

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 8 January 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Nicholson, Robinson, Spalding, Walters & Wardrop.

Councillor Banks opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

PRESENTATION: ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 2015

The Town Mayor introduced and welcomed Trisha Lewington, Secretary of the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) who attended the meeting to talk about the RYS's plans for their bicentenary year. Trisha Lewington provided a synopsis of the RYS and a schedule of events that will start in London on 1/6/15 and follow on in Cowes which will include:

- Intra Club Regatta 2 – 6 June
- Westward Cup 15 - 18 June
- Swan European Regatta 4 – 10 July
- British Classic Yacht Club Regatta 19 – 24 July
- Transatlantic Race Welcome Reception 18 July
- Transatlantic Awards Evening & Dinner 24 July
- International Regatta 27 – 31 July
- Final Race Day & Prize Giving 31 July

During the International Regatta there will be a series of social events at the RYS and the Cowes Combined Clubs each night with a grand party for all Regatta guests at Osborne House on 30 July; followed by a crew party at the end of the week.

Trisha Lewington reported that the RYS are in discussion with the Isle of Wight Council about possible road closures during the Intra Club Regatta week. These costs can be substantial; if there is any royal presence at the event then Hampshire Constabulary may help with some of the road closure costs. Cowes Town Council feel strongly about the importance of such events and are keen to discourage high charges for road closures which could deter organisations from bringing events to the Island in the future.

Following questions, the Deputy Town Mayor thanked Trisha Lewington for her presentation which he found fascinating; he hopes that the people of Cowes really get behind these events.

7009 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors McNeill & Peacey-Wilcox.

7010 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillors Corby, Ellis & Hammond declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9b as they are tenants of Medina Yard (Min No 7018).

b) There were no written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

7011 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7012 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present, therefore no questions were asked.

7013 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. She was absent from the meeting and therefore unable to answer any questions.

Councillor Fuller provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. He commented on the pending planning appeal for Place Road. Residents have been informed and will again have the opportunity to give their views about preserving the green gap between Gurnard and Cowes. Councillor Fuller will circulate to all Councillors an email he has received from Island Roads regarding the traffic delays at Parkhurst prior to the Christmas break.

Councillor Fuller left the meeting at 7.45pm.

Councillor Bertie provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. The question of whether the Cowes Week Trademark being close to resolution was raised as not all elected Representatives from Cowes Town Council had been invited to recent meetings on this matter. It had previously been agreed that this would be a three way discussion between Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association and Cowes Week Ltd. Market Hill was discussed as there is a large amount of wood in this area and it needs to be re-inspected again by the Isle of Wight Council's Rural Compliance office. Councillor Bertie agreed to take this matter up. Christmas decorative lighting is being discussed at the Town Improvements Committee meeting on 12 January; it may be useful to form a joint working party with Cowes Business Association to further this matter. Councillor Bertie agreed to suggest this to the Cowes Business Association.

RESOLVED

The Town Clerk will inform Cowes Business Association and Michelle Warner of Cowes Week Ltd, that Councillors Corby & McNeill will attend the Cowes Business Association meeting being held on Monday 12 January at 6pm regarding the Cowes Week Trademark.

Councillor Nicholson provided a written report which was circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

7014 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Police Constable Justin Pringle attended the meeting and presented a report which was subsequently circulated to all Councillors. He gave apologies for Acting Sergeant Gary Knight who was unable to attend. The report states that for the year to date crime is up by 4% on 2013/ 14 figures, however, compared to 2012 / 13 figures, crime is down 12%. The one community priority for Cowes is cyclists and cars using the High Street during times of prohibition; police continue to actively patrol the High Street to prevent incidents re-occurring. If re-offenders are stopped they will be dealt with by either a Fixed Penalty Notice or reported for summons. An arrest has been made for the robbery at Ladbrokes. New Year's Eve went very smoothly – it was the quietest it has been for many years and no serious assaults or crimes were reported.

7015 MATTERS ARISING

a) Response from the Isle of Wight Council regarding a request for a skip to be placed at St Mary's Road Car Park. (Min Nos 6976 & 6996a refers).

The Principal Waste Contract Officer at the Isle of Wight Council has agreed to meet on site with Town Councillors and a representative from Island Waste. A date for the site visit has not yet been agreed.

7016 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Cowes Week Ltd

The Minutes of Cowes Week Ltd Board Meeting held on 21 November 2014 were received.

b) Northwood Recreation Ground Committee

The Minutes of the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee held on 8 December 2014 were received. It was noted that the Recommendation in Minute No 74 should be recorded as an action point not a recommendation to Town Council.

c) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2014 were received.

7017 COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Councillor Nicholson provided a report which was subsequently circulated to all Councillors. He reported that the wellbeing of Town and Parish communities is a consideration that should be at the heart of any Town and Parish Council. To date, Councillor Nicholson has met with representatives from the Police, Scouts, Church, Age UK, Directorate of Public Health, Action IW, the MP's office and many others who agree that Town and Parish Councils could act as a conduit in channelling and facilitating community wellbeing, in general. There is still a lot of work to do; community assets need to be mapped which will help to identify the deficiencies and needs in the community. Councillor Nicholson will continue to hold meetings with stakeholders and interested parties and keep Cowes Town Council informed of any developments / progress made.

Councillors Ellis & Hammond left the meeting at 7.52pm for the next item.

7018 MEDINA YARD DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Corby provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. The report relates to a meeting held on 17 December 2014 at which the architects explained their proposal and options for safeguarding industry in this area. A meeting between Town Councillors and Isle of Wight Council Planners was also held in December to discuss the proposed development. The Isle of Wight Council Planners, and the Isle of Wight Council's Lead Officer for the Isle of Wight Council's Medina Valley Area Action Plan, have asked Cowes Town Council to write to them setting out the Town Council's opinion of the development and to make contact with existing users to ascertain their views. Currently the split between residential and commercial development on the site is 70% residential and 30% commercial. It was agreed that Cowes Town Council need to show support for greater maritime related commercial development.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council will draft a letter to the Isle of Wight Council's Planners. The letter will include the views of Cowes Town Council and the existing users of the Medina Yard site. The draft letter will be circulated to all Councillors for approval before sending.

Councillors Ellis & Hammond returned to the meeting at 8.05pm.

7019 COWES – A GATEWAY TO THE ISLAND AND THE EFFECT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Banks provided a written report which had been circulated to all Councillors. The report raises awareness of existing and future developments within the Medina basin and the environs of Cowes and the effect of such on the town's future and its importance as a gateway to the Island. Also, to consider how best to sustain its position as an internationally acclaimed yachting mecca and major gateway to and from the mainland. It was agreed that Cowes Town Council should take a proactive role in developing a future strategy for Cowes.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council invite stakeholders of and about the Fountain Yard area to a meeting to discuss / clarify the future of Cowes as a gateway to the Island.

7020 APPOINTMENT TO COWES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

A nomination was sought for a representative on Cowes Business Association following the resignation of Councillor Jones.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mark McNeill, formerly deputy to Councillor Jones, becomes Cowes Town Council's representative on Cowes Business Association and that Councillor Jacqui Spalding is the deputy representative, for the remainder of the municipal year.

7021 CHEQUES AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED

- a) That the cheque payments totalling £29,555.13 are accepted and approved.
- b) That the petty cash payments totalling £299.79 are accepted and approved.

7022 LEASE FOR THE RENTAL OF THE COUNCIL OFFICE AT NORTHWOOD HOUSE

The proposed Lease for the rental of the Council Office at Northwood House and associated documents had been circulated to all Councillors to determine whether the Town Mayor should sign the document. Queries were raised in relation to clause 6.12 in the Lease and the offer of a lease without the security of tenure as stated in the 'Important Notice' document.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council will raise the two matters of concern with Northwood House Trustees before the lease is signed.

7023 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S DRAFT HIGHWAY AMENITY PERMISSIONS POLICY

The Isle of Wight Council's Draft Highway Amenity Permissions Policy was circulated to all Councillors with a consultation end date of 16 January 2015. Councillors agreed that whilst they support the principal of the regulation in this area they agreed that the policy should not be in such a complex format.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council write to the Isle of Wight Council to show support for the principal of the regulation in this area and to share their views on how the draft policy could be made less complex.

7024 CYCLIST DISMOUNT SIGNS (Minute No 6967 fii)

Two cyclist dismount signs were purchased and situated both sides at the top of Shooters Hill. Subsequently there were removed by the Island Roads on the grounds that they had not been authorised and that the height they had been erected could have caused injury to the public. The current 'No Entry' signs in place are being ignored by a number of cyclists. It had been observed that many signs erected around the town (approx. 80%) were lower than the prescribed 2.1 metres. Councillors discussed the reinstatement of the signs.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council reinstates the 'Cyclist Dismount' signs, one to be placed at the top of Shooters Hill, the other one to be placed outside Hurst's.

7025 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous correspondence was circulated to all Councillors.

7026 NJC 2014 – 2016 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

Details of the NJC 2014 – 2016 National Salary Award was circulated to all Councillors for acceptance.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the NJC 2014 – 2016 National Salary Award.

7027 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following item be included on a future agenda:

1. Presentation from John Roseveare - Parose Projects and Murray Carter - Red Funnel on the Solent Gateway Project – 5 February 2015.

(The proceedings terminated at 8.45pm)

CHAIRMAN