cowes Business Association, The Safer Neighbourhood Team and Mr Paul Bertie (IW Councillor) to try and solve the on-going problems.

## 6773 REPORTS BY THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

### **Councillor Peacey-Wilcox submitted a written report about:-**

Cowes Traffic orders, Cycling in the High Street , The Asphalt Application, Hampshire County Council working with the Isle of Wight Council to improve Children's Services and Education, The IW Festival and an enquiry about a way of playing the lottery for charity. She updated at the meeting about contacting Island Roads after the Round the Island Race to complain about the amount of litter in the High Street and was surprised that they were not aware of the event taking place. They are increasing litter bin emptying over the IW festival weekend and Cowes week.

### **Councillor Nicholson submitted a written report about:-**

The Asphalt Plant, Potholes, the faulty section of Place Road and news of the Travellers Joy.

### **Councillor Fuller submitted a written report about:-**

An update on the Cowes Enterprise College, Academy Status, a meeting with Highways about dropped kerbs, traffic restrictions, flood risk, bus shelters, resurfacing, signage, litter and dog bins, noise of fireworks, IW Council Committee Appointments, on-going problems of litter from refuse being left out overnight and grass cutting issues

**Councillor Bertie** sent a short email advising that there was nothing new to report except an initiative about a Yachting Parade of Fame along Cowes Parade which Councillor Banks could report. Councillor Banks advised that this is an idea to take up intermittent paving slabs and insert red granite name plaques. The plaques would provide names of famous yachtsman. The cost would be approximately £200 per plaque and sponsorship would be sought. Councillor Jones advised that the CBA are supportive of the idea as it would be considered an additional tourist attraction. It was suggested that the idea is brought to the Town Improvement Committee for further discussion.

## 6774 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Sergeant Sizer introduced his new Inspector Ms Sam Dunlop. He then reported as follows:

- a) Very busy month, with anti-social behaviour work resulting in three evictions, from properties rented via Spectrum Housing, Medina Housing and Gurnard Pines.
- b) Burglary and theft from cars – several break-ins but mostly from property and vehicles not secured.

- c) Change of personnel again – WPC Michelle Jackson is transferring to a specialist unit in Newport, so this will leave the station with 2 PC's and 2 PCSO's. The position has been advertised.
- d) Festival – all seems well organised so far – it was suggested that additional “Porta Loos” are considered at Red Funnel Terminal for the Monday when people are waiting in the queue for the Red Jet. This has happened outside Waitrose in East Cowes.
- e) Continuing problems with drugs - two houses have been raided where they were growing cannabis resulting in six arrests.
- f) A member of the public asked about the High Street and parking in the Town – on-going problems particularly with a very large Sainsbury's lorry reversing down Shooters Hill when the High Street was being repaired. He also asked about why the Red Funnel Food market was not in the Town – he was advised that the Red Funnel yard is private property and they can use it as they like. Sgt Sizer is happy with the meeting being arranged.
- g) Inspector Ms Sam Dunlop introduced herself. She will be based at Cowes Police Station, although she has an Island-wide remit.

#### **6775 MATER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) To receive information regarding dog fouling and to consider whether or not the Town Council should seek volunteer dog warden patrols. Several Town Councils are considering volunteer dog wardens, although at Shanklin it is being trailed that Traffic Wardens double up as Dog Wardens (this is a successful scheme in Gosport). Councillor Brown advised that Island Roads now has the responsibility for the dog waste and residents should report any problems on 01983 822440. Councillor Ellis said that Lanesend Primary used this system and the dog waste was cleared within half an hour of the call. Residents can also report problems directly to IW council on 01983 821000. Councillor Brown has been speaking to Mike Rowlands at IW Council who is responsible for the dog wardens and she will request that he attends a Town Council meeting. IWALC has arranged a meeting with Island Roads for 17<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the issue on behalf of all Town/Parish Councils. It was suggested that all litter bins are indicated as accepting both litter and dog waste.

