



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 25th February 2014 at 6.15pm.

Present: - Councillor Brown (Chairman),
Councillors Banks, Cowan, Jones, Nicholson

565 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Hall, Peacey-Wilcox and Robinson

**566 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2014 may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

567 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

**568 MATERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
REMEMBRANCE ORCHARD**

A letter of support was sent to Jill Cowley explaining the lack of suitable land in Cowes. She has since replied that private land is not a suitable location for the lottery funding. Cllrs discussed other possible locations and decided that:-

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk contacts the IW Council for permission to plant a Remembrance Orchard in one corner of Northwood Recreation Ground.

UPDATE ON THE COMPILATION OF AN ASSET REGISTER

Cllr Jones has started the condition survey report, from the Cowes sign on the sea front. Mostly these assets are now maintained by Island Roads. He did comment that there appears to be five litter bins missing, and the some of the seating is in a very poor condition (these seats were previously maintained by the IW Council).

ACTION: Cllr Jones to continue with the survey and provide an updated list for councillors.

UPDATE ON THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WAR MEMORIAL IN NORTHWOOD PARK

Although there has been no date set for the next meeting with the Northwood House Charitable Trust, Cllr Banks was able to report that the area around the War Memorial is included in a larger project to improve the Park by the Trust and forms part of a funding bid. The World War One Commemorations will be lasting four years, so time can be taken over this project. It was mentioned that the War Memorial is owned by Isle of Wight Council, although Cowes Town Council recently improved and upgraded it. The War Memorial is not subject to the national register and this does affect any funding bids. Cllrs felt that for the good of the people of Cowes they should take on the ownership and subsequent maintenance, so:-

RECOMMENDATION: That the Assistant Town Clerk contacts the Isle of Wight Council to start proceedings to take over the ownership of the War Memorial.

569 POSSIBLE PROVISION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

Cllr Brown attended a meeting with local residents of Mornington Green with Lee Matthews of Isle of Wight Council. Most objections were with the location, so other sites might be considered. There have only been six objections from the 150 leaflets distributed, so Cllrs feel that the project should still go ahead. Cllr Banks will provide an article on the project in the next edition of the Newsletter.

RECOMMENDATION: That £15,000 is ring-fenced from balances to complete the installation of an outdoor gym.

ACTION: Cllr Banks contacts Northwood House Trust to consider the installation of an Outdoor Gym on one of the Tennis Courts in the Park.

Cllr Cowan left the meeting at 7pm and resigned from the Committee

570 PUBLICATION OF A TOWN GUIDE/RESIDENTS HANDBOOK

This item was suspended from the agenda to await the results of the resident's survey. The Newsletter plus survey was delivered to 5,500 homes in the Town and only 79 responses have been received. Of those who did respond, this was not a favourable project. Apart from the cost of publication, the collation of the information would take a lot of time. In view of the fact that the Newsletter is providing a lot of information for residents, it was decided that:-

RECOMMENDATION: That the supply of a Residents Handbook/Town Guide is not taken forward.

571 PROBLEM OF DOG WASTE IN THE TOWN

Island Roads have refused permission for the installation of the dog waste signs on litter bins throughout the Town. Dog Waste is still a major issue – although the telephone line to Island Roads has proved successful in their staff coming out to clear up any reported issues quickly. Residents who are aware of owners who persistently allow their dog to foul on the roads/pavements must report them so they can be prosecuted. There appears to be areas of Cowes where there are a lot of litter bins and no dog waste bins, so Cllr Brown has arranged a meeting with the PFI Contactors, Island Roads and Isle of Wight Council to discuss possible solutions on the 5th March 2014.

ACTION:- Cllr Brown to make enquires about the cost to Cowes Town Council:

- 1) For the supply and emptying of additional dog waste bins.**
- 2) For the replacement of some litter bins with dog waste bin.**

572 SHELTER ON THE SEAFRONT

This project was also taken off the agenda awaiting the findings of the resident's survey. Although there were only a small number of responses, the shelter was considered quite favourable. In view of this:-

RECOMMENDATION: That £17,000 is ring-fenced from reserves whilst investigations continue.

573 MEMORIAL BENCHES

The Town Council has received two requests for memorial benches and one for a dedication of an existing bench. Discussion took place regarding re-dedicating of existing benches and this was not approved. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that Ventnor Town Council have a written policy where the families pay a fixed fee towards a seat and plaque.

ACTION: Cllr Banks will write a revised policy for councillors to consider at the next Town Improvement meeting.

574 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for Monday 17th March 2014 at 6.15pm.

Meeting ended at 8.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN