

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 3 November 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Fuller, Hammond (7.15pm),
McNeill, Nicholson, Peacey-Wilcox, Spalding & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; 2 members of the public; County Press reporter.

Councillor Jones welcomed Kevin Newton from The Bus Shelter IOW Charity who gave a verbal presentation to Town Councillors.

Mr Newton reported that the charity purchased a bus for the sum of £7,000 in April 2016, it is currently being fitted out and will be ready for use in about 10 day's time. The bus will be situated in the paddock at Carisbrooke Priory and will be able to accommodate up to 20 rough sleepers on the Island at any one time. On the ground floor the bus has a kitchen and seating area which can be converted into a sleeping area, with a trailer that contains two toilets and two showers. This area is being considered for use by two homeless women. The upstairs has 4 bunk beds, a toilet and a changing room. The bus has been fully fitted with a fire alarm system in the case of emergency and has appropriate emergency exits.

There is no charge to use the facility but the person must be registered as homeless with the IW Council and agree to accept services from professionals for problems relating to drugs, alcohol, physical and mental health, literacy and numeracy etc. They must also agree to do a day of voluntary work in the community or at the charity's shop.

The bus will call at pick up points during the evening at Shanklin, Sandown, Ryde & Newport and then return to base at Carisbrooke. Clients will be provided with a breakfast and lunch on the bus; they will receive an evening meal at The Aspire community café in Ryde.

Clients using the bus will not be allowed to smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs on the bus. If found doing so they will be removed for the night to an overflow tent that also contains beds. The bus will be manned by volunteers working different shifts throughout the day; there will always be two male volunteers on the bus overnight.

The ultimate aim of the charity is to find permanent accommodation for homeless people on the Isle of Wight. The charity receives its funding from grants and donations.

Councillor McNeill thanked Mr Newton for his presentation.

7372 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Slade.

7373 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillor McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No 7378b.1 as his wife had submitted a quotation for the works in relation to the 'Transfer of Title' documents for the public toilets in Cowes.

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos 7378b.1 & 7378b.2 as he is the Isle of Wight Council's Executive Member with responsibility for Environment, Sustainability and Local Engagement.

b) A written request for dispensation was received and granted for Councillor Banks in respect of the agenda item relating to The Anchor at Cowes Yacht Haven. Min No 7379 refers.

7374 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A report from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer had not been received. However, at the meeting Councillor Nicholson provided a report that had been presented to Northwood Parish Council for their meeting on 1 November 2016 which contained information relevant to Cowes.

ACTION

The Town Clerk to circulate the report to all Town Councillors.

7375 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7376 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions raised by members of the public.

7377 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Fuller verbally added to his report by stating that he and Councillor Nicholson have a meeting with the Highways Department at 1pm on 22 November 2016. He asked that if Town Councillors have any questions they would like raised please forward them to Councillor Fuller. He is trying to progress Traffic Regulation Orders and asked Town Councillors to advise him of any areas where additional yellow lines should be considered. The replacement kerbing in Ward Avenue is due to be actioned in Spring 2017.

Councillor Bertie gave his apologies for the meeting and was therefore unavailable for questions. Councillors discussed items on his report relating to road vibration problems in Mill Hill Road and the Cowes Week trademark.

7378 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE AND MEETINGS

a) IWALC Executive Committee

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Meeting held on 15 September 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller, who attended the meeting, confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council is considering various options regarding the asset transfer of the public toilets including Tenancy at Will agreements and Transfer of Title documents.

Councillor McNeill withdrew from the Town Council meeting while Councillors discussed and made their decision in respect of Resolution 7378b.1.

Councillor Fuller withdrew from the Town Council meeting while Councillors discussed and made their decision in respect of Resolutions 7378b.1 and 7378b.2.

b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Property Lawyer A, being Diana Deacon Ltd, be engaged to work on behalf of Cowes Town Council, in relation to the 'Transfer of Title' documents, to negotiate a suitable agreement with the Isle of Wight Council for full ownership of the four toilet blocks and possibly surrounding areas, for the sum of £800.00 plus disbursements.

