

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 21 July 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Jones (Town Mayor) Chairman)
Councillor Banks, Bartrum, Brown, Ellis, Fuller, McNeill, Peacey-Wilcox, Slade, Spalding and Wardrop.

In attendance: Sue Waters, Assistant Town Clerk, 3 members of the public and PC Adam Dollery.

7306 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Corby, Doyle, Hammond and Nicholson.

7307 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Banks declared a non – pecuniary interest in 7312f (3) in that he is Chairman of the Friends of the ORB Blyskawica Society

Councillor McNeill declared a pecuniary interest in 7312 c, a (i) in that he is part of the Fireworks Committee and so left the room for the discussion on that item.

Councillor McNeill declared a non-pecuniary interest in 7312 c,b in that he is the Cowes Town Council representative for Destination Cowes.

7308 REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

Pc Adam Dollery attended and advised that the Cowes Safer Neighbourhood team consists of 2 PC's, supported by 4 PCSO's. Sergeant Lyth works across both Cowes and Yarmouth but works from the Yarmouth office. At present, they are still located in the premises in Birmingham Road, but once the building is sold they are moving to the Fire Station in Victoria Road, to share their premises. The crime statistics were provided for June which were 4 assaults, 1 non-dwelling burglary, 4 Criminal Damage, 7 thefts and 1 theft from a motor vehicle. Questions were raised about the Speedwatch programme, the time it takes for the Police to respond to 999 calls, the operating of the bollards and the use of CCTV, to enforce the pedestrianised zone. Councillors were advised that the Police are supportive of any action taken to support the Traffic Order and if requested, they would pass on the information to the higher authority. Parking issues no longer fall under the Police, but they do report breaches to the IW Council Parking Enforcement officers. The work with Cowes Enterprise College involves the whole team and is proving to be effective.

The session closed with the team being thanked for their excellent work with reduced resources.

7309 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7310 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of the public raised a question about the lack of visitor numbers generated from the Solitaire Bombard le Figaro race. Traders in the town were expecting up to 20,000 additional visitors but this did not materialise. Shore side activities were restricted to the marina and did not involve the town. As the Town Council supported the event to the sum of £10,000, was this money well spent? Councillor McNeill stated that the weather during the time the boats were in Cowes affected the visitor numbers which was disappointing, but the feedback from the sailors and support staff from the race was very positive. There will be a “wash up” meeting which will

generate an agenda item for councillors to discuss. The member of the public who raised the question will be invited to the “wash up” meeting.

7311 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports have been received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson and Peacey-Wilcox. Councillor Fuller answered questions about the footpath from Brambles Lane to the Esplanade – this will re-open once the land has naturally stabilised and Rights of Way has re-instated the steps. The white vans parked in Crossfield Avenue was raised – this is an on-going issue with residents where driveways vision is compromised. Although the activity is legal, a compromise is being sought between the company and residents. Another question was raised about the bus lane no longer being required outside Cowes Enterprise College – this is subject to a change in the Traffic Order.

Councillor Fuller left at 7.25 pm to attend the IWALC meeting on behalf of Cowes Town Council. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was available for questions. She did highlight that the Patron’s Lunch was a great event.

Councillor’s Bertie and Nicholson were not available for questions. The item regarding disabled access within the town will form an agenda item at the Projects Committee meeting next month.

7312 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2016 were received and noted. Discussion took place regarding the survey which the library are currently undertaking and the Town Council is looking forward to seeing the results.

b) Planning and Licensing Committee

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 June 2016, 28 June 2016 and 19 July 2016 were received and noted. Councillor Jones will respond to the resident who raised concerns about the vacant land in Market Hill. Councillor Brown provided an update in that a metal fence now appears to be leaning on the protected tree – as Tree Warden she will raise concerns with the IW Council.

c) Finance, Staffing and Acquisitions Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 were received and noted.

Councillor McNeill left the room whilst discussions and the vote took place regarding the grant to the Cowes Week Fireworks Committee.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a pecuniary interest in the item relating to the grant for the Literary Festival and left the room whilst discussions and the vote took place.

It was

RESOLVED:

a) Grants

(i) That now that the full grant application criteria had been met, a grant be made to Cowes Week Limited Fireworks Committee in the sum of £5,000.

(ii) That a grant is NOT made to Cowes Armed Forces Day (Cowes RBL), as no refreshments were provided on the day, and that they will be advised to apply much earlier for a grant in future.

