

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6.15pm.

**Present:** Councillors Glendinning (Chairman), J. Bartrum, Bertie (6.20pm), Jones, Oliver & Peacey-Wilcox.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Councillors Taylor & Wardrop (non-voting) & three members of the public.

### **167 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Glendinning was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Peacey-Wilcox, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Jones, followed by a unanimous show of hands. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Glendinning be appointed as Chairman of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee for the Municipal Year 2017 / 2018.**

Councillor Glendinning thanked those Councillors present for their support and also thanked Mark McNeill, the previous Chairman of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee.

### **168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fuller.

### **169 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Oliver declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 173 (ii) as his partner is a storyteller at the Isle of Wight Literary Festival.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 173 (ii) as a supporter of the Isle of Wight Literary Festival.

### **170 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 April 2017 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **171 SIGNATORIES FOR COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S BANK ACCOUNTS**

Following the local election on 4 May 2017 there are only two Councillor signatories remaining for the Town Council bank accounts. This will cause significant problems during holiday periods and further signatories are required. It was:

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Councillors Bertie, Glendinning & Oliver be added as cheque signatories for the Town Council bank accounts.**

**172 RECOMMENDATION FROM PROJECTS COMMITTEE TO REPLACE SIX PICNIC BENCHES AT MORNINGTON ROAD**

There are currently six plastic picnic benches sited on the grassed area adjacent to Mornington Road. The picnic benches are well used and provide the public with somewhere to sit and eat, while enjoying the sea views. They are under the ownership of the Isle of Wight Council, and are currently in a poor aesthetic condition, with heat damage to the surface of two, and a broken slat to the surface on another one. The Town Council asked the Isle of Wight Council to improve or replace the picnic benches to provide an attractive amenity for the public. The Isle of Wight Council have advised that they do not have the resources to repair or replace the picnic benches, but have offered to fund 50% of the cost to replace the current plastic picnic benches with six metal picnic benches if the Town Council funds the remaining 50%, and agrees to take responsibility for the future maintenance of the picnic benches. The estimated cost of £6,000 for the supply and installation of six metal picnic benches would require match funding of approximately £3,000 from the Town Council. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council funds approximately £3,000, being 50% of the cost of six metal picnic benches, and agrees to take responsibility for the future maintenance of the six metal picnic benches.**
- 2. That the cost of approximately £3,000 is taken from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.**
- 3. That future maintenance costs will be supported through the 'Street furniture maintenance' budget heading.**

**173 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

The Town Clerk reported that £18,000 remained in the budget for 'Grants'. The Town Council has been asked to consider the following applications for grant:

- (i) Cowes Open Bowls Tournament – The Cowes 63<sup>rd</sup> Open Bowls Tournament 2017 - £400.
- (ii) Isle of Wight Literary Festival – Youth Zone - £5,000.

Councillor Oliver withdrew from the meeting while the substantive discussion about the Isle of Wight Literary Festival grant took place. Councillors voted on the application, four Councillors were in favour, one Councillor abstained.

It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1. That a grant be made to Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £400.**
- 2. That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Literary Festival – Youth Zone – in the sum of £5,000.**

**174 QUOTATION FOR SUPPLY AND FIT OF 2 NEW INFRA-RED URINAL CONTROLS AT THE PARADE TOILETS.**

The Town Clerk reported that 2 new infra-red urinal controls were needed at The Parade gents' toilets to control the amount of water being used to flush the urinals for the estimated sum of £620. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

**That this essential maintenance is undertaken immediately for the estimated sum of £620.**

**175 THE BIG LUNCH – 4 JUNE 2017**

The Town Clerk reported that Cowes Town Council are holding funds for the Big Lunch 2017 from the Royal Yacht Squadron (£500) and the Island Sailing Club (£500). As Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd have been awarded a Lottery grant for this event these funds will not be required to support the 2017 Big Lunch. The Town Council has been asked to hold these funds over to support the Big Lunch 2018. Councillors discussed where the best place would be to hold over these funds until 2018. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will write to Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd requesting written advice as to how Cowes Town Council should treat these funds.

**176 STAFFING**

There were no staffing matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

**177 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There were no health and safety issues raised by Councillors or Clerks.

**178 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.03pm.

**CHAIRMAN**