

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 4 February 2016 at 7pm.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Jones referred to the devastating fire that had taken place in Cowes on 25 January 2016. Councillors expressed their sadness for those businesses and individuals who had suffered irreplaceable losses. Many classic yachts were destroyed and the Rotary Club and Cowes Carnival have lost everything. Help is being given to enable businesses to keep open in alternative locations. Residents were fortunate that the wind blew the smoke away from Cowes and thankfully no lives were lost.

7206 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowan, Hammond & Wardrop.

7207 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Peacey-Wilcox and Fuller declared a pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 7212b14 & 7212b15 relating to public toilets in Cowes and left the room for this item.

Councillor Banks declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7212c2 as his company had tendered for the work on this project; he left the room for this item.

7208 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A report had not been received from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer and he was not in attendance.

7209 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17 December 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7210 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two members of the public present, one being IW Councillor Paul Bertie.

Q. "As previously recorded in Cowes Town Council minutes, does Cowes Town Council still think that the trademark registration of the words 'Cowes Week' by the commercial limited company Cowes Week Ltd. should not be supported."

Councillors discussed the question and referred back to January 2012 when Cowes Town Council objected to the Cowes Week trademark and reiterated this objection in October 2013. It had previously been agreed that discussions about the trademark should include Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association & Cowes Week Ltd. Cowes Business Association have recently been in discussion with Cowes Week Ltd and have approved a workable agreement but to date this has not been signed. The agreement would allow all members of Cowes Business Association to use the words 'Cowes Week'; any non-members would have to ask permission to use the words 'Cowes Week' from Cowes Week Ltd. Councillors agreed that an extraordinary Town Council meeting, to discuss the Cowes Week trademark, should be called, asap, and a representative from Cowes Week Ltd should be invited to make a presentation.

7211 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports had been received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and subsequently circulated to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Bertie made reference to local matters including the Cowes Week Trademark, Cowes Business Association, refuse collection, Island Roads / PFI, Christmas lights and the Old Gaffers Festival. Councillor Bertie was asked whether Cowes would be hosting the Old Gaffers Festival; Cowes Yacht Haven are looking into this opportunity but to date have not heard back from the festival organisers.

Councillor Fuller gave an update on scheduled works to roads in Cowes and potholes, he made reference to the IW Council budget for 2016/7 and details of the IW Council Executive reshuffle. Councillor Fuller agreed to report a large pothole at the junction of Baring Road and Crossfield Avenue. Councillor Fuller was asked why enforcement of A Boards had been removed from the IW Council Highways Permission Policy. It had been agreed that the guidelines for A boards would be provided to businesses as good practice and this would be reviewed in 6 – 9 months; if any problems were identified enforcement action would be taken.

Councillor Nicholson made reference to water main work along Newport Road, Community wellbeing, joining the IOW Technology Group and he reminded Town Councillors to register any concerns regarding post resurfacing damage caused to new roads by utility services.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox referred to local issues including another accident at the junction of Victoria Road and Mill Hill Road, removal of floral tributes at IW Council cemeteries, the loss of marine businesses at the Medina Village / Harrisons site, problems of traffic not stopping at the Mill Hill Road / Love Lane zebra crossing and the Amey Waste Contract starting 1/4/16. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox agreed to take up with Amey the lack of communication with residents which had previously been promised.

7212 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) NHCTCL Park Sub Committee

The notes of the NHCTCL Park Sub Committee meeting on 7 January 2016 were received and noted.

b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee meetings held on 12 January 2016 & 26 January 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller abstained from Minute No 7212b3 & Minute No 7212b6. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That a grant be made to the following organisation in accordance with the amount shown:**
 - **Cowes Medina Bowling Club £750.00**
- 2. That the balance of £739.15 be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council does not apply for a blue flag and / or seaside award.**
- 4. That the cheque and petty cash payments for the quarter October – December 2015 are accepted and approved.**
- 5. That Bright Brown Chartered Accountants be appointed to undertake the preparation of the final accounts for the year 2015/2016.**
- 6. That Cowes Town Council place into reserves the remaining unspent budget at the end of the financial year 2015/2016.**
- 7. That £10,000 is transferred from the 'Discretionary Services' budget heading to the 'Grants & Special Events' budget heading for Solitaire Du Figaro. (Min No 7137d refers).**

