

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 1 June 2017 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Bertie, Brown, Glendinning, Hammond, Jones, Nicholson, Oliver, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; 4 members of the public; PC Adam Dollery; County Press reporter.

7500 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

7501 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7506a (Planning Committee Minute No 1130.2) having made a comment on the planning application.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7506b (Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Minute No. 175) as Cowes Town Council's Deputy representative on The Big Lunch.

Councillor Hammond declared a pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 7506b5 & 7506b6 as she manages the car parking for both events.

Councillor Oliver declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7506b6 as his wife is a storyteller at the Isle of Wight Literary Festival.

b) A written request for dispensation was received from Councillor Nicholson which was granted in respect of Minute No. 7513 as he is Chairman of the Isle of Wight branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and co-organiser of the Beer, Buses and Walks festival.

7502 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Safer Neighbourhood Officer, PC Adam Dollery, attended the meeting and provided a report which was circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the 31 days up to 30 May 2017 showed 8 assaults; 6 criminal damage; 5 theft; 1 theft from a motor vehicle; 1 theft of a motor vehicle. In respect of anti-social behaviour (ASB) statistics the report showed 3 environmental (e.g. graffiti); 9 personal (e.g. loud music from a neighbour); 7 nuisance (e.g. general). PC Dollery was asked if excessive vehicle noise could be classed as ASB, PC Dollery asked for details of where the vehicle noise was taking place and advised that this could be dealt with if the offender is caught in the act. PC Dollery was also advised of motorbikes using the side paths in Northwood Cemetery which causes distress to people visiting their graves. PC Dollery agreed to monitor this area and report back to a future Town Council meeting.

7503 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cowes Town Council held on 18 May 2017 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7504 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public commented that in the last week 43 coaches had arrived on the Island with a capacity of 50 people each, of which only 11 coaches had visited Cowes. He asked why are the coaches not coming to Cowes? Councillors wondered whether this is a perception or whether coaches are purposely avoiding Cowes. Councillors felt this was an area that Cowes Business Association should be investigating on behalf of their members. Comment was made that the state of the public toilets in Cowes and lack of ATM's may be the reason.

7505 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and were circulated to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Bertie gave a verbal report stating that Cloudy Bay vineyard are considering sponsoring Cowes for the whole season which would be really good news for the town.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised Town Councillors that the Maritime & Coastguard Agency were inspecting the Floating Bridge on 2 June 2017 hopefully to sign off the work. Councillors asked whether there would be any compensation payable due to the delay in getting the service running. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was unsure as to what terms had been written into the contract; her main concern at this stage is to get the bridge up and running again.

Councillor Nicholson's report focussed on the difficulty of parking in all areas of Cowes. Visitors are encouraged to come to the town but there is a lack of parking facilities and this problem should be addressed. Councillor Nicholson also provided categorised notes taken from residents in his Ward which included issues of traffic and parking safety, road surface, signage and speed. Councillor Nicholson also reminded Town Councillors that the plan to replace the plaque at Northwood Recreation Ground had not proceeded due to lack of detail about the former plaque. Councillor Jones agreed to investigate using his Cowes Heritage connections.

Councillor Fuller's report included details of the approval of the Westridge Farm planning application for 80 dwellings on farmland to the east of Elmfield. It was felt that there is no protection for farmland; Councillor Fuller advised that this is as a consequence of planning policies where there is a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. Councillor Fuller was asked about the issue of trailer size limitation at Lynnbottom tip which could result in additional fly tipping. Councillors R & J Bartrum agreed to investigate as Cowes Town Council's representatives on the Community Waste Forum.

7506 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 25 May 2017 were received and noted.

Councillor Hammond left the meeting while the recommendations to make grants to the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament and Isle of Wight Literary Festival -Youth Zone were discussed and agreed. (Minute Nos. 7506b5 & 7506b6 refers)

Councillor Oliver left the meeting while the recommendation to make a grant to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival - Youth Zone was discussed and agreed. (Minute No. 7506b6 refers)

b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 30 May 2017 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. **That Councillors Bertie, Glendinning & Oliver be added as cheque signatories for the Town Council bank accounts.**
2. **That Cowes Town Council funds approximately £3,000, being 50% of the cost of six metal picnic benches, and agrees to take responsibility for the future maintenance of the six metal picnic benches.**
3. **That the cost of approximately £3,000 is taken from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.**
4. **That future maintenance costs will be supported through the 'Street furniture maintenance' budget heading.**
5. **That a grant be made to Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £400.**
6. **That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival – Youth Zone – in the sum of £5,000.**
7. **That essential maintenance to supply and fit 2 new infra-red urinal controls at The Parade toilets is undertaken immediately for the estimated sum of £620.**

c) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 8 May 2017 were received and noted. Councillors praised the group for their innovative ideas for events held at the Library.

d) IWALC Executive Committee

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 18 May 2017 were received and noted.

e) Cowes Deauville Twinning Visit

The Notes of the Cowes Deauville Twinning Visit on 17 – 22 May 2017 were received and noted. Councillors commented that they were a very enjoyable read.

7507 TOWN CENTRE POST OFFICE

Councillor Nicholson prepared a report stating that the town had been left with no banks in Cowes or a Post Office within reasonable access. There are a few remaining cash machines but they are subject to regular breakdown and a shortage of cash. Shops are struggling to provide adequate cash back facilities for their customers.

Councillors discussed additional cash machines that are being installed in the town which include a second cash machine at Sainsbury's, re-siting of the NAT West cash machine, installation of new cash machines at M & S, Chivertons and the Vectis

Tavern. Councillors were reminded that the Co-Op in Mill Hill Road and Aldi have existing cash machines. It was suggested that once the new machines are installed signs could be added to the machines indicating where the nearest alternative cash machine is located in case there is a fault or lack of available cash.

Transport and parking is also an issue and residents are reluctant to move their cars for the fear of not being able to park when they return home. Bus fares and taxi fares are too high for many people, especially families and represent very poor value for money when compared to mainland locations.

What is the role of the Town Council? An absence of voice on these important matters may be mistaken for not caring. Councillor Nicholson suggested a number of proposals for the Town Council to consider. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That this Council condemns the neglect of the banks in abandoning Cowes, one of the major yachting centres in the world, and for failing to provide adequate commercial facilities for its visitors, traders and residents.**
- 2. That this Council deplores the action of the Post Office in failing to secure a town centre facility, despite, at least, one seemingly suitable location becoming apparent to the knowledge of the Town. It condemns the lack and absence of meaningful consultation or communication from the Post Office with the Council and regards this an indication of the regard that the Post Office hold for the people that live, work and visit Cowes and the authorities that are deemed to represent the Town and neighbouring Parishes.**
- 3. That this Council will take an active role in pursuing adequate commercial facilities in the town and will support anyone who wishes to consider the same.**
- 4. That this Council recognises the outdated and inadequate parking facilities and arrangements in the town, both for residents and visitors. That it will set about identifying needs and means of addressing this and encourage their positive resolution with the controlling Authority.**
- 5. That this Council will carry out regular open and meaningful reviews to ascertain and ensure its purpose, function and objectives are adequately focused for a changing world and changing local needs.**
- 6. The Town Council will work with Cowes Business Association to produce a leaflet advising residents and visitors to the town where they can locate free cash machines, where other cash machines are located and at what cost, which businesses offer cash back facilities including any surcharges and which businesses are happy to promote alternative payment methods i.e. debit card, contactless payments, cheques etc.**

7508 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of May 2017. Cheque payments totalled £22,549.50; petty cash payments totalled £155.38. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £22,549.50 and petty cash payments of £155.38 be received, noted and approved.

7509 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S MISSION STATEMENT & KEY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

A review of Cowes Town Council's Mission Statement & Key Service Objectives was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Mission Statement & Key Service Objectives.

7510 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED

That the following representatives have been appointed to serve on the following outside bodies until the Annual Town Council meeting in May 2018.

Civil Military Partnership

Councillor J. Nicholson

Deputies – Councillor R. Bartrum
Councillor P. Taylor

Supporters of Cowes Library

Councillors J. Bartrum and L. Brown

7511 2017 AFFILIATION FEE TO THE IW SPORTS FOUNDATION

Councillors considered whether to renew the Town Council's affiliation fee to the IW Sports Foundation in the sum of £6. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council renews its affiliation fee to the IW Sports Foundation in the sum of £6.

7512 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk presented a spreadsheet outlining the recent activities undertaken by the Environment Officer in Cowes. Most of the issues raised related to fly tipping in various areas but most frequently in St Mary's Road car park which is an ongoing problem. Councillors suggested that the re-installation of CCTV in the area may prove to be a deterrent. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads asking if CCTV can be reinstated in the area of St Mary's Road car park for the purposes of monitoring any incidents of fly tipping.

**7513 SPONSORSHIP OF BEER AND BUSES BANNERS FOR THE EVENT ON
14 & 15 OCTOBER 2017**

Councillor Nicholson outlined details for the Beer and Buses event scheduled for 14 & 15 October 2017. Last year around 10,000 people took part in the event and for 2017 the number of buses and bus trips has been increased to accommodate the huge numbers that the event attracts. Along with a request for Cowes Town Council to fund two banners for the sum of £70 each, Councillor Nicholson asked for Councillors to get involved in the marshalling of the event i.e. directing, informing, leading walks and generally promoting Cowes. It was suggested that two generic 'Welcome to Cowes' banners, with the Town Council logo, could be produced and displayed in the High Street. The banners could then be used at any time when special events are going on in the town. As the detail regarding the composition and siting of the banners would need further consideration it was agreed:

ACTION

That 'High Street Banners' be added as an agenda item for the next Projects Committee meeting.

7514 ISLE OF WIGHT DAY – 23 SEPTEMBER 2017

Cowes Town Council has been invited to take part in the Isle of Wight Day on Saturday 23 September 2017. The event celebrates all that is great about the Isle of Wight and brings the whole community together to have some fun while raising money for deserving local causes. It was agreed:

ACTION

That consideration, in regard to taking part in the Isle of Wight Day, be deferred to the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

7515 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

There were no miscellaneous publications or correspondence received.

7516 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Age Friendly Island Presentation – 20 July 2017

The proceedings terminated at 8.19pm.

CHAIRMAN