(iii) That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival in the sum of £6,300.

(iv) That a grant IS NOT made to Age UKIW, as it is a National Charity without a Cowes branch.

b) Destination Cowes

That, subject to the final agreement being signed off by all stakeholders, Cowes Town Council will pay the agreed contribution of £5,000 from the 2016 / 2017 budget.

c) Online Banking

That Cowes Town Council uses online banking for the Lloyds Bank accounts.

d) Amey Community Waste Forum

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 May 2016 and 28 June 2016 were received and noted. Questions were raised about the lack of food waste bins being available – this will be taken back by Councillor Bartrum as will the recent problem in Elm Grove over black bins/gull proof sacks. Discussion also took place about the way emptied bins are being left on the pavement – the staff are instructed to return them to properties where possible.

e) Cluster meeting 26 June 2016

The notes from the meeting of chairman, vice-chairman and clerks from Cowes Town Council, Gurnard Parish Council and Northwood Parish Council were received and noted. Councillors agreed that it makes economic sense for adjoining parishes to work together to make savings when delivering services. The question of the railings along the Seafront will form an agenda item for the Town Council when costings have been received.

f) Projects Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED:

- 1) That up to £1,000 is pledged for the drainage around the war memorial and that the Assistant Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman can award the contract over the summer to avoid a time delay.**
- 2) That the Town Council provides one Christmas tree in either Francki Place or The Cut.**
- 3) That the Town Council replaces the plaque in Francki Place to commemorate the night of the blitz at a cost of £600.00 including fitting plus VAT.**

7313 QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

Councillor Ellis provided a short verbal report on his day at the Queen's Garden Party on 10 May 2016. He advised that it was a day he would remember for the rest of his life and was proud to represent the Isle of Wight.

7314 SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE

Councillor McNeill presented a short report following a meeting held at County Hall with Alex Minns. The Isle of Wight Council has cut the funding to all the school crossing patrols in Cowes. Due to the fact that the children have to cross a main road – Park Road, this is considered a vital crossing. The cost to install a zebra crossing is £25,000 and would necessitate the removal of approximately six parking spaces, which would upset both local residents and the owners of the local convenience stores.

RESOLVED:

That Cowes Town Council supports the school crossing patrol service in Park Road for one full academic year only from September 2016 and requests that the schools works with local businesses to secure funding for future years.

7315 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of the cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2016. Cheque payments totalled £19,862.52; petty cash payments totalled £115.49.

RESOLVED:

That the Cheque payments of £19,862.52 and petty cash payments of £115.49 be received, noted and approved.

7316 MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

The letter received from the Monitoring Officer at Isle of Wight Council following the complaint from a member of the public against Councillors Ellis and Hammond was circulated to Councillors. A reminder of the wording of the Code of Conduct was issued to all councillors.

7317 CASUAL VACANCY

Following the resignation of Councillor Cowan, the notice was published on 6 July 2016 asking for 10 electors to give notice to the IW Council by 26 July 2016 if they request an election. If this does not happen, the Co-option process can begin.

7318 FINANCE, STAFFING AND ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of Councillor Cowan, there was a vacancy on the Finance, Staffing and Acquisitions Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Slade is appointed to the Finance, Staffing and Acquisitions Committee.

7319 IWALC TRAINING DAY

The Town Clerk presented a written report of her attendance at the IWALC training on Monday 20 June 2016. Overall, she found it a worthwhile and thought provoking training opportunity.

7320 FIREWORKS AND SHORESIDE COMMITTEE

Councillor Peacey –Wilcox had been previously appointed to the Fireworks Committee and Shoreside Committee. Unfortunately, the dates of the meetings clash with those of the NHS meetings, so she has reluctantly resigned from these positions.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Slade is appointed as the representative for the Fireworks Committee and Shoreside Committee.

7321 NEW MEMBERS FOR OUTSIDE BODIES

Following the resignation of Councillor Cowan, new appointees were required.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor Wardrop be appointed as representative for the Cowes Deauville Twinning Association.**
- (ii) That Councillor Jones be appointed as Deputy representative for IWALC**
- (iii) That Councillor Bartrum be appointed as Deputy representative to the Northwood House Park sub Committee**

Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 9 pm.

7322 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7323 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS
Solitaire Bompard le Figaro
Railings along the Seafront

The proceedings terminated at 9.05 pm

CHAIRMAN