

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Taylor (Chair), Adams, J Bartrum, Brown, Fuller and Nicholson

In attendance: Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peacey-Wilcox.

168. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) No declarations of interests were received.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

169. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 21 November 2017 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

170. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles is hoping to finalise the schedule relating to enhancements at The Cut with Island Roads shortly. He hopes to have costings from Island Roads for consideration at the next Projects Committee meeting on 20 February.

Local schools had been invited to submit entries for a new mural design to replace the existing mural on the wall at The Cut. The entries will be shortlisted by Councillors Fuller, Peacey-Wilcox and Taylor, with the final design being decided by residents following details in the Town Council's newsletter. Councillor J Bartrum offered to measure the wall where the current mural is sited, with Councillor Taylor offering his assistance.

Action: Councillors J Bartrum and Taylor will measure the area of the mural at The Cut.

b) **The Shelter**

The new foot rails have been fitted to the seafront shelter. There being no further action this item will be removed from the agenda.

c) **High Street Pedestrianisation and Bollards**

Island Roads were due to complete the installation of the new signage for the changes to the Prohibition of Driving Order by the end of November 2017, however, there has been a delay due to the electrical connections required for the new posts. Island Roads have identified a structural shortcoming regarding the width of the current posts, due to the increase in the size of the signs. Larger diameter posts will be required at 5 locations, at an additional cost of £1,478.40 plus VAT. It was

RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and staffing Committee consider the cost of £1,478.40 plus VAT for larger diameter posts to hold the new signage, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

- d) **Northwood Recreation Ground – Maintenance of the Skate Park**
 Quotations for the sand blasting and painting of the underside of the ramps at the Skate Park are being sought. Repairs to the ramps and tarmac will be undertaken shortly. The fencing of the Skate Park and MUGA requires minor maintenance, at a cost of £300-£400 plus VAT. Councillors raised concerns that tax payers' money is being spent on repairs resulting from vandalism. It was
RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee consider the cost of up to £400 plus VAT for repairs to the fencing at the Skate Park and MUGA, to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park, MUGA and Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget.
 Action: Councillor Adams will write an article on vandalism for the newsletter.
- e) **Access Audit of the Town**
 Island Roads feel there is scope for a corporate accessibility forum to be set up to look at access issues across the Island. Island Roads have been approaching retail establishments who place advertisement signage on the pavements, quite often restricting its use for pushchairs and those with accessibility difficulties, and requested that the signage is more appropriately displayed. Councillors discussed the issue of cars parking on the pavements in parts of the town, often leaving the pavements too narrow for electric chairs and pushchairs to pass. The Police will take action if the pavement width is compromised below a certain amount, believed to be 0.8 metres.
 Actions:
 1) Councillor J Bartrum will speak to Jan Brookes of Isle Access regarding the setting up of the accessibility forum.
 2) Councillor J Bartrum will write an article on accessibility for the newsletter.
 3) Councillor Fuller will include an article on parking in the newsletter, requesting residents report those who persistently restrict pavement access with their cars.
- f) **Tree Planting and appreciation / National Tree Week 2017**
 The two organised walks for National Tree Week were quite well attended, one being in Northwood Park and the other at Northwood Cemetery. The Chairman thanked Councillors Adams and Glendinning for their support on the Northwood Park walk. The tree dressing at the end of National Tree Week attracted interest from passers-by. Councillors discussed how best to display the Charter for Trees, Wood and People poster which had been gifted to the Town Council for signing up to be a charter branch. They felt that options for displaying the poster internally and externally should be explored.
 The second tranche of tree planting has been discussed and approved by the IW Council. Two trees will be planted at The Green on Crossfield Avenue, and four trees planted at Northwood Recreation Ground.
 Action: The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain costs for framing the Tree Charter poster for internal display, and for reproducing on plastic for external display.
- g) **Activities to promote Cowes Town Council**
 Councillors discussed appropriate wording to be included on a floor standing retractable display stand to promote the work of the Town Council. The cost to purchase a stand is £75 plus VAT, with an additional £35-50 plus VAT for the artwork. Councillors wished to have sight of the artwork for final approval, prior to the stand being ordered. It was:
RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £75 plus VAT for a floor standing retractable display stand, and up to £50 plus VAT for the artwork, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget, with the final design being approved by the Projects Committee.

h) **Cowes Webcam**

A background paper had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting which provided information regarding the webcams in Ryde, and suggesting that this could be explored for Cowes if a suitable location could be identified. Councillors felt there was not a current need identified for a new webcam in the town. This item will be removed from the agenda.

i) **Opportunities to promote the town**

Councillor Adams is pursuing the idea to hold a treasure hunt in the town and has approached a local artist who may be able to do the art and coding. Other events to promote the town were discussed, including 'Hidden Heroes', IW Pride and the Fringe Festival. The Anchor public house is hosting an event on 25 February to promote the town. Councillors felt that the Town Council should have a stand at the event, providing Councillors are available to give up their time.

Actions:

- 1) Councillor Adams will pursue the treasure hunt and 'Hidden Heroes' initiatives.
- 2) Councillor J Bartrum will contact IW Pride organisers to enquire whether flags are available to promote the event.
- 3) The Assistant Town Clerk will ask all Councillors to volunteer to give up an hour of their time to man the stand at the event at the Anchor.
- 4) The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the Anchor to request allocation of a stand for the event.

171. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

Councillor Nicholson tabled his report on this item. Councillors feel there is a need to increase parking facilities in the town and surrounding areas to bring in more people to shop and for commuters. Ideas on how to increase the provision of long-stay parking is needed. Existing parking facilities were discussed, along with ideas for possible new locations. Councillors felt that it may be of benefit to discuss parking with the IW Council's Regeneration team, and also to look at the IW Council's Parking Strategy to ensure any ideas pursued complied with the IW Council's parking policy.

Actions:

- 1) The Assistant Town Clerk will circulate the IW Council's parking strategy to Town Councillors.
- 2) The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the Parking Manager at the IW Council to request that consideration is given to improving the Park and Ride at Somerton by providing free bus travel for those who pay to park at the facility.
- 3) The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd to discuss how their car park can be better utilised.

172. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The additional finger post directional finger for the 'Tourist Information Point' has been installed outside Day Lewis Pharmacy.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

A routine inspection of the Town Council's facilities at the Recreation Ground had identified a number of maintenance issues with the MUGA and Skate Park. This was discussed in Minute No. 170 d) above. Minor repairs to the Playbuilder have been passed to the IW Council for their action.

173. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Community orchard – Councillor Taylor
- Drinking fountain – Councillor J Bartrum
- Fishing Line Bins – Councillor J Bartrum
- Skate Club

The proceedings terminated at 8.02pm.

CHAIRMAN