

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House on Thursday 8 October 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown (7.05pm), Corby, Cowan, Fuller, McNeill, Nicholson, Robinson (7.19pm),
Spalding & Wardrop.

7148 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, Ellis, Hammond & Peacey-Wilcox.

7149 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

7150 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2015 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7151 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public present who did not ask a question but thanked Councillors for doing what can be a thankless task.

7152 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

For the Cowes area Councillor Fuller made reference to dates of flu jabs at Cowes Medical Centre; Cowes Post Office; school parking; site visits with Island Roads; Cowes Breakwater; Mornington Woods; the new Waste Contract & litter bins on the Parade.

Councillor Nicholson's report referred to workmanship and failure of finished surfaces of newly laid roads; utility concerns; hedges and grounds maintenance and safe leisure ways.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox's report referred to road works at the Prison at the start of Cowes week; Alexandra House, Birmingham Road; devolution; Arctic Road / cycleway; Cowes Post Office; Southern Vectis; Denmark Road; new waste contract; Nat West Bank closure; Tank Military & Heritage Centre; tables and chairs license; The Storeroom; tree pollarding and 'Jack' the sculpture.

Councillors Fuller & Nicholson were available for questions but none were raised. It was noted that there was not a report from Councillor Bertie who was absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk writes to Councillor Bertie to express disappointment that Cowes Town Council has not received a report from him since March 2015 and hope to receive a report from him for the next Town Council meeting on 5 November 2015.

7153 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A written report had been received and circulated to Town Councillors from PCSO Derek Howard. PCSO Derek Howard and PC Adam Dollery attended the meeting and PCSO Howard talked through his report. He detailed the current police team; the crime statistics showed that there were 41 crimes in September 2015 compared to 29 crimes for the same period in 2014. When asked PCSO Howard said that there were no serious crimes to note, anti-social behaviour accounts for most of the crimes. A breakdown of crime figures can be obtained by viewing www.crimereports.co.uk. The three community priorities identified are – vehicles (including bikes) contravening the traffic prohibition in High Street; alcohol related crime and disorder in the High Street; alcohol related crime and disorder from youths gathering at Gurnard seafront. There will be more 'speedwatch activities' in Cowes over the coming months. Details of the 'Hampshire Alert' website were mentioned www.hampshirealert.co.uk. This scheme allows members of the public to choose what information they want to receive by email, text or phone message and within the website there is a link to the Isle of Wight Alert.

Councillors thanked PCSO Howard & PC Dollery for their attendance and report. Councillors noted that the Police Officers give up their valuable time to attend and that it would be prudent to move this item up the agenda so that the Police have to spend less time at the meeting.

RESOLVED


1. That the agenda item – To receive a report from the local Safer Neighbourhood Officer, plus an opportunity to discuss local policing matters - be moved up the Agenda to follow Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interest.
2. That Standing Orders be amended accordingly to reflect the change of order in the agenda.

7154 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Vacancy in Cowes Medina Ward (Min Nos 7099, 7111d & 7137a refers).

The Town Clerk reported that one interview had taken place on 22 September 2015 for the casual vacancy in Cowes Medina Ward. Another interview will be taking place on 21 October 2015 when the interview panel hope to make an appointment.

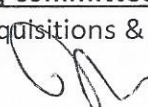
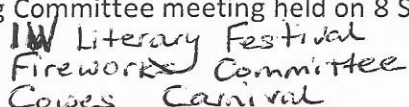
b) Floating Bridge (Min No 7137c refers)



Cowes Town Council wrote to the Isle of Wight Council with a suggestion to make savings by reducing staff by 50% and only having a ticket machine at one side of the Floating Bridge. In response the Isle of Wight Council thanked the Town Council for their input. They commented that collecting fares on one side of the bridge had been considered and remains an option. The issue is in having good intelligence about the peak periods and number of travellers when it would be impossible for one individual to collect fares from those getting on and off the bridge which could slow the operation down still further. As they collect more data they will be able to refine the operation accordingly. Councillor McNeill pointed out that the Isle of Wight Council had completely missed the point in our letter in that collecting tickets from one side only would mean that it would not be collected from ~~one side~~ ^{the other}, thus making the journey free one way and 40p the other way. The rationale behind this is that it is probably fair to say that 95% of journeys are return anyway, this might mean that 5% of revenue is not collected one way but that would more than be offset by the 50% reduction in staff.

- c) Placement of Isle of Wight Maps at the Red Jet ticket office (Min No 7141 refers).
Cowes Town Council wrote to Red Funnel to ascertain why the donated Isle of Wight maps were not on display in the Red Jet ticket office. Red Funnel advised that their supply had been used up. A further supply has now been donated and the Town Council has ordered a suitable display stand to accommodate the maps. Additional supplies of the map have also been given to the Tourist Information Point who will also be offered a suitable display stand.
- d) Cowes Post Office (Min No 7137e refers).
Councillor McNeill reported that negotiations to relocate the porta cabin housing Cowes Post Office are moving in the right direction and an announcement is expected within the next week to ten days.

7155 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

- a) Supporters of Cowes Library
The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015 were received and noted.
- b) Finance Acquisitions & Staffing Committee
The minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 8 September 2015 were received. It was:
 
RESOLVED
1. That Cowes Town Council writes to the three organisations explaining that they should make their grant application now and the application they make will stay in place for the next three years.
 2. That a grant of be made to Cowes T.S. Osborne Sea Cadets for Fire & Safety Equipment in the sum of £3,250
 3. That the balance in the budget of £6,550 be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.
 4. That Cowes Town Council provides winter bedding at Princes Green.
 5. That the Town Clerk obtains three quotations from contractors for winter bedding at Princes Green.
 6. That the Town Clerk is authorised to spend up to £600 for winter bedding at Princes Green.
- c) Cluster Meeting with Northwood & Gurnard Parish Councils
The minutes of the Cluster meeting held on 9 September 2015 were received. It was noted that a meeting with Island Roads to discuss local issues has been arranged for Wednesday 28 October 2015 at 10.30am. Councillors Jones & McNeill will represent Cowes Town Council. It was:
RESOLVED
That the Town Clerk will email all Town Councillors asking for details of any matters that they would like raised at the Island Roads meeting.
- d) Projects Committee
The minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 15 September 2015 were received. It was noted that the CBA will be issuing a press release to highlight the successful co-operation between Cowes Town Council and the CBA in the achievement of bringing festive lights back to Cowes. Councillor Nicholson thanked Councillor McNeill for his common sense approach to resolve this matter. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That, as agreed, the Town Council pays the total cost of lights and installation with an annual contribution of £4,000 from the CBA for the next three years.
2. That FW Marsh are awarded the installation contract.
3. That the existing Town clock is not repaired any further.
4. That as Cowes Town Council paid for the installation and emptying of the litter bin at the bottom of Blackberry Lane, that no additional bin is supported at this time.
5. That the offer of hanging the Mayoral Board in the St Mary's entrance of Northwood House is accepted.
6. That Cowes Town Council pays for the hire of a PA system for Remembrance Sunday, which cost £215.00 in 2014
7. That Cowes Town Council, subject to the permission of NHCTCL, pay for the hire of a flagpole for Remembrance Sunday, which cost £244.00 last year.
8. That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £100 to St Mary's Church for the production of the Remembrance Sunday Service programmes, as last year.
9. That Cowes Town Council makes a £50 donation to the RBL Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Sunday wreath, as last year.
10. That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £200 to the Cowes Combined Services Club for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday parade, as last year.
11. That only one 18 foot Christmas tree is purchased, installed and dressed, this year and sited outside The Vectis Tavern.
12. That the toilet cleaner / litter picker contract is extended for another financial year awaiting the results of the IW Council Community Toilet Consultation, when the Town Council may have to consider taking on the responsibility for additional toilet blocks within the town.

Councillor Fuller left the meeting at 7.39pm.

e) Informal Meeting with Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd (NHCTCL)

The minutes of the informal meeting held on 17 September 2015 were received. It was noted that Item 2b – Other maintenance – should have also referred to the naturalistic play area at Gurnard. Item 6 – The Fowles paintings – there were only five paintings displayed in the House – not six as stated in the minutes.

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Veronica Cowan is Cowes Town Council's representative on the NHCTCL Park Sub Committee and Councillor Linda Brown is the deputy representative.
2. That NHCTCL are informed of the appointments.
3. That Cowes Town Council's Year Book is updated accordingly.

f) IWALC Executive Committee

The minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 17 September 2015 were received and noted.

g) Planning & Licensing Committee

The minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 24 September 2015 were received and noted.

h) Harbour Advisory Meeting

The minutes of the Harbour Advisory meeting held on 25 September were received. It was noted that the Harbour Advisory team are made up from all walks of life and their role is to hold Cowes Harbour Commission to account. The team are not appointed by Cowes Harbour Commission and it may be useful to highlight these points to Cowes residents, via the Cowes Town Council quarterly newsletter. It was also noted that Red Funnel have attended a Harbour Advisory meeting to discuss their East Cowes project and while the Harbour Advisory Group are not supporting Red Funnel they are listening to them. Medina Yard developers have not consulted with Cowes Harbour Commissioners. It was noted that the Cowes Harbour Commissioner website was extremely out of date.

