



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 6.15pm.

**Present:** - Councillors Brown (Chairman) Banks, Jones, Peacey-Wilcox and Robinson.

**634 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Spalding and Walters.

**635 MINUTES  
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

**636 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Banks in agenda item 14 as his company has tendered for the cleaning of the Bandstand plaques and Cllr Brown in the item regarding Northwood House Charitable Trust as she is a member of the Northwood House Charitable Trust.

**637 SHELTER ON THE SEAFRONT**

Cllr Banks advised that the IW Council have given verbal permission for the project, and so has the Crown Estates. The gas easement deed cannot be found, but should not cause a problem as the structure will not have foundations. Before final costings can be obtained, planning permission must be sought. A quotation has been received from M. J. Hayles for obtaining the planning permission at £325 plus VAT, plus £97.50 plus VAT for the Planning fee. It was:

**RECOMMENDATION: That M. J. Hayles is engaged to obtain the planning permission at a total cost of £422.50 plus VAT.**

**638 LEGAL AGREEMENT & REPAIRS FOR THE WISHING WELL**

The legal agreement has not yet been received from IW Council, as they are awaiting information from Island Roads. A quotation has been obtained from John Groves to complete the safety repairs for the doors and the seat at £614.00 plus VAT. It was:

**RECOMMENDATION: That the quote is accepted from John Groves for £614 plus VAT to complete the safety repairs.**

**639 MEMORIAL BENCH**

A price has now been obtained from Island Roads for the installation and maintenance of a bench on the highway - £2,500 until the end of the PFI contract (2038). This is considerably more than previously agreed under the bench policy. The bench policy was reviewed and now needs to be amended in light of this new information. Cllr Banks (who wrote the original policy) will amend it to show the Island Roads price. It was:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the Bench Policy is amended to incorporate the Island Road price for benches on the highway.
- 2) That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts the family explaining the problem with Island Roads, advising them of the price for the chosen location, but also advising that the original price would stand if the bench was located on private or IW Council land (such as Northwood Park or Northwood Recreation Ground).

**640 CYCLISTS DISMOUNT SIGNS**

Two signs have been ordered from Stocksigns, and delivery is awaited.

**641 DEVELOPING THE CUT**

Cllr Peacey-Wilcox has been unable to locate the original plans so far but will continue with her investigations.

**642 REPLACEMENT OF THE TRAFFIC ISLAND**

The Assistant Town Clerk has contacted Island Roads Safety Engineer. His response was circulated advising that there is no safety issue with the junction. Therefore it was agreed that:

**NO FURTHER ACTION.**

**643 CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE TOWN**

Four 18ft Christmas trees have been ordered at a cost of £680, and the collection, dressing and disposal has been agreed at £1900. They should be installed before the end of November.

**644 MAINTENANCE OF ITEMS OUTSIDE THE COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION OFFICE**

The crane and seats outside the Harbour office are in need of maintenance. The IW Council has confirmed ownership and responsibility (not Island Roads) but has no funds to complete the maintenance. This is a gateway to Cowes, and is not a good first impression of the town. Cllr Corby has suggested that quotations are sought for the necessary repairs and that once established contributions towards the costs are sought from the Harbour Commission, CBA, CTC and Red Funnel.

**ACTION:**

- 1) That Cllr Banks writes a specification for the work on the crane.
- 2) That once the specification is written, quotations are sought for all the required maintenance for the crane and seating.

**645 BUNTING IN THE TOWN**

Following the problems with the bunting installation in 2013, none was installed this summer by the Town Council. The total cost for 2013 was £2,987.50 for the bunting and installation. After much discussion it was decided that:

**RECOMMENDATION: That no bunting is purchased for summer 2015.**

**646 OUTDOOR GYM**

Funding is available from Sport England for equipment to improve the fitness, so the possibility of an Outdoor Gym was once again discussed. Unfortunately, a location was never agreed. Several locations were discussed – including Northwood Park, Northwood Recreation, Princess Green, Arctic Park and The Cut. Mornington Green appears to be the most suitable location, so it was agreed that:

**ACTION: Cllr Brown will contact the IW Council again (Lee Matthews) to obtain permission for the siting of an Outdoor Gym on Mornington Green.**

**Cllr Banks left the meeting for this item – at 7.15pm**

**647 TENDERS FOR THE CLEANING OF THE PLAQUES ON THE BANDSTAND**

An advertisement was placed in the IW County Press requesting tenders for the cleaning of the plaques on the Bandstand. G. J. Banks was the only company to submit a tender. Their quote was for:- Initial Cleaning £885.50 plus VAT, then an annual clean £485 plus VAT. It was:

**RECOMMENDATION: That G. J. Banks are contracted to provide an initial clean at £885.50 plus VAT and an annual clean of £485 plus VAT.**

**Cllr Banks returned the meeting at 7.20pm**

**648 BROKEN DOG WASTE BIN LID AT NORTHWOOD PARK**

At the last full council meeting, responsibility for the dog waste and litter bin maintenance and emptying at Northwood Park was agreed. Two of the dog waste bins have broken lids, which are allowing rain water into the bin. It was agreed that:

**RECOMMENDATION: That Island Roads replace the broken dog waste bins at a cost of £80 each plus £50 per hour installation.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 6.15pm.

**Meeting ended at 7.35 pm.**

**CHAIRMAN**