

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **COWES TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday, 5 February 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)

Councillors Brown, Cowan, Corby, Ellis, Fuller (7.30pm), Hammond (7.30 pm), Jones, Matthews, McNeill, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson, Spalding and Wardop.

PRESENTATION: The Mayor presented the previous Town Clerk (Roger Hendey) with a specially commissioned wooden bowl made from the wood of the Weeping Ash, umbrella tree, which had stood on Prince's Green. Roger had served the Council for 15 years, and although a farewell reception had taken place, the Council was unable to provide a gift which had some Cowes significance at that time.

DAVID WALTERS: The Mayor spoke about ex Councillor David Walters who joined the Council on the 4 June 2009 and retired last month. David had worked hard and diligently for the Council and always robustly, on behalf of the community, addressed those many challenges. His input and will be missed. The Mayor wished to pass on his appreciation and applaud the role that he played as both Councillor and previous Mayor of Cowes Town Council these past five and a half years. The Mayor requested that a vote of thanks be recorded.

PRESENTATION: A presentation was made by Mr Murray Carter (Red Funnel) and Mr John Roseveare of Parose Projects with Mr Duncan Stuart of Parose Projects in attendance.

Mr Murray Carter began the presentation with an overview of the Solent Gateway project. On the Southampton side, planning permission should be applied for this month with the aim of providing a new terminal building and marshalling yard by March 2017. Red Funnel has committed £15 million to the project on both sides of the Solent. On the East Cowes side, they are currently consulting with stakeholders and hope to apply for planning permission in July this year. If these plans are approved by the end of the year, they are hopeful of moving into the new terminal building and marshalling yard in 2018.

Mr John Roseveare of Parose projects then advised with regards to the match funding from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. The business case is no longer in a competitive bid for funding and although the money has not been allocated it is hoped that such should be confirmed early next month. This public money is pledged to provide the infrastructure for the commercial development for the Floating Bridge, parking and highways. The East Cowes master plan, started in 2007, has not been changed.

Several Councillors asked questions:

The problems with the bottleneck of traffic at Whippingham – this is included in the plan.

The rumour of the Red Jet leaving Cowes - this is not happening, they may extend the service to include East Cowes if this is commercially viable.

Would Red Funnel be interested in partnership working to improve Fountain Yard, (The Gateway to Cowes) – yes they would consider this.

Would the new retail units in East Cowes affect Cowes businesses – no, hopefully it would improve overall footfall.

Councillor David Jones (Deputy Mayor) gave a vote of thanks to them all.

7028 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

7029 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were Declarations of Interest from Councillors Ellis and Hammond on the item regarding Medina Yard.

The Assistant Town Clerk (Mrs Sue Waters who was clerking the meeting in the absence of the Town Clerk) declared an interest in the grant for the Panto Players as she is the Secretary of this group.

7030 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7031 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

A written letter had been received by the Town Clerk from a resident who was unable to attend requesting information about the future of the Co-op store in Cowes. It was acknowledged that Marks and Spencer are hoping to occupy the building, retaining existing staff to provide a retail food outlet. Members were made aware that the Post Office will be relocating within the town. Once the location has been announced there will be a six week public consultation period.

7032 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided a written report which had been circulated to members. She wished to highlight the fact that there are 15,200 patients registered at Cowes Medical Centre with only seven doctors. She added that the previous evening she had attended a meeting regarding Youth provision which is now being provided by various groups across the Isle of Wight with IW Council funding. She was congratulated on the successful project of the tree carving in Newport Road. In her report she mentioned untidy gardens – IW Council is seeking appropriate legislation. Councillors mentioned “dumped” cars on the highway – the Police will only remove them if they are causing a hazard.

Councillor Fuller provided a written report which had been circulated to members. The lack of adequate lighting in Blackberry Lane was highlighted. It is a private road owned by the Education Authority who has no funds to provide lighting. He is still working on the idea of “turning up the street lights” in the adjoining roads to improve the health and safety of users of the lane. He had not heard the result of the Hamlet Court planning appeal. He will contact the Royal Mail about the problems caused to residents following the introduction of 9am collections from most of the local post boxes.

Councillor Nicholson provided a written report which had been circulated to members. An opportunity to ask questions was not taken up.

Councillor Bertie attended the meeting but his report had not been received at that time. It was subsequently received and circulated to members.

7033 REPORT FROM COWES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Acting Sargent Gary Knight gave his apologies and provided a written report which was circulated to members. It was advised that crimes were up by 3% in January, although year to date figures are still showing a decrease. Another four cyclists have been given verbal warnings for cycling in the pedestrianised zone.

7034 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Skip for St Mary's Road car park (Min. No. 6976/6996a/7015a refers)

Councillor Banks held a meeting with a representative from Island Waste and Simon Dennis from IW Council this week and a space has been cleared for the installation of the agreed 6 cubic yard skip. An email had been received from a member of the public requesting that the skip is not placed in the car park and consideration given to removal of the recycling area turning such over for additional car parking. A sign has been designed to advise members of the public that it has been provided by the Town Council and was not to be used for fly tipping. It was:

RESOLVED: The skip is installed (with the appropriate signage) for a trial period of three months.

Councillors Hammond and Ellis left the room for item b).

b) Medina Yard (min no 7018 refers)

Councillors Corby and Walters were tasked with writing a formal letter on behalf of the Council. This was circulated to members who added various comments. A questionnaire for existing tenants was also discussed. The main aim of the Town Council is to ensure sufficient space is retained for the maritime industry with waterfront access. A formal planning application has not yet been submitted.

