



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Cowes Town Council held in the Parish Hall at St. Mary's Church, Cowes, on Thursday, 16th May, 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

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

6745 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Proposed by Councillor Ellis and seconded by Councillor Nicholson that Councillor Banks be elected Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2014.

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Banks be elected Town Mayor until the Annual Meeting in 2014.

Councillor Banks thereupon made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office; he thanked the Town Council for his election and pledged to work in the best interests of the Town Council and the local community.

He then paid tribute to Councillor Walters for his hard work and dedication and for the enterprising way he had led the Town Council during his year in Office; he also congratulated Councillors on their recent election to the Town Council and presented Councillor medals to those new members attending their first meeting.

(Councillor Banks (Town Mayor) in the Chair)

6746 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Peacey-Wilcox that Councillor Cowan be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor Walters and seconded by Councillor Jones that Councillor Matthews be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

On a vote being taken, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Cowan be elected Deputy Town Mayor to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2014.

6747 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hall.

6748 FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Finance Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2014:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Corby, Ellis, Hall, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox and Walters.

6749 PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Planning and Licensing Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2014 with delegated authority to make decisions regarding planning and licencing issues on behalf of the Town Council:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Jones, McNeill, Robinson and Wardrop.

6750 TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Town Improvements Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2014:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Hall, Hammond, Jones, Matthews, Peacey-Wilcox, Robinson and Wardrop.

6751 NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Northwood Recreation Ground Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2014:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Hall, Jones, and Nicholson.

6752 ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Acquisitions Committee until the Annual Meeting in 2014:

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Brown, Hammond and Wardrop.

6753 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

RESOLVED

1). That the following representatives, having been duly proposed and seconded, be appointed to serve on the following Bodies until the Annual Meeting in 2014:

Cowes Business Association

Councillor D. Jones

Cowes/Deauville Twinning Association

Councillor L. Brown

Deputy - Councillor R.E. Robinson

Cowes Community Partnership

Councillor G.J. Banks (Town Mayor) and Councillor J. Matthews

Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Group

Councillor J. Corby

Cowes Police Local Action Group

Councillor P. Fuller

Deputy - Councillor L. Peacey-Wilcox

Cowes Good Neighbour Volunteer Group

Councillor J. Matthews

District 1 Highways PFI Group

Councillors Banks and Cowan

Island Waste Services Community Advisory Group

Councillor G.J. Banks

Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils Executive Committee

Councillor V. Cowan

Deputy – Councillor W. Wardrop

Member Auditor – Town Council Accounts

Councillor Matthews

Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor M. McNeill

Tree Wardens

Councillors L. Brown and L. Hammond

Wight in Bloom – Steering Group

Councillors D. Jones and R.E. Robinson

6754 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED

That the Town Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be re-affirmed.

6755 ACCOUNTS 2012/2013

The Town Clerk submitted details of Town Council Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts for 2012/2013 be received and noted.

6756 ATTENDANCES

The Town Clerk reported that the attendances of Members at Council Meetings during 2012/2013 were as follows:

Town Council	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	<u>%</u>
Councillor G. J. Banks	11	11	100
Councillor L. Brown	11	11	100
Councillor Cowan	4	4	100
Councillor S. Ellis	11	11	100
Councillor Flury	4	3	75
Councillor P. Fuller	11	10	91
Councillor Hall	2	2	100
Councillor L. Hammond	11	9	82
Councillor D. J. Jones	11	9	82
Councillor R.J. McGregor	6	4	67
Councillor J.M. Matthews	11	10	91
Councillor Mazillius	11	10	91
Councillor L. Peacey-Wilcox	11	4	36
Councillor R. Robinson	11	11	100
Councillor W. I. Sanderson	11	10	91
Councillor D. Walters	11	9	82
Councillor A. Wells	11	10	91

Planning and Licensing Committee	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	
Councillor G. J. Banks	15	14	93
Councillor L. Brown	15	13	87
Councillor Cowan	5	4	80
Councillor Flury	5	1	20
Councillor D. J. Jones	15	14	93
Councillor Mazillius	15	5	33
Councillor R. Robinson	15	12	80
Councillor W. I. Sanderson	15	14	93
Councillor D. Walters	15	9	60
Councillor A. Wells	15	7	47