8. That Cowes Town Council does not award a grant to Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society.
9. That the Town Clerk writes to Cowes Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society explaining the reasons behind this decision.
10. That Cowes Town Council adopts the amended draft grant application form for use in all future grant applications.
11. That Cowes Town Council opens a Nationwide Business 1 Year Saver Account to hold the Town Council Reserves.
12. That Cowes Town Council opens a Santander Business Reward Saver Account with a sum of £100,000.
13. That the same signatories and authorisations will be applied to each account as currently exists with Lloyds Bank i.e. two councillors plus one clerk must authorise any transactions.
14. That Cowes Town Council enter into a 'Tenancy at Will' agreement as from 1/4/16 for the public conveniences in Cowes.
15. That Cowes Town Council will negotiate the freehold of the public conveniences in Cowes, with the IW Council, over the next 12 months.
16. That the Town Clerk continues to be paid for any additional hours worked, over and above the 18 hour per week contract, to fulfil the duties of the Town Clerk.
17. That the Town Clerk is paid an additional 4 hours per week for the next six months, to be worked outside of normal working hours, to obtain the CiLCA qualification by the deadline of September 2016.

c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 13 January 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller abstained from Minute No 7212c4. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That subject to the inclusion of the electrical points at The Cut, Planning Permission is now sought.
2. That Company B is given to the contract to supply and erect the Seafront Shelter providing they are able to deliver the project by this summer.
3. That funds are "transferred" from the Outdoor Gym ring fenced monies to complete the Seafront Shelter project.
4. That the new sign and backing sheet for the skate park are purchased at a total cost of £118.50 plus VAT.
5. That Cowes Town Council obtains a defibrillator to be located at Northwood House for community use.
6. That Cowes Town Council takes on the full responsibility for the bollards in the High Street by way of ownership, maintenance and operation.
7. That Cowes Town Council replaces the 5 existing bollards in the High Street and installs a further bollard outside of Henry Lloyd.
8. That Cowes Town Council writes to the Isle of Wight Council, Highways Department, to request the following:
 - a) That Cowes Town Council takes over the ownership of the present bollards and their daily operation.
 - b) That Cowes Town Council is willing to enter into a licence for such.
 - c) That Cowes Town Council states their intention to replace 5 of the original bollards and provide an additional bollard and provides full specification and siting details on same.

9. That Councillors McNeill and Spalding are the appointed representatives of Cowes Town Council for any future meetings relating to The Patron's Lunch.

d) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 14 January 2016 were received and noted.

e) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 18 January were received and noted. A meeting with the Supporters of Cowes Library and a group of Town Councillors is being arranged.

f) Cowes Business Association

The notes of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 22 January 2016 were received and noted. Their AGM is taking place on 16/3/16 and is open to all.

g) Meeting with IW Council Re: Public conveniences in Cowes

The notes of the meeting with the IW Council held on 26 January 2016, regarding public conveniences in Cowes, were received and noted.

h) Social Media Working Group

The notes of the Social Media Working Group held on 26 January 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council adopts the Social Media Working Group Terms of Reference.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council starts a Facebook page to act as an electronic notice board which will not allow any comments to be made. This will only be administered by the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk and Chair of the Social Media Working Group.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council's Twitter Account will not be used at this time, but the situation will be reviewed in the future.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council's Linked In page will not be used at this time, but the situation will be reviewed in the future.**

7213 DESTINATION COWES

Councillor McNeill presented an update regarding Destination Cowes including a summary of key deliverables for 2016. A 'racing mark' will be named Destination Cowes. The next strategy group meeting will be in February 2016.

7214 GATEWAY COWES

Councillor Banks presented an update regarding the Gateway Cowes project. Funding for the study for the gateway area to Cowes has already been agreed and JLL / Aukett Swanke have been instructed to proceed. In addition to the fee of £10,000 a reasonable amount has been requested from each stakeholder for disbursements.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council sets aside a sum of up to £150 for their contribution towards the shared cost of disbursements.

7215 PATRON'S LUNCH

Councillor McNeill gave details of the Patron's Lunch which is taking place on Sunday 12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The event in Cowes will include a Church Service on The Parade followed by a picnic in the park (Northwood Park) which will include the opportunity for Cowes businesses and charities to run stalls. It will be a Cowes party for Cowes people and Cowes businesses and will be a fully inclusive event.

7216 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

A list of miscellaneous publications and correspondence was circulated to all Town Councillors by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 8.42pm

7217 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were received.

The proceedings terminated at 8.44pm.

CHAIRMAN