RESOLVED

- 1. That The Town Clerk makes contact with the Chairman of the Harbour Advisory Group for a contribution to the forthcoming Cowes Town Council quarterly newsletter.**
- 2. That the Town Clerk makes contact with Cowes Harbour Commissioners to discuss their website.**

7156 SPEED LIMITS IN COWES

Councillor Banks provided a paper on speed limits in Cowes and whether Cowes Town Council should consider which, if any, roads in Cowes should be considered for 20mph speed limits. Consideration was also given as to whether Cowes Town Council takes part in the campaign, following the tragic death of Evey Staley, to make drivers aware of speed restrictions by purchasing speed limit stickers for residents to use on their wheelie bins.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council, when it meets with Island Roads on 28 October 2015, discusses various considerations and seeks advice and recommendations in the light of safety, traffic speed and aesthetics.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council write to Mr Staley explaining the action that Cowes Town Council is taking and that a review to consider the purchase of wheelie bin stickers will be made when consultation on all speed related matters has been thoroughly investigated.**

7157 COWES WEEK TRADEMARK

Councillor McNeill gave a verbal update on the Cowes Week Trademark. He commented that no further progress has been made to date but he is expecting a commitment from Cowes Week Limited to agree a meeting date to discuss this matter. When a proposed document has been received Councillor McNeill will bring this matter back to Full Council.

7158 ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Nicholson presented two papers on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) which is a local, national and international initiative. The first paper gives background information explaining the strategy and guiding principles, the other paper being a form called 'Community Connector's Conversations'. The form records information gathered during conversations with family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and members of the public and could be placed in barbershops, pubs and other local amenities. The information to be gathered includes what you care about in your local area; what skills, knowledge, expertise and time do you have to put towards this; whether this would be a gift to the community; would you be prepared to meet with like-minded people in the community; what local assets

would you recommend to others; any stories of connections made. With the information gathered it will be used to invite the community to take part in an Ideas Fair in October to discuss how the passions can be moved to action through the sharing of gifts. Councillors expressed that there may be some cynicism around the initiative in that cuts in care are to save government money. Councillor Nicholson asked Councillors to read through the circulated material and be aware of the initiative.

7159 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S CHILD, YOUNG PERSON & VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

A review of Cowes Town Council's Child, Young Person & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy has been undertaken by the Town Clerk and the Policy has been amended and updated to reflect changes within the social care system on the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves and adopts the amended Child, Young Person & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy, September 2015.

7160 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON DEBATE AND VOTING AT MEETINGS

The Town Clerk produced a paper on 'Policy for Debate and Voting at Meetings' for consideration by Cowes Town Councillors. This paper brings clarity to the procedures with respect to the manner in which its members (whether elected or co-opted) participate in debate and vote on decisions and / or resolutions at all Full Council and Committee meetings. After much discussion it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves and adopts the Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings, October 2015.

7161 CHEQUES AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015

The quarterly cheque payments of £27,880.25 were presented, together with the quarterly petty cash payments of £1,032.27. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments and petty cash payments are accepted and approved.

7162 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Town Clerk reported that the previously arranged date of 28/4/16 for the combined Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Council Meeting cannot go ahead as the Annual Town Council Meeting must be held in the month of May. It was agreed, for the benefit of Town Councillors who sit on other Parish Councils, to avoid any clashes with the 2016 Annual Parish Council Meetings at Northwood & Gurnard. It was suggested that in future years it may be possible to have a joint Annual Town / Parish meeting between Cowes, Northwood & Gurnard.

RESOLVED

That the combined Annual Town Meeting & Annual Town Council Meeting of Cowes Town Council will take place on Tuesday 10 May 2016 starting at 6.15pm.

7163 CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES NORTH WARD

Joey Oliver gave his written resignation to the Town Mayor on 8 September 2015. The Town Clerk advertised the casual vacancy for the Cowes North Ward on the Town noticeboard with an expiry date for a call for election of 1 October 2015. The Proper Officer at the Isle of Wight Council did not receive the required number of requests for a by-election therefore the vacancy must now be filled by means of co-option.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk advertises the casual vacancy in Cowes North Ward by means of co-option via the Town Notice Board and via the County Press reporter present at the meeting.

7164 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Town Clerk presented a paper regarding the Local Council Award Scheme which replaced the Quality Council scheme. The paper identified criteria required to meet the standards of the scheme i.e. the basic 'Foundation Standard Award', the next level which is the 'Quality Standard Award' and the upper level which is the 'Quality Gold Award'. As there is no action plan or training plan in place for Councillors Cowes Town Council does not meet the criteria for the basic Foundation Standard Award.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council does not apply for the 'Foundation Standard Award' at this time.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council re-visits this subject in six months' time when an assessment can be made to consider if there is any benefit in joining the scheme.**

7165 LIGHTS OF LOVE CAROL CONCERT

The Town Clerk reported that the Lights of Love Carol Concert will take place on Thursday 10 December 2015 at 6.30pm at Cowes Methodist Church, Birmingham Road. Consideration was given as to whether to make a donation to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice at this event, as in other years.

RESOLVED

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

7166 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

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

7167 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A report from the Town Clerk, following information received at the SLCC Conference, regarding the use of social media for Town & Parish Councils (Min No. 7115 refers).

The proceedings terminated at 8.35pm.

CHAIRMAN