



Minutes of the meeting held of the **TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE** held in the Town Council Office, 13 Denmark Road, Cowes on Tuesday 29 October 2013 at 6.15pm.

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

527 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Cowan and Nicholson.

**528 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2013 may be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

529 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

530 PARADE PLAQUE

Cllr Banks provided an update –DMR Engineering is constructing the backing tray which is taking longer as the plaque was not manufactured to the specification provided. They have been down to the Parade to ensure that it will fit, and it will be ready for installation before the Spring.

531 TOWN GUIDE/RESIDENTS HAND BOOK

Cllr Brown has been contacted by David Brookes (editor of the Cowes Port Handbook). The cost of the insertion for four pages is too expensive as it is being regarded as advertising. A meeting is being arranged to provide the text in an editorial format and a price will be provided for the next meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the offer of a free Residents Guide by “Plus Publishing Services”. Cowes Town Council would have to provide all the editorial input and any pictures – at this stage no-one was able to take on this huge commitment. It was decided that at the meeting for the inserted pages, maybe David Brookes would be able to provide this information as a starting point, or provide a price to provide a guide. Concern was raised that any printed publication is often out of date once published.

ACTION: Cllr BROWN TO REPORT BACK AT THE NEXT MEETING.

532 NEWSLETTER

Cllr Banks provided an update – 5,500 newsletters were eventually distributed around Cowes. Unfortunately, they started in Northwood so a re-print had to be undertaken. Feedback from residents has been favourable.

Approximately 200 completed questionnaires have been received in the office. These views of the public need to go to Ollie Boulter for inclusion into the Medina Valley Area Action Plan, but CTC Councillors wish to read them first.

ACTION: COUNCILLORS FROM BOTH THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEES WILL BE INVITED TO A MEETING ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER TO READ AND ANALYSE THE QUESTIONNAIRE BEFORE THEY ARE FORWARDED TO THE IW COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

The next Newsletter will include reports from other agencies, plus a new questionnaire gaining the public's views on a list of 25 possible future projects for the council and asking for suggestions for others, as it will be eight pages. Copy is required by the first week in November for a December publication and distribution. Councillors offered to deliver copies in the High Street and any multiple occupancy dwellings where a door entry system prevents distribution. A colour version is to be considered for future publication, so revised costs will be obtained for the next meeting.

533 DOG FOULING AND LITTER BINS

Councillor Brown provided an update. There are currently 87 litter bins in Cowes on the Island Roads Plan. Northwood House Charitable Trust Limited has given permission for the Council to use the bin sign which was produced for their bins. A price of £1.65 plus VAT has been obtained from the Sign Company. Northwood House Charitable Trust Limited would require an extra 10 so that their bins can be labelled front and back.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT 100 SIGNS ARE PURCHASED FROM THE SIGN COMPANY AT A COST OF £1.65 EACH PLUS VAT AND THAT 10 OF THEM ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST LIMITED.

534 SHELTERS

Cllr Banks provided an update and showed pictures of the existing shelters on the Green. He is currently working with the IW Council Legal Department to establish ownership of the groins – which could be the Crown Estates. The plan is to place a small Victorian style shelter with solid sides and a cedar shingle roof half way between the shelters of Gurnard and Princes' Green as this is a 0.95 mile walk with no shelter for residents or visitors.

ACTION: Cllr BANKS TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE IW COUNCIL TO CONFIRM OWNERSHIP OF THE GROIN. ONCE THIS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, RELEVANT PERMISSIONS CAN BE OBTAINED WHILST OBTAINING QUOTATIONS FOR THE WORK.

All possible projects will be subject to public consultation.

535 FINANCIAL CEILING FOR PROJECTS

Cllr Brown raised concerns that some of the projects on the list introduced by The Mayor at the Public Meeting last week for public consultation are very expensive. It was suggested that a ceiling of one third of the balances should be the maximum that can be spent on any one particular project. In view of this public consultation it was decided that:-

ACTION: TO AWAIT THE RESULT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER, THEN RESUBMIT THIS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION.

536 FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING

Cllr Banks advised that the attendance of some 30 residents following the delivery of 5,500 Newsletters was disappointing. Feedback received so far has been positive, and three of the new questionnaires have already been received in the office.

ACTION: TO HOLD ANOTHER PUBLIC MEETING ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014 WITH THE MAYOR AND THREE DIFFERENT SPEAKERS.

537 OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT ON PRINCES' GREEN.

Cllr Brown advised that the IW Council has confirmed that there is a covenant on The Green which prohibits installation of any gym equipment; therefore she is suggesting an alternative location of Mornington Green. Although this area has Village Green status, an installation of this type is within scope. Councillors were shown a range of equipment from Fresh Air Fitness who provided the Ventnor Outdoor Gym. Discussion was held around the need for landscaping to ensure full disabled access, and the possibility of obtaining grants for the project.

ACTION:

- 1 THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK TO APPROACH THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL FOR PERMISSION TO SITE UP TO 10 PIECES OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT ON MORNINGTON GREEN.**
- 2 Cllr BROWN TO OBTAIN COSTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 6 -8 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

538 COMPILING A LIST OF TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS NOT MAINTAINED BY ISLAND ROADS

Island Roads have provided a plan of Town Council assets which they will take over for the next twenty five years of maintenance, although this does not include all of the Town Council assets. Cllr Jones has started a list, which needs confirming.

ACTION:

- 1 A FULL LIST OF ALL TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS NEEDS COMPILING SHOWING BOTH WHERE ISLAND ROADS ARE PROVIDING THE MAINTENANCE AND WHERE THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY.**
- 2 ONCE THIS LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED A ROLLING PROGRAMME OF MAINTENANCE CAN BE AGREED. THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK CIRCULATING THE CURRENT LIST TO ALL COUNCILLORS ASKING FOR THEIR INPUT, PLUS COLLATING THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST CONCERNING TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS PLACED IN THE PARK.**

539 UPDATE ON ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

A) TOWN NOTICE BOARD

The replacement Town Notice has been ordered from Leander Architectural. Discussion was held about the old one, but due to the cost of refurbishment, it was decided that:

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 THAT THE PREVIOUS TOWN NOTICE BOARD IS SCRAPPED**
- 2 THAT A LOCAL TRADESMAN IS EMPLOYED TO INSTALL THE NEW ONE ONCE IT HAS BEEN DELIVERED.**

B) Queens Diamond Jubilee TREE PLAQUE

The new sign has been collected from the Sign Company by the Assistant Town Clerk. Cllr Banks will arrange for the installation.

540 POSSIBLE ADDITION OF PATH/BENCHES TO THE WAR MEMORIAL IN NORTHWOOD PARK

Cllr Jones advised that Hampshire County Council are providing grants for improvements to War memorials ahead of the commemorations next year for the 100 years since the outbreak of World War One and the 70th Anniversary of the D Day Landings. The Assistant Town Clerk has contacted Hampshire, but this is only available within the County. IW Council has been contacted, but no response has yet been received. Grant funding would be available both from the Lottery Heritage Grant and the War Memorial Trust. The painting of the names also requires some restoration work.

ACTION:

- 1 NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST LIMITED IS CONTACTED REGARDING PERMISSION TO IMPROVE THE WAR MEMORIAL.**
- 2 ONCE PERMISSION IS OBTAINED, QUOTATIONS FOR THE WORK WILL BE SOUGHT.**
- 3 FUNDING TOWARDS THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE PROJECT CAN THEN BE SOUGHT.**

Meeting ended at 7.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN