

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 5 October 2017 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk;
Councillor Peter Lloyd, East Cowes Town Council; County Press Reporter.

7556 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie, Hammond, Peacey-Wilcox & Taylor.

7557 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7652g as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor Slade declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7562b (Projects Committee Minute No. 150d) as she has raised the suggestion of a future Cowes Day.

Councillor J. Bartrum declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7562h as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on Destination Cowes.

7558 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

PC Adam Dollery was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written report and newsletter which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days up to 3 October 2017 showed 10 assaults; 5 criminal damage; 3 theft. In respect of anti-social behaviour statistics, the report showed 5 personal and 5 nuisance.

7559 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 September 2017 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7560 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present therefore no questions were raised.

7561 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 Nicholson made reference to the lack of regulation / control of the utilities works on the highways by the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Fuller feels that a meeting to discuss this matter should be arranged with the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads. Concerns were also raised about the number of burst water mains that had occurred in various locations in Cowes during this week. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will arrange a meeting, within the next four weeks, for Councillors Fuller & Nicholson to meet representatives from the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads to discuss utilities and their works on the highways.
2. Councillors to advise the Town Clerk, in advance of the meeting, of any other issues they would like raised at the meeting.

7562 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 12 September 2017 and 4 October 2017 were received and noted.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 26 September 2017 were received and noted.

c) Cowes Business Association (CBA)

The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 11 September 2017 were received and noted. Councillor R. Bartrum had attended the meeting and gave a presentation regarding a petition to get the Post Office back in the town centre. The CBA felt that the draft petition needed some stronger wording and should be a joint venture between the CBA, Cowes Town Council and Destination Cowes. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor R. Bartrum to re-draft the petition and circulate to all Town Councillors, asap.

d) IWALC Executive

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 21 September 2017 were received and noted. The Minutes referred to a presentation given on the HomeShare Scheme and Councillors agreed that a similar presentation should be made to a future Town Council meeting. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor J. Bartrum to circulate any information held on the HomeShare Scheme to all Town Councillors.

e) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 1 September 2017 were received and noted.

f) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 21 August 2017 were received and noted.

g) Meeting with IW Council Re: Cowes Week 2018

The Notes of the informal meeting with the IW Council Re: Cowes Week 2018 held on 2 October 2017 were received, noted and discussed. Councillor Glendinning also gave a brief summary of a meeting held earlier in the day of the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd. Councillors agreed not to make a resolution on this matter until the Shoreside Committee minutes are an agenda item and the Destination Cowes presentation has been made to the November Town Council meeting.

h) Destination Cowes

The Minutes of the Destination Cowes meetings held on 31 May 2017 and 5 July 2017 were received and noted.

7563 FLOATING BRIDGE

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox provided a written update regarding the lack of a floating bridge service. Despite meetings with representatives from the Isle of Wight Council the floating bridge is still not in service. Price Waterhouse Cooper have completed their report and a briefing is due to take place with the Leader and Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council. Councillor Oliver raised concerns with the Isle of Wight Council regarding the problem of disabled access on the launch; Councillor Peacey-Wilcox has offered a solution to the problem to the Isle of Wight Council but there has been no response. It is imperative that the Isle of Wight Council take seriously the need to provide disabled access when crossing the River Medina. Councillor Peter Lloyd, East Cowes Town Council, advised that they have made Freedom of Information requests of the Isle of Wight Council due to their lack of communication; any responses will be shared with Cowes Town Council. There may be an opportunity for businesses in East and West Cowes to claim business rate relief for business disruption due to the lack of the floating bridge service. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council, Cowes Business Association, East Cowes Town Council and East Cowes Business Association write to the Island MP, Bob Seely, requesting that he investigates the opportunity to gain business rate relief, due to business disruption, to support businesses in East and West Cowes over the winter months.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council write to the Isle of Wight Council to request that improvements are made to enable disabled access for residents to cross the River Medina.**
- 3. It was agreed that Cowes Town Council and East Cowes Town Council should continue to work together and keep the lines of communication open.**

7564 NATIONAL TREE WEEK

Councillor Taylor provided a written report regarding National Tree Week 2017 from 27 November to 3 December. The report suggests that to celebrate National Tree Week the Tree Wardens could conduct tree appreciation walks during the week in Northwood Park and Northwood Cemetery and help to dress a tree in Northwood Park or other venue. It was agreed:

ACTION

National Tree Week 2017 will be added to the agenda for the next Projects Committee meeting.

7565 ENGAGEMENT OF A DOG WARDEN

Councillor Nicholson provided a report regarding the nuisance of dog fouling in parks and public places and asked whether Cowes Town Council should consider employing their own dog warden. The Town Clerk advised Councillors that they are currently paying for 10 hours a week service from the Isle of Wight Council's Environment Officer; part of the role of the Environment Officer is to provide a dog warden service. The Environment Officer will report any issues to the Town Council and likewise the Town Council can advise if there is an area that needs particular attention. Should this be the case, the area is given increased signage advising of the penalties for dog fouling. The Town Clerk asked Councillors to let the Clerks know if there are dog fouling issues so that they can be logged and the areas monitored. Currently dog fouling does not seem to be a major problem; should this change it may be worth considering purchasing additional hours for the Environment Officer service.

7566 AGE FRIENDLY ISLAND (AFI) UPDATE

Councillor R. Bartrum provided a written update on the activities of the Age Friendly Island project. The first meeting of the Cowes Town Council Age Friendly Island Working Group took place on 5 September 2017. Councillor Bartrum also attended an AFI 'Champions' meeting on 11 September 2017; an AFI Public Forum on 21 September 2017 and AFI training on 28 September 2017. The biggest challenge ahead is locating those lonely and isolated people in Cowes aged 50+. Although not just about the isolated and lonely it is about bringing people together who are aged 50+ and sharing information on events, courses, clubs and societies etc. Councillor Bartrum would like Councillors to be involved in their wards to ensure that Cowes is a great place to grow old, which values, respects, engages and actively supports older people.

7567 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2017

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of the cheque payments and petty cash payments for the month of September 2017. Cheque payments totalled £17,271.92; petty cash payments totalled £178.99. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £17,271.92 and petty cash payments of £178.99 be received, noted and approved.

7568 HIRE OF PA SYSTEM AND FLAG POLE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider the hire of a PA system in the sum of £205, and flag pole in the sum of £215, for the Remembrance Sunday event at Northwood Park on 12 November 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council hires a PA system in the sum of £205, and flag pole in the sum of £215 for the Remembrance Sunday event at Northwood Park on 12 November 2017.

7569 DONATION TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £100 to St Mary's Church for the production of the Remembrance Sunday programmes. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £100 to St Mary's Church for the production of the Remembrance Sunday programmes.

7570 DONATION TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Sunday wreath. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Sunday wreath.

7571 DONATION TO COWES BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £250 to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday event on 12 November 2017. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £250 to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday event on 12 November 2017.

7572 LIGHTS OF LOVE CAROL CONCERT

The Town Clerk reported that the Lights of Love Carol Concert will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 7 December 2017 at Cowes Methodist Church, Birmingham Road. Consideration was given as to whether to make a donation of £400 to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at this event, as in other years. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That the date of the Lights of Love Carol Concert be noted.**
- 2. That a donation of £400 is made to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at this event.**

7573 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL SEMINAR FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

The Town Clerk reported that there is an Isle of Wight Council Seminar for Town and Parish Councils taking place on Monday 20 November 2017 for Chairmen and Clerks. Prior to the meeting Town and Parish Councils are being asked to advise of the three top concerns that they have with the Isle of Wight Council to help form the agenda. Councillors identified five top concerns: 1. Lack of a town centre Post Office and banks; 2. Lack of suitable parking in the town; 3. Lack of a suitable River Medina crossing; 4. The Isle of Wight Council's management of the PFI contract and their inability to control utility works on the highway; 5. Lack of affordable housing available to Island residents. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will advise the Isle of Wight Council of these five concerns prior to the meeting.

7574 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGING.

The Town Clerk presented details of the Isle of Wight Council's consultation on possible changes to non-residential care charging which expires on 16 October 2017. Specifically the Isle of Wight Council are considering the way they assess charges and they are looking at including a person's disability benefit income at the higher or enhanced rate, if they receive it, as part of their financial assessment. It was:

RESOLVED

That, if they so wish, Councillors can make individual responses to the consultation.

7575 POLICY ON DEBATE AND VOTING AT MEETINGS

A review of the Policy for Debate and Voting at Meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings.

7576 DIGNITY AT WORK – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

A review of the Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy.

7577 CHILD, YOUNG PERSON AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

A review of the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Policy was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Policy.

7578 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of the Grievance Procedure for Employees was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the Grievance Procedure for Employees.

7579 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of the Disciplinary Procedure for Employees was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves the Disciplinary Procedure for Employees.

7580 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Clerk presented a spreadsheet outlining the recent activities undertaken by the Environment Officer in Cowes. Issues raised included hygiene issues in the public toilets; damage to the MUGA fencing and rubbish under the skate park ramps. These issues were raised with the Town Council's cleaner and subsequently resolved.

7581 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7582 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Destination Cowes Presentation – 2 November 2017
- Cowes Week 2018
- HomeShare Scheme Presentation – Spring 2018

The proceedings terminated at 8.26pm.

CHAIRMAN