

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 2 November 2017 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; two members of the public.

PRESENTATION FROM STEPHEN BROOKS, CHAIRMAN OF DESTINATION COWES

Stephen Brooks from Destination Cowes gave a presentation on the organisation's activities during the year and its future plans.

Since taking over the role as Chairman of Destination Cowes in March 2017, Stephen has led the development of an information leaflet, incorporating a map of the Town, which has been distributed into hotels and shops within a 30 mile radius of Southampton, aiming to target mainland visitors, as well as being circulated locally.

A new website www.cowes.co.uk, has been donated by Cowes Harbour Commission, and is hosted and linked to Visit Isle of Wight's website, which attracts millions of hits per year. The website has been up and running since Easter 2017, with its content still being developed.

The organisation has been publicised in the IW County Press and on BBC Radio Solent, along with an article in a Belgian travel magazine. There are plans for future publicising in cruise planning magazines.

Future ideas include promoting Cowes as a romantic island wedding destination, holding regattas outside of the peak months of July and August, and attracting cruise-ship passengers.

Stephen thanked Cowes Town Council for their partnership support, and praised the support of the Town Council's representatives on Destination Cowes. The financial support of £5,000 from the Town Council helped towards the costs to produce the leaflet and develop the website, with future expenditure on these items expected next year.

Destination Cowes are hoping that the Town Council will provide further financial support in the future.

Councillor Fuller thanked Stephen for his presentation.

7583 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis & Hammond.

7584 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fuller declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7589a10 as Chairman of the Footprint Trust Ltd.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7589i as Cowes Town Council's Deputy Representative on the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

7585 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

PC Adam Dollery was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days showed 11 assaults; 4 criminal damage; 4 theft. In respect of anti-social behaviour the report showed 2 environment; 9 personal; 6 nuisance.

**7586 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5 October 2017 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7587 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Town Council have been asked to help local businesses in Cowes to achieve free car parking for their late shopping night on Thursday 30 November 2017. They would like help to achieve free car parking in St Mary's Road Car Park from 3pm onwards. Parking is already free from 6pm in this car park. Councillor Fuller asked that he be contacted by email with this request which he will then take up with Parking Services at the IW Council. Other options to look into are possibly using the M & S Car Park or the Northwood House Car Park. The persons present said that businesses in Cowes are trying very hard to keep Cowes alive but they need Cowes Town Council's help and support.

7588 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and had been circulated to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Bertie was absent from the meeting and a report was not available.

Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Fuller was asked about a reference to 'Rock Armour' at Cooks Bay, Gurnard. He advised Town Councillors that rocks had been put in place to protect properties in this area from the sea.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was asked for an update on the Floating Bridge and advised Town Councillors that she met with the IW Council Leader two weeks ago and was advised that the Price Waterhouse report was being considered by IW Council officers but it is not available for general circulation at this time. The Floating Bridge trials are on-going but it currently is not crossing the River Medina quick enough to meet the targets set by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership who part funded the new Bridge. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised that the investigation was taking part in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 and questioned exactly what these three tiers represented. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will invite IW Councillors Dave Stewart and Ian Ward to the December Town Council meeting to answer questions in relation to the Floating Bridge.
2. Representatives from East Cowes Town Council will be invited to attend the December Town Council meeting.
3. The Town Clerk will ask for details about the three tier investigations and who is involved at each tier.

7589 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

Councillor Fuller left the meeting while the recommendation to support the 'Warmer Cowes' scheme was discussed and agreed. (Minute No. 7589a10 refers).

Councillor Nicholson left the meeting while the recommendation not to provide retrospective financial assistance to IW CAMRA for printing costs was discussed and agreed. (Minute No. 7589a11 refers).

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 10 October 2017 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Financial Statement as at 30 September 2017 be noted and approved.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council provide one dressed 18 foot Christmas tree at Francki Place for the approximate sum of £700 with the cost to be met from the Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights budget.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council purchase the replacement blue and white flashing Christmas tree lights from Blachere Illumination for the sum of £816 with the cost to be met from the Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights budget.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council approves the installation and subsequent removal of the festive lights in the High Street for the sum of £12,930.55 with the cost being met from the Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights budget.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council purchases an additional cast iron finger with the words 'Tourist Information Point' to be sited on the finger post outside Day Lewis Pharmacy for the sum of £176.53 with the cost being met by the Street Furniture Maintenance budget.**
- 6. That a grant be made to Cowes Short Mat Bowling Club in the sum of £150; that amount being £100 for the bowls 'lifters' x 5 and £50 to enable club members to take part in a social event.**
- 7. That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival in the sum of £100.**
- 8. That the Town Mayor and Town Clerk sign the three year Lease, starting on 26 November 2017, with Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Ltd for the rental of Room 11 (Office) and Room 51 (Storeroom) for the monthly rent of £675.**
- 9. That the additional rent, not budgeted for in this financial year, will be met from the 'Elections / Admin Contingency' budget heading.**
- 10. That Cowes Town Council supports the 'Warmer Cowes' scheme for the sum of £2,700.**
- 11. That the cost of the scheme is supported by the unused funds from 'The Big Lunch' budget heading in the sum of £2,500 with the balance of £200 coming from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.**
- 12. That Cowes Town Council does not provide retrospective financial assistance to IW CAMRA for printing costs.**
- 13. That Cowes Town Council renews the SLCC membership of the Assistant Town Clerk in the sum of £121.**

- b) Age Friendly Island Working Group
The Minutes of the Age Friendly Island Working Group meeting held on 11 October 2017 were received and noted.
- c) Projects Committee
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 17 October 2017 were received and noted.
- d) Planning & Licensing Committee
The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 17 October 2017 were received and noted. Councillors were advised that Cowes Town Council have objected to the Medina Yard planning application and will make representations to the IW Council Planning Committee when it is on their agenda.
- e) Public Conveniences Working Group
The Minutes of the Public Conveniences Working Group meeting held on 1 November 2017 were received and noted.
- f) IWALC Meeting with IW Council
The Minutes of the IWALC meeting with the IW Council held on 26 September 2017 were received and noted.
- g) Cowes Business Association
The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 9 October 2017 were received and noted.
- h) Destination Cowes
The Minutes of the Destination Cowes meeting held on 6 September 2017 were received and noted.
- i) Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd
The Minutes of the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd meeting held on 5 October 2017 were received and noted. Concerns were raised that their next meeting is not scheduled until late Spring 2018.

7590 COWES WEEK 2018

At the Cowes Town Council meeting on 5 October 2017 it was agreed that a decision of how to move Cowes Week 2018 forward would be considered after the discussion of the Minutes of the Shoreside Committee meeting held on 5 October 2017 and presentation from Destination Cowes had been given at this meeting. After discussion regarding the proposed late Spring Shoreside Committee meeting it was agreed:

ACTION

That a meeting is arranged before Christmas with the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd to discuss Cowes Week 2018. Representatives from Cowes Town Council will be Councillors Fuller, Glendinning & Bertie.

7591 COWES POST OFFICE PETITION

Councillor R. Bartrum presented Councillors with a draft petition for approval. Once approved there will an online version made available and hard copies will be distributed throughout the town's businesses, pubs, clubs, library and medical centre. Councillors discussed the draft petition and suggested one amendment to the preamble point 3 to add 'banking needs' to the postal needs section. It was:

RESOLVED

That, with the one amendment, Cowes Town Council approves the draft Cowes Post Office Petition.

7592 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque payments and petty cash payments for the month of October 2017. Cheque payments totalled £17,401.03; petty cash payments totalled £103.34. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £17,401.03 and petty cash payments of £103.34 be received, noted and approved.

7593 TOWN CLERK'S ATTENDANCE AT THE SLCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with a report outlining the activities undertaken while attending the SLCC Annual Conference in Hinckley, Leicestershire on the 18 & 19 October 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk's report on the SLCC Annual Conference was received and noted.

7594 IW COUNCIL'S CALL FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

The IW Council are requesting suggestions from town and parish councils for potential development sites in their area. Cowes Town Council, having contributed to the recent Island Plan survey, felt that this matter had already been addressed. Land at the bottom of Market Hill was discussed, having received planning permission to develop the area, to date no development has taken place. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. That Councillor Bertie, as the IW Councillor for this area, be asked to investigate the current status of the planning permission given for the land at the bottom of Market Hill.
2. That the land at the Bottom of Market Hill will be added to the agenda for the next Planning & Licensing Committee meeting.

It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes no response to this consultation.

7595 IW COUNCIL'S REQUEST TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL BROWNFIELD SITES

The IW Council are requesting suggested sites for a new register of potential 'Brownfield' sites in their area. Again, Cowes Town Council, having contributed to the recent Island Plan survey, felt that this matter had already been addressed. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes no response to this consultation.

7596 ENGLAND COAST PATH (ECP) – IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC ACCESS ALONG THE ISLE OF WIGHT COAST

Councillors received details about the proposed improvement to public access along the Isle of Wight Coast. The ECP are keen to hear views on potential routes for the trail along the coast and to hear any concerns raised. A number of drop-in sessions around the Isle of Wight have been planned; the ECP are not expecting to submit their proposals until autumn 2018. It was:

RESOLVED

That the ECP's improvements to public access along the Isle of Wight Coast document is received and noted.

7597 RESPONSE FROM MR BOB SEELY MP IN REGARD TO THE FLOATING BRIDGE (MINUTE NO. 7563.1 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 5 October the Town Clerk was actioned to write to Mr Bob Seely MP asking him to investigate whether businesses in West and East Cowes can claim business rate relief due to the business disruption caused by the lengthy lack of service of the Floating Bridge. Mr Seely MP replied on the 19 October stating that he had written to John Metcalfe, Chief Executive of the IW Council, outlining our suggestions and offering his support to help provide practical assistance should that be needed. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Mr Seely MP again if a further letter has not been received by 9 November 2017.

7598 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE FLOATING BRIDGE (MINUTE NO. 7563.2 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 5 October the Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council to request that improvements are made to enable disabled access for residents to cross the River Medina. Councillor Dave Stewart, Leader of the IW Council, replied on the 16 October stating that his understanding is that there is limited access albeit not ideal for persons with disabilities. He has copied Cowes Town Council's email to officers to clarify and to respond direct. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to IW Council Officer, Alex Minns, to request that he responds on this matter, asap.

7599 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk presented a spreadsheet outlining the recent activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes. Issues raised included maintenance issues in the public toilets; graffiti at Northwood Recreation Ground; a dangerous footpath; fly tipping and fly posting.

7600 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous publications and correspondence were circulated to all Town Councillors.

7601 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 8.47pm.

CHAIRMAN