**RESOLVED: That Mike Rowlands be invited to address a meeting of the Town Council**

- b) To receive details of the artefacts now loaned to Cowes Maritime Museum. Councillor Banks met with staff from the Libraries service of IW Council and provided a lot of additional history about the artefacts which were stored in the basement of the Town Council offices. These items were starting to deteriorate, but can be saved. The Library staff repackaged items not required for display with specialist paper and boxes which should reduce the amount of damage in storage. It will take about three to four months for the display to be assembled -they will advise the Town Council office when the display is ready. The loan is for a period of one year, with an option to keep extending.
- c) There were no other matters arising.

#### **6776 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

- a) The Finance Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. Councillor Matthews (as Interim Chairman of the meeting) read out the recommendations and it was :-

## **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the Internal Audit report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 be received and noted**
- 2 That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor**
- 3 That the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor**
- 4 Grants to be made:**
  - Cowes Carnival Committee – application withdrawn**
  - Cowes Deauville Twinning - £500**
  - Councillor Jones left the room at 7.55pm as he had declared an interest in the next item**
  - Cowes Heritage Society - £400**
  - Councillor Jones returned at 8pm**
  - Cowes Open Bowls Tournament - £400**

b) The Town Improvement Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Councillor Brown read out the recommendations and it was:-

## **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the engraved plaque 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.**
- 2 That after much discussion, the recommendations were not resolved but instead, the project to install Flag Poles on the Parade is not continued.**
- 3 That no further action is taken regarding the toilet block in Park Road, and the Assistant Town Clerk writes to the Trustees of Northwood House Charitable Trust advising them of the decision.**
- 4 That Councillor Brown contacts local printers to discuss the possibility of a Town guide and obtain costings**
- 5 That Councillors walk their wards and prepare a survey of both where dog bins are situated and report the worst cases of dog fouling.**
- 6 That the cost of producing and delivering a quarterly newsletter is investigated , starting with the Assistant Town Clerk contacting the Town Clerk at Sandown regarding their publication.**
- 7 That councillors walk their wards to check the availability of litter bins and monitor the litter situation, and consider the labelling of bins as dual purpose.**
- 8 That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts other Town Clerks within District One of the PFI contract to ascertain costs from Island Roads for the on-going maintenance costs for the next 25 years for any additional bins that Town/Parish councils provide.**

c) The Northwood Recreation Ground Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Councillor Banks read out the recommendations as Councillor Hall was unable to attend, and it was:-

## **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the current contract with Mr Williams to clean the Skate Park, Playbuilder Park, MUGA and Outdoor Gym continues at cost of £3,250 per annum.**
- 2 That Mr Williams repaints the Skatepark ramps this summer**
- 3 That the Skatepark gates remain unlocked**

**4 That the monitoring of any stray cricket balls into the area (Skatepark and MUGA) is continued**

**6777 ITEMS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS**

**a) Outer Harbour Project**

A written report was circulated ahead of the meeting from the new representative on the Cowes Harbour Commission – Councillor Corby. The Harbour Commission has built up a property portfolio and discussions are on-going to see if selling some of these properties could be used to provide funds for the breakwater.

**b) Mayoral Boards**

A written report was circulated ahead of the meeting from Councillor Banks. There was discussion about the display of the boards and possible locations. It was:-

**RESOLVED**

**1 That this item is mentioned in a future Beacon Article**

**2 That several locations indicated for the display of the Mayoral Boards are contacted.**

**c) Conduct and Content at Town Council Meetings**

A written report was circulated ahead of the meeting from Councillor Banks. After much discussion, it was agreed that the recommendations contained in the report are adopted.

**6778 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK**

a) To consider employing an entertainer in the town during the summer season

b) To receive details of miscellaneous correspondence

**RESOLVED**

**That David Randi is employed for the summer school holidays at a cost of £75 per visit.**

**6779 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

a) Review of Standing Orders (Councillor Banks)

b) Training of councillors (Councillor Banks)

c) Upgrading the High Street (Councillor Wardrop)

(The proceedings terminated at 8.45pm)

**CHAIRMAN**