

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House on Thursday 3 September 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, McNeill, Nicholson, Oliver,
Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson & Wardrop.

In attendance: Ed Hill – OC Sports.

7131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Spalding.

7132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Min. No 7137d as he is a Director of Cowes Town Waterfront Trust.

7133 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2015 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 August 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7134 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

7135 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports had been received and circulated to members from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox. A written report on Community Wellbeing had also been received and circulated to members from Councillor Nicholson. Councillor Bertie did not submit a report and was not in attendance.

Councillor Nicholson was asked who would collate information about which assets are available in our community and should Cowes Town Council be proactive to identify any needs within the community.

Councillor Nicholson replied that as the initiative grows he will have more guidance that he can pass on to the Town Council and he will take the lead for Cowes Town Council.

Councillor Fuller was asked about Island Roads and their resurfacing programme in that a hump in Ward Avenue, which was reported in February 2015, had not been dealt with and was now in a dangerous state; he would look into this matter. Councillor Fuller confirmed that in relation to the Dottens Farm planning application he will be representing the views of local residents by objecting to the application as the local member not as an Executive member of the IW Council. Councillor Fuller explained that only relevant and sound planning reasons will be taken into account when the planning application for Bailey's store is considered. Councillor Fuller was asked why A frames had been excluded from the Licensing Policy for consents for tables and chairs to be placed on the highway. Councillor Fuller replied that strong feelings had been expressed by some Town & Parish Councils that A frames should not be included in the legislation as they promote local businesses.

Councillor Fuller was asked what could be done about the noise being generated from the works at the breakwater as complaints had been received by Cowes Town Council. Councillor Fuller asked for the details of the complaint to be sent to him and he would follow up with Environment Health at the IW Council.

7136 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

There were no representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Team in attendance and no written report was received.

7137 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) **Vacancy in Cowes Medina Ward (Min Nos 7099 & 7111d refers)**

Two applications have been received for co-option to the vacant seat. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, will set a date for interviews and Town Councillors will be invited to attend.

b) **Review Standing Orders (Min No 7090 refers).**

Amended draft Standing Orders (September 2015) were circulated to all Councillors.

RESOLVED

That the Standing Orders, as circulated, are accepted and adopted.

c) **Floating Bridge (Min No 7123 refers).**

In response to Cowes Town Council's letter to the IW Council regarding the financial implications of employing 10 new staff at the floating bridge, the IW Council replied stating that the staff have been employed on a temporary basis until the new ticket machines have been installed and staffing levels are under review so that they are only appropriate to meet customer demands and needs.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council writes to the IW Council suggesting that they could cut the number of staff by 50% by collecting tickets at one side only and if a machine is placed on only one side of the floating bridge, collecting fares for a return journey, they could reduce that cost by half. Also the benefit of only having to check tickets one side would speed up the operation.

d) **Recommendation from the Extraordinary Meeting on 18 August 2015 (Min No 7130 refers).**

A summary of the funding requirements for the Solitaire du Figaro sailing race was presented at the meeting and a lengthy discussion followed regarding the proposed event and the shoreside activities that would be provided. A named vote was taken regarding the recommendation from the Extraordinary Meeting on 18 August 2015 to consider offering funding of £25,000 on the proviso that significant community gain can be proven. Councillors discussed whether significant community gain had been proven and votes were recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillor McNeill.

AGAINST: Councillors Brown, Corby, Cowan, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Jones, Oliver, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson & Wardrop.

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Banks & Nicholson.

A proposal was made to support the event up to the value of £25,000 with any further contributions to be deducted from that amount. This proposal was not seconded.

A proposal was made and seconded to support the event for an amount of £5,000.

A counter proposal was made and seconded to support the event for an amount of £10,000. A named vote was taken for the counter proposal and votes were recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Corby, Ellis, Hammond, Jones, McNeill, Nicholson & Oliver.

AGAINST: Councillors Brown, Cowan, Fuller, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson & Wardrop.

ABSTENTION: Councillor Banks.

Therefore the proposal was carried by a vote of 7 / 6.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports the Solitaire du Figaro sailing event for an amount of £10,000.

Councillor Corby & Ed Hill left the meeting at 8.03pm.

e) **The Post Office in Cowes (Min No 7108 refers)**

At the Town Council meeting on 16 July 2015, questions were raised by five members of the public regarding the future of the Post office in Cowes. Councillor Banks asked if the Town Council had received any further communications from Post Office Ltd. The Town Clerk has not received any further information; Councillor McNeill will be speaking to the contact at Post Office Ltd next week on their return from annual leave. He will be asking what is happening about the porta cabin which is due to be removed on 15 October 2015; he will circulate any information received to all Councillors.

Location of Defibrillators in Cowes (Min No 7112c4c refers)

The Town Clerk has made contact with the First Responders at the IW Ambulance Service to request the locations of defibrillators for use in Cowes. To date, details of the locations have not been received.