Finance Committee	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	
Councillor G. J. Banks	7	4	57
Councillor L. Brown	7	6	86
Councillor D. J. Jones	7	5	71
Councillor J.M. Matthews	7	7	100
Councillor W. I. Sanderson	7	6	86
Councillor D. Walters	7	4	57
Councillor A. Wells	7	3	43

Town Improvements Committee	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Attendances</u>	
Councillor G. J. Banks	9	7	78
Councillor L. Brown	9	8	89
Councillor P. Fuller	9	2	22
Councillor D. J. Jones	9	5	56
Councillor R.J. McGregor	6	5	56
Councillor J.M. Matthews	9	9	100
Councillor R. Robinson	9	7	78
Councillor D. Walters	9	7	78
Councillor A. Wells	9	3	33

6757 DATES OF MEETINGS 2013/2014

RESOLVED

That the Town Council meetings be held on the following dates in 2013/2014 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
13 th June	9 th January
25 th July	6 th February
5 th September	6 th March
3 rd October	3 rd April
7 th November	17 th April (Annual Town Meeting)
5 th December	1 st May (Annual Council)

6758 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

An opportunity was given for members of the public to ask questions but none were asked.

6759 REPORTS BY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Fuller had submitted a written report referring to the following:

- That following the recent elections, he had joined the Independent Group on the I.W. Council; they were the largest group with 20 out of the 40 Councillors.
- That more than half of the complaints he had received during the election campaign related to Highway issues; he would be meeting with Island Roads in the coming weeks to discuss outstanding issues.
- That he was arranging a meeting to update local Councillors on progress at the Cowes Enterprise College.
Councillor Fuller reported verbally at the meeting that a statement regarding the Cowes Enterprise College would be issued the next day.
- That he had dealt with a variety of other miscellaneous incidents in the last month.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox reported:

- That Councillor Ian Ward had been appointed Chairman of the I.W. Council for 2013/14 with Councillor Charles Chapman Vice Chairman and Councillor Ian Stevens the Leader.

Councillor Bertie reported as follows:

- That he considered the annual meeting of the I.W. Council to have been a fairly well organised and harmonious affair; he had been appointed by the Conservative Group with Councillor Whittle to shadow on Tourism and Business.
- That the ruling group intended to revert back from a Cabinet to Committee structure administration; he considered this would entail a massive amount of work and disruption.

Councillor Nicholson reported as follows:

- That he disagreed with Councillor Bertie; he considered the I.W. Council Annual Meeting to have been a jumbled and rushed meeting.
- That although he was a new Councillor, he thought that changing back to a Committee system of administration could be ill considered and create many difficulties.

6760 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Sgt. Sizer congratulated Councillor Banks on his election as Town mayor; he then reported as follows:

- That he had been kept very busy in East Cowes following recent arsons in the town.
- That at a recent meeting of the Local Action Group they had dropped dog fouling as one of their three priorities; the priorities identified they had identified for the Police were:-
 - Drugs
 - Resourcing local events
 - Traffic violations – traffic though the High Street and illegal parking adjacent to schools

c). Drugs - that a number of premises had been recently searched in connection with drug offences; four persons had been arrested and three of those had subsequently been charged with offences. Sgt. Sizer stressed that anyone with information regarding drug offences should pass that information to the police.

d). Events – that a number of concerns had been raised following the 2012 VW festival; he was working hard to ensure that similar problems did not arise at this year's event.

e). Traffic – that although he continued to receive complaints regarding traffic through the High Street, this was a problem that was difficult to enforce. He considered that it would really help the situation if the 'rise and fall' bollards were once again utilised.

Councillor Walters referred to a further problem of licenced tables and chairs encroaching onto the highway at the narrowest part of Shooters Hill.

It was agreed that Sgt. Sizer meet with the Town Mayor and a representative of the Cowes Business Association to discuss how best problems of traffic in the High Street could be addressed.

6761 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2013 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6762 MATTERS ARISING

a). Granting of dispensation to participate in Council business

The Town Clerk reported that under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Town and Parish Councils were now responsible for determining requests for a dispensation by a Councillor to participate in Council business where this would otherwise be prohibited because they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest; this would primarily apply if so many members had a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item of business that it would impede the transaction of that business by making the meeting inquorate.