RESOLVED:

- 1. Councillor Corby will collate the responses and provide a letter to the IW Council Planning Department.**
- 2. Councillor Corby will obtain the questionnaire and take it to the existing tenants for completion.**

Councillors Hammond and Ellis re-joined the meeting.

c) The Lease for the Town Council office at Northwood House (min no 7022 refers)

Ex-Councillor Walters had made some amendments to the document which has now been returned to the Northwood House lawyers for consideration. Once agreed, it can then be signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk.

d) Cyclist Dismount Signs (min no 6967 f ii/7024 refers)

The sign at the top of Shooters Hill has been taken down again by Island Roads and is being retained by them. After some discussion it was agreed that the CTC's point has been made but that no further action can be taken at this stage.

7035 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2014 were received. There was a question raised regarding "Destination Cowes". The Town Council previously voted against investing funds into this group.

b). Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 8 December 2014 and 12 January 2015 were received.

c). Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Licensing Committee held on 8 January 2015 were received.

d). Town Improvements Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Improvements Committee held on 12 January 2015 were received.

The Cut - a simpler scheme than that previously voted against by Councillors has been presented to the Town Improvement Committee. Other topics discussed were: The watering contract, the clock outside the Benzie's shop and funding towards the CBA edition of a free town map.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Cowes Town Council agrees in principal to revisiting the project of pedestrianising the Cut in accordance with the plans produced in 2007 by the Isle of Wight Council.**
- 2) That the watering contract is awarded to Drainmaster subject to the specification constructed by Cllr Jones.**
- 3) That Cowes Town Council contact Benzie's and ask them to repair the clock.**
- 4) That no funding is provided to the CBA for the provision of a free Town Map.**

e). Cowes Business Association

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2015. Discussed were the "Gateway to Cowes" and working with Cowes Town Council on the project.

f). Cowes Week Limited Shoreside Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January 2015 were received. Ex - Councillor Walters previously sat on the Fireworks Committee as a private individual. Councillors were asked whether there was anyone wishing to volunteer to replace him - Councillor McNeill and Councillor Fuller agreed to work together to satisfy this requirement.

g). Northwood Recreation Ground Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2015 were received. The current toilet cleaner and litter picker is retiring on 31 March 2015. Five quotations were received for the toilet cleaning and litter picking contracts. It was

RESOLVED:

- 1) That subject to sight of the appropriate risk assessments, method statements, staff training and insurance documents; "All Round Cleaners" are awarded the contract for a period of one year.**
- 2) That Cowes Town Council will continue to supply the consumables used for cleaning the toilet block unless the appointed contractor is able to supply them at a more cost effective rate.**

h). The Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 January 2015 were received. The topic of internal auditors and grants were discussed. It was:

RESOLVED:

1. That Bright Brown Chartered Accountants be appointed to undertake the preparation of the final accounts for the year 2014/15.

2. That grants are awarded to:	Armed Forces Day (IOW)	£100
	Cowes Good Companions Club	£450
	Panto Players	£250

3. That no grant is awarded to Lanesend Primary School as support for capital projects is not within the remit of the Town Council's small grant scheme.
4. That no grant is awarded to Northwood and Gurnard WWI Memorial Group as the group is outside of the Cowes area and the Town Council is already investing in WW1 war memorials in the Cowes area.
5. That no grant is awarded to Storerroom 2010 as they are a robust organisation and the Town Council's limited funds must go to those groups with the greatest need.
6. That the balance in the budget of £1,650 be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.

7036 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Councillor Walters, Councillor Hammond requested a seat on the Finance Committee. It was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hammond is appointed to the Finance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year and the Year Book updated accordingly.

7037 ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Councillor Walters a representative is required on the IWALC Executive Committee. It was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Spalding will represent the Town Council on the IWALC Executive Committee and the Year Book updated accordingly.

7038 COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

Following the resignation of Councillor Walters, a Councillor is required to continue the update of the Community Flood Plan. It was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Fuller works with the Assistant Town Clerk to complete the update of the Community Flood Plan.

7039 RESTRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES

A meeting was held on 22 January 2015 to discuss the possible amalgamation of some committees and renaming those working groups. After some discussion it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That Planning remains a standalone Committee with delegated powers.
2. That the Clerks write "terms of reference" for Committees / Working Groups, for discussion at the next Town Council meeting, before any further decisions are made.

7040 ELECTRONIC AGENDAS

On the 30 January 2015 an amendment to the Local Government Act 1972, schedule 12, was published which makes lawful the publication of electronic agendas but also allows individual Councillors the ability to "opt out" and retain the agenda in a hard copy which will be posted or hand delivered. It was:

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Wardrop continue to receive hard copies of all agendas; all other councillors will receive their agendas electronically.

Councillor Matthews left the meeting at 9.10pm.

7041

TOWN CLERK

Following the recent probationary review, the Mayor was able to announce the successful completion of the Town Clerk's probationary period. It was:

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk has successfully completed the probationary period and has been confirmed in her appointment.

7042

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous correspondence was circulated to all Councillors.

7043

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Paul Savill from Community Action Isle of Wight will present information about a new project regarding "My Life a Full Life" on Thursday 9 April 2015.

(The proceedings terminated at 9.15 pm)

CHAIRMAN