7138 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 23 July 2015 and 20 August 2015 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller made reference to the planning application for Bailey's Store. Councillor Fuller has made representations on this application as Councillor Bertie, who is the local member, has a conflict of interest due to having a business close to Bailey's store. Councillor Fuller has given 5 planning reasons why the decision should be called in and go to the Planning Committee for consideration. He is waiting to hear if his reasons have been accepted.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council writes to the IW Council requesting that the Bailey's store application is heard by the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee.

b) **Projects Committee**

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 28 July 2015 were received. It was:

RESOLVED

1. **That the legal agreement for the shelter on the seafront is signed by the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk subject to any queries/discussions identified by Councillor Banks.**
2. **That a second radio controlled movement is purchased for the other clock face for the Town Clock.**
3. **That Councillor Fuller will liaise with Cowes Primary school to progress the following:**
 - **That a joint Litter Pick is conducted with the school, parents and Town Councillors.**
 - **That a competition is held for the best poster which can be made into sticky signs and permanent metal signs which the Town Council funds.**
 - **That signage is placed on both school fences – along the perimeter and the Woodland area.**
4. **That Cowes Town Council considers funding the restoration of the Fowles paintings on condition that they are then displayed at Northwood House.**
5. **That the Town Council does not consider a membership of the Fields in Trust at this time as there are no public green spaces in Cowes being threatened so there is no benefit.**
6. **That no additional signage is considered in Bath Road at this time.**
7. **That the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to instruct a sign writer to update the Mayoral board to a value of £300.00**
8. **That the Assistant Town Clerk is authorised to update the board for every new Mayor.**

c) **Informal meeting with Moorgreen Allotment Society**

The Notes of the Informal Meeting with Moorgreen Allotment Society held on 18 August 2015 were received.

d) **Meeting with the Supporters of Cowes Library**

The Notes of the Meeting with the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 26 August 2015 were received.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council write to the IW Council asking for a decision to be made about the future of the library as soon as possible and to request that the provision of a local library service remains unchanged.

7139 FESTIVE LIGHTS

Councillor McNeill presented a paper on Festive Lights. Cowes Town Council have agreed a budget of up to £15,000 for the next three years for festive lights to be placed in the High Street. (Min No 7112b2 refers). It was also agreed to ask Cowes Business Association (CBA) to contribute towards the costs of festive lights. Cowes Town Council will use £13,000 of the agreed budget for the installation, maintenance and storage of the lights. Cowes Town Council would purchase the lights on behalf of the CBA and the CBA would repay Cowes Town Council for half the costs in this financial year and the balance in the next financial year.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council purchase 'coloured' festive lights for the sum of £12,000 on behalf of the CBA and the CBA repay Cowes Town Council £6,000 in this financial year and £6,000 in the next financial year.

7140 BOLLARDS

Councillor Wardrop presented a paper on bollards around the High Street in Cowes. She raised the question as to who has the keys as during Cowes Week they were being raised and lowered for safety reasons but local residents are not afforded the same safety at other times during the year. It is understood that when the transfer of assets was made from the IW Council to Island Roads, these bollards were not included.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council write to the IW Council and Island Roads to ascertain who has ownership of the bollards, and to request that Cowes Town Council takes ownership of the bollards or, if necessary, serve a compulsory purchase order to secure ownership for the Town Council.

7141 TOURIST INFORMATION POINT

The Tourist Information Point (TIP) is situated in the Aqua Marine shop which is some way from the Red Jet from where most visitors arrive in Cowes, also there is no signage to indicate to visitors where the TIP is located. The Red Funnel office contains no information about Cowes for visitors to read even though Cowes Town Council gave Red Funnel a supply of Isle of Wight Maps in May 2015 at a cost to the Town Council of £500. Where are these maps? Why are they not displayed for our visitors to collect?

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council arrange for a finger post to be installed in the High Street directing visitors to the TIP.

That Cowes Town Council write to Red Funnel asking where the donated maps are situated and whether they could provide a stand, or the Town Council could provide a stand, so that the maps can be displayed at the Red Funnel office in Cowes.

7142 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Councillor Banks presented a paper on Performance Assessment for Cowes Town Council and its Members. The proposed assessment included sections – 'Your Council's Performance Assessment'; 'Aspirations For Your Council'; 'Your Own Personal Assessment'; 'Personal Determination / Aspirations' & 'What Training Do You Need'. The report stated that it needs to be considered as to whether this Town Council, its Clerks and Council Members, should appraise the performance of office, staff and Councillors in order to improve functionality. After much discussion it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council do not adopt a Performance Assessment programme.

Councillors Peacey-Wilcox & Oliver left the meeting at 9pm. On leaving the meeting Councillor Oliver offered a verbal resignation as he will shortly be starting university. Councillor Jones wished him good luck and thanked him for his time at Cowes Town Council. He reminded Councillor Oliver that he must also send a written resignation to the Town Mayor.

7143 DIGNITY AT WORK – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

The Dignity At Work – Bullying & Harassment Policy was prepared in October 2014 and was due for its annual review by Councillors.

RESOLVED

That the Dignity at Work – Bullying & Harassment Policy (October 2014) has been reviewed and remains unchanged.

7144 ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Town Clerk reported that due to the Police Commissioner Elections scheduled for 5 May 2016 it has become necessary to move the date of the Annual Town Council meeting which was also scheduled for 5 May 2016. In consultation with the Mayor it has been agreed to hold the Annual Town Council meeting on the same night as the Annual Town meeting – 28 April 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Town Council meeting will take place on 28 April 2016.

7145 VACANCY ON PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE

Nominations were requested for a Councillor to join the Planning & Licensing Committee following the resignation of Councillor Cowan.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Hammond is appointed to the Planning & Licensing Committee on a temporary basis until the two current vacancies for Town Councillors are filled.

7146 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

A list of hard copy correspondence received was circulated by the Town Clerk to all Town Councillors.

7147 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Speed limits in Cowes (Councillor Banks).

Cowes Week Trademark (Councillor McNeill).

The proceedings terminated at 9.09pm.

CHAIRMAN