Any Councillor wishing to apply for a dispensation must fully complete a Dispensation Request form and submit it to the Town Clerk; copies of the request forms had been circulated to all members. The Town Council could either delegate the authority to grant dispensations to the Town Clerk or reserve such decisions for the full Council and dispensations may be granted for one meeting or for a period not exceeding four years.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council reserves the authority to determine dispensations under section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

b). Community bus scheme

The Town Clerk submitted a letter from the I.W. Council Procurement and Contract Management Team which stated that they had secured ongoing support for the community transport scheme from Southern Vectis for a further 7 years subject to this continuing to be affordable within the Council's broader funding capability. Unfortunately, the government would not be awarding a community transport grant of £48,000 for 2013/14 as it had in the past two years although the Council had agreed to make up this loss of grant by providing an additional £60,000 in the coming financial year to enable the service to be maintained.

The I.W. Council had identified areas of additional cost with the community transport scheme and needed to make changes to ensure its sustainability even though there was a significant and ongoing surplus in the bus income which seemed sufficient to meet these costs. They proposed that all funds generated from bus income would be pooled and 'ring fenced' specifically for the service and to meet the additional costs identified as well as the co-ordinator post within the community bus partnership. Any surplus funds would be held to meet the costs of the scheme in future years.

However, if there was an annual loss within the scheme, the participating Town and Parish Councils would need to meet the costs; they did not anticipate that any Town or Parish Council

would need to pay more than £1,000 a year to meet any shortfall and did not expect to have to call on that sum unless there was a significantly greater reduction of volunteer drivers.

RESOLVED

That the letter from the I.W. Council Procurement and Contract Management Team be received and noted.

6763 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a). Annual Town Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 18th April 2013 were received.

b). Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group held on 29th April 2013 were received.

6764 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

- a). The renewal of the Town Council's membership of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV).
- b). The renewal of the Town Council's affiliated membership of the I.W. Sports & Recreation Council.
- c). A request from the Friends of Northwood Cemetery that the Town Council provide a letter in support of their Heritage Lottery Fund bid to restore the West Chapel.
- d). *Details of miscellaneous correspondence.

(Councillors Fuller, Jones and Matthews declared prejudicial interests in item c) above as they were all Trustees of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery and they left the room for this item)

(Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared prejudicial interests in item c) above as she was a Life Member of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery and she left the room for this item)

(* Details circulated to all members)

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Clerk renews the Town Council's membership of the Conservation Volunteers in the sum of £38;
- 2). That the Town Clerk renews the Town Council's affiliated membership of the I.W. Sports & Recreation Council in the sum of £5; and
- 3). That the Town Clerk be authorised to write a letter of support for the Friends of Northwood Cemetery in respect of their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding.

6765 SOUTHERN WATER DRAFT STRATEGIC STATEMENT

The Town Clerk had circulated details of Southern Water's draft Strategic Statement which outlined their long term vision and strategy for water and wastewater services for the next 25 years; they were engaging with customers and stakeholders to further refine and finalise the document.

Councillor Hall had attended a recent Southern Water workshop; her report on that workshop had been circulated to all members.

Councillor Walters then referred to a problem of raw sewerage being discharged into the River Medina at Whitegates; the Cowes Harbour Commission had been unable to resolve this problem with Southern water.

RESOLVED

- 1). That Councillors respond individually to the Southern water consultation;
- 2). That Councillor Hall represent the Town Council at future Southern Water workshops; and
- 3). That Councillor Walters provides Councillor Hall with full details of the raw sewerage problem for her to take up with Southern Water.

6766 TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE

The Town Clerk submitted quotations for the renewal of the Town Council's insurance as follows:

	1 year agreement	3 year agreement
AON UK Ltd.	£1,578.04	£1,425.00
Zurich Insurance	£1,590.38	£1,428.23
Aviva Insurance	£2,184.81	£2,076.07

The Town Council's current insurance provider was AON UK Ltd.; the Town Clerk had undertaken a risk assessment of the insurance cover their policy provided and a copy of this assessment had been circulated to all members.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council enters a three year agreement with AON UK Ltd. for their insurance cover; and
- 2). That the Town Clerk be authorised to renew the Town Council's insurance for 2013/14 with AON in the sum of £1,425.

6767 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed that the following items be included on a future agenda:

- a). Upgrading the High Street (Councillor Wardrop)
- b). The Outer Harbour Project (Councillor Walters)
- c). The Town Council's Mayoral Boards (Councillor Banks)

(The proceedings terminated at 8.40p.m.)

CHAIRMAN