2. That Contractor C, being SB Electrical (IOW) Ltd, be awarded the contract for the annual electrical inspection at the four public toilets in Cowes plus the toilets at Northwood Recreation Ground and Northwood Park for the sum of £697.12.

3. That Accountant A, being Bright Brown Chartered Accountants, is engaged as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the sum of £760.00 per year, for the next three financial years.

c) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee Meetings held on 13 October 2016 & 1 November 2016 were received and noted.

d) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council purchase a defibrillator and external locked cabinet for community use to be situated on the outside wall at the New Holmwood Hotel.

2. That Cowes Town Council present Lady Grylls with a bouquet of flowers at the festive lights switching on ceremony as a thank you for agreeing to turn on the festive lights.

3. That Cowes Town Council fund a disability access audit of the town centre for the sum of £1000.00.

e) SLCC – IW Branch Meeting

The Notes of the SLCC – IW Branch Meeting held on 19 October 2016 were received and noted.

7379 THE ANCHOR AT COWES YACHT HAVEN

Councillor Banks presented a paper in relation to Cowes Yacht Haven wishing to remove their anchor, along with the stone sets upon which it is mounted, and gift these to anyone wishing to receive the items. The anchor is of no historic importance and would have been lost by one of the ships in the vicinity of the marina. The anchor weighs around 1.5 tonnes. Since writing the report, Councillor Banks has been informed that the Classic Boat Museum has been offered the anchor and Cowes Town Waterfront Trust would pay for the costs of removal and transport to its new home. If the Classic Boat Museum are unable to take delivery at present, Cowes Town Waterfront Trust have agreed to store it for them. It was agreed that Cowes Town Council would monitor the situation and if necessary ask residents of Cowes, via the next Mayor's newsletter, where they would like to see the anchor sited.

7380 COWES TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Wardrop presented a paper relating to a possible conflict of interest in relation to holding a position of authority i.e Chairman, on an 'other' body whilst being the Town Council's representative on that body. For transparency and clarity should another independent Councillor be the Town Council representative on that body. Councillors discussed the different options to avoid any possible conflict of interest. It was:

RESOLVED

If Cowes Town Council's representative on an 'other' body be elected as Chairman or Deputy Chairman of that body, then the Town Council's Deputy representative will also attend meetings of the 'other' body.

7381 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2016

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2016. Cheque payments totalled £7999.46; petty cash payments totalled £104.99 It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for October 2016 of £7999.46 and petty cash payments for October 2016 of £104.99 be received, noted and approved.

7382 CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 2017

Due to the Town and Parish Council elections being held next year on Thursday 4 May 2017, with Councillors taking up office on Monday 8 May 2017, it has become necessary to move the Annual Town meeting and the Annual Town Council meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday 9 May 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 6.15pm.**
- 2. That the Annual Town Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 7pm.**

7383 FIRST CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES WEST WARD

This vacancy is being filled by election on Thursday 17 November 2016; there are three candidates standing.

7384 SECOND CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES WEST WARD

This vacancy is being filled by co-option. Four candidates have applied for co-option; interviews are being held on Thursday 10 November 2016.

7385 PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

The Town Clerk presented a report regarding a proposal to close the Town Council office during the period between Christmas and the New Year. The office has been closed during this period for the last two years and did not cause any known inconvenience to Councillors or residents. This is also an opportunity for the Clerks to use their three statutory days' leave which is generally set aside for use during this period. Measures will be taken to advise residents and minimise any disruption. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Town Council office will, henceforth, close during the period between Christmas and the New Year.**
- 2. That measures, as detailed in the report, will be put in place to minimise any disruption.**

7386 REQUEST FROM GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL OUTSIDE GURNARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Town Council have been approached by Gurnard Parish Council requesting financial support to reinstate the road crossing patrol outside of Gurnard Primary School; the service has been withdrawn since September 2016. The Town Council have been asked to part fund the cost of the service for one year only in the sum of £1500.00. Gurnard Parish Council will ask the Parent Teacher Association to fund the second year. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council will support the road crossing patrol service outside of Gurnard Primary School, for one year only, up to the sum of £1500.00.

7387 REQUEST TO MEET WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL REGARDING COWES WEEK (MIN NO 7354 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2016, Councillors expressed a wish to meet with the Isle of Wight Council to discuss the future of Cowes Week and the Parade Village. The meeting will be taking place on 15 November 2016 at 11am at County Hall. Councillors Jones, McNeill and the Town Clerk will attend this initial meeting and feedback to all Town Councillors.

7388 CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION (CHC) IN RELATION TO THE COWES WEEK NIGHTCLUB AT SHEPARDS WHARF (MIN NO 7354 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2016, Councillors wanted to ask CHC what they are considering doing in the future for Cowes Week at Shepards Wharf. CHC have responded by saying that they are currently in the process of reviewing the Cowes Week shoreside offer at Shepards Wharf for 2017. They will be consulting with stakeholders for feedback on the current offer and look at how it can be improved. The issue of the nightclub will be an integral part of the review and therefore Cowes Town Council's comments and concerns will be taken into account. CHC will keep the Town Council updated on progress via the Town Council's representative on the Harbour Advisory Committee, Councillor John Corby.

7389 REQUEST TO MEET WITH COWES WEEK LTD (MIN NO 7354 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2016, Councillors expressed a wish to meet with Cowes Week Ltd to discuss the future format of Cowes Week. Cowes Week Ltd have responded by saying that they are going to hold a Shoreside Working Party meeting ahead of the next Shoreside Committee meeting. Cowes Town Council's representative, Councillor Slade, has been invited to attend. Cowes Week Ltd have no individual stakeholder meetings planned at this stage.

7390 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO GRANT A 50 YEAR LEASE TO UKSA FOR THE FORMER COWES YOUTH CENTRE BUILDING IN ARCTIC ROAD

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox explained that she had been working with the Isle of Wight Council and UKSA to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion for three years; Councillors thanked Councillor Peacey-Wilcox for her extremely hard work in this regard. The Isle of Wight Council report will be going to their Executive Committee meeting on 10 November and Cowes Town Council have been asked whether they wish to make comment. The recommendation is to grant UKSA a 50 year lease on the former Cowes Youth Centre, with the former sports hall being made available for community use. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council fully supports the Isle of Wight Council's recommendation to grant UKSA a 50 year lease of the former Cowes Youth Centre, with the former sports hall being made available for community use.

7391 FUTURE STRUCTURE OF ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)

Councillors received details of a proposal to restructure IWALC which detailed two alternatives for consideration. One to retain the current format (alternative A), the other to split the Island into three areas (alternative B). Councillors agreed with the proposal to split the Island into three areas i.e. North East Wight, West & Central Wight and South Wight. Cowes Town Council would be in the West & Central Wight area. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports Alternative B for the future structure of IWALC.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 8.30pm.

7392 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS 2017 – 2022

Councillors received details of the NALC National Improvement Strategy for parish and town councils 2017 – 2022. The strategy will be launched in January 2017 following feedback on the document, the deadline for responses being 11 November 2016. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes no comment on the strategy document.

7393 CLOSURE OF HSBC COWES BRANCH

Councillors received, with disappointment, notification that the HSBC Cowes Branch will close on 13 January 2017. Cowes Town Council wish to see the building retained as a retail outlet.

7394 BT CONSULTATION ON REMOVING A NUMBER OF PUBLIC PAYPHONES ON THE ISLAND

Councillors received details of BT's proposal to remove 33 public payphones on the Island, two of which are in the Cowes area i.e. outside 40 Place Road and outside the Fire Station in Victoria Road. Both phones have had minimal use over the last year; five public payphones will be remaining in Cowes. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes no comment on the BT consultation.

7395 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7396 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Future Traffic Regulation Orders – Councillor Fuller
- Cowes Week Trademark – February 2017

The proceedings terminated at 8.43pm.

CHAIRMAN