

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Taylor (Chair), Adams, J Bartrum, Brown and Peacey-Wilcox

In attendance: Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk), Councillor Wardrop (non-voting)

174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

176. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 16 January 2018 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

177. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles, the Council's Architect for the Cut project, is negotiating the final proposed scheme and will obtain costings for the enhancements at the Cut. Costings and timescale will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Regarding the mural, the competition entries have been shortlisted to the final three, with those shortlisted being included in the Town Council's Spring Newsletter for the public to select their favourite. Enquiries are being made with a local contractor regarding the cost to remove the existing mural (including the anti-vandal paint) and re-rendering the surface to prepare for a new mural.

b) **High Street Pedestrianisation and Bollards**

The additional cost of £1,478.40 for larger diameter posts to hold the new signage for the changes to the Prohibition of Driving Order at 5 locations will be considered by the Town Council at its meeting on 1 March 2018.

c) **Northwood Recreation Ground – Maintenance of the Skate Park**

Repairs to the fencing to the Skate Park and MUGA for the cost of (up to) £400 will be considered by the Town Council at its meeting on 1 March 2018.

Councillors considered the quotations received for sandblasting the underside of the skate ramps, followed by re-painting. The paint on the underside of the ramps is flaking badly and there is a lot of rust on the underside. Quotations are: Contractor A (sandblasting only) for the sum of £5,500; Contractor A (sandblasting only) for the daily rate of £550; Contractor B (sandblasting and painting) for the sum of £4,400; Contractor C (painting only) for the sum of £3,650. It was

RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee consider the cost of £4,400 plus VAT from Contractor B to sandblast and repaint the underside of the skate ramps, to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park, MUGA and Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget.

d) **Access Audit of the Town**

Councillor J Bartrum advised that she has been approached by several parties who are interested in being part of a Cowes mobility forum for the cluster area of Cowes/Gurnard and Northwood. Isle Access have offered to provide a template Terms of Reference, which can be considered for the forum. An item will also be included in the Town Council's Spring Newsletter, asking for anyone interested in joining the forum to contact the Town Council. Action: Councillor J Bartrum to follow up with Isle Access and Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils.

e) **Tree Planting and appreciation**

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. The A2 poster could be framed for internal display with an oak frame for the cost of £41.17, or £49 plus VAT to have the poster reproduced on A2 plastic for external display. Councillors felt that the poster should be framed and displayed internally in a public place for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

Councillor Taylor reported that 2 new trees have been planted at The Green, and 4 new trees have been planted at Northwood Recreation Ground. It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £41.17 to frame the Tree Charter poster with an oak frame for internal display, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

Action: Councillor Brown will contact Cowes Library to ascertain if they are willing to display the framed Tree Charter for the enjoyment of the public and visitors to the Library.

f) **Activities to promote Cowes Town Council**

The Town Council have agreed to purchase a floor standing retractable display stand to promote the Town Council at future events. A draft of the proposed artwork was circulated at the meeting, with Councillors agreeing the final wording.

Action: The Assistant Town Clerk will confirm the amended wording with the supplier.

g) **Opportunities to promote the town**

The idea to hold a treasure hunt in the town had not progressed and will be discontinued at this time.

Organisers of the IW Pride event have been approached to enquire if the Town Council can assist in promoting the event by flying flags in the Town, as one of the gateways to the Island. IW Pride have indicated that there will be a cost to the Town Council for any flags.

Actions:

1. Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will speak to Red Funnel to establish any plans they have to support the IW Pride event.
2. Cllr J Bartrum will provide the Assistant Town Clerk with details of the cost of purchasing a Pride flag.

h) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

The Isle of Wight Council have advised that the Park and Ride facility at Somerton is operated in line with other park and ride schemes in the UK, in that it is usual for park and ride facilities to have free parking, with the bus operator charging for bus fares.

The General Manager at Northwood House reports that their long-stay car park has seen a steady growth in users over the last few years, mainly as a commuter car park, with the average length of stay being over 8 hours. They are reviewing the facilities and will be installing a new ticket machine in the Spring which will be capable of facilitating contactless payments, Apple Pay etc.

The Isle of Wight Council is currently running a public consultation on residents' parking on the Island, from 5 February to Friday 16 March 2018; Councillors and members of the public are able to give their views on resident and visitor parking.

178. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Community Orchard**

The Chairman introduced a new project which outlined a proposal to create a community orchard on a corner of land at The Green, Crossfield Avenue. Community orchards promote community production and ownership of fruit, as well as creating habitats for wildlife. Approval in principal has been provided by the Isle of Wight Council for the siting of the proposed project. Councillors are happy to adopt the community orchard as a new project. Final costings will be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.

b) **Drinking Fountains**

Councillors considered a new project which is looking to reduce single-use plastic bottles by encouraging people to refill water bottles for free. A new partnership between Refill and the water industry will see all water companies in England support the expansion of this scheme. It is hoped that water companies will work with Refill to develop local action plans to increase access to drinking water locally by working with local partners. Events such as Cowes Week are also looking at reducing their environmental impact, including providing water stations for free water refills. Councillors are happy to embrace this as a new project.

Actions:

1. Cllr Peacey-Wilcox will contact the local water authority to make enquiries regarding the creation of a local plan detailing refill stations and new initiatives.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the Isle of Wight Council to request that the ornamental fountain on Prince's Green be uncovered in time for the Easter weekend.

c) **Fishing Line Bins**

Councillor J Bartrum has been in contact with the Isle of Wight Council's Executive Member for Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning requesting consideration be given to the introduction of fishing line recycling stations and fishing line bins, following the item being discussed at the Community Waste Forum. The Executive Member has advised that he will look into this further and liaise with Amey with a view to introducing it Island-wide. Councillors are pleased that the Isle of Wight Council will lead on the initiative for the whole Island.

d) **Summer Skate Club**

John Cattle Skate Club have approached the Town Council to ask if they are interested in booking school holiday skateboard sessions at the skate park at Northwood Recreation Ground. Sessions last for 2 hours per week, for six weeks, on a set day through the summer school holidays. The Town Council have supported this initiative in the past, which was well attended by children. Councillors felt that the sessions provide opportunities for those who do not have any previous training or equipment, and also teaches respect for the facility and other users, while undertaking physical activity and learning new skills. It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £720 for School Holiday Skateboard Sessions, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

e) **Green spaces and beach cleans**

Councillor Brown introduced a new project to clean well used ward areas and promote active and visible involvement in the community. Councillors are in support of the Great British Spring Clean event being held from 2 to 4 March, and will promote a spring clean

event at Northwood Recreation Ground on Sunday 4th March, from 2pm to 4pm. Suitable litter-picking equipment will need to be supplied, including hi-viz vests.

Action: The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain costings for litter-picking equipment and fabric Council logos and/or Cowes Town Council wording for applying to the hi-viz vests.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 7.25pm.

f) **Residential on-street charge points for electric vehicles**

Councillors had been circulated details of the Department for Transport's On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, which offers funding to local authorities to buy and install electric car charge points. The scheme has a number of criteria which need to be met for an application to be successful, including being located in residential areas where there is a lack of off-street parking. Before local authorities can apply they need to have considered if there is a demand in the area in the first instance.

Actions:

1. Cllr Adams will ascertain the number of electric charge points currently available and try to ascertain the number of electric vehicles in use on the Island.
2. An article be included in the Spring Newsletter, seeking residents' views on the demand for charge points.

179. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

Councillors were advised that one of the locks on the Town Council's noticeboard is faulty and is due to be repaired.

180. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Cowes as a pesticide-free town.

The proceedings terminated at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN