

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Taylor (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Fuller and Peacey-Wilcox

In attendance: Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

181. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Bartrum.

182. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillor Bertie declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 184g as his company are providing the flags for the IW Pride event.
Councillor Fuller declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 184g as his wife is working with Councillor Bertie.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

183. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 20 February 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

184. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles, the Council's Architect for The Cut project, is continuing negotiations with Island Roads regarding enhancements at The Cut. Costings and timescale will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration. Island Roads have offered to source alternative street furniture as they may not be able to exactly source the furniture specified on the architect's drawings.

A local contractor has provided options to attempt to remove the existing mural. Councillors discussed the options suggested and felt that a trial area using a low odour water-based gel is worth a try and the least intrusive on the public. Councillor Taylor wishes to be present while the trial is being undertaken. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of approximately £100 plus VAT to undertake a trial removal of the existing mural, to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the Council's architect to write to Island Roads to request costings for street furniture similar to the architect's drawings.

b) **High Street Pedestrianisation and Bollards**

The new signage for the changes to the Prohibition of Driving Order has been ordered. Once installed, further consideration can be given to monitoring the level of compliance with the prohibition.

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

Maintenance repairs to the fencing around the Skate Park and MUGA have been approved and a commencement date for the works is awaited. Once the fencing is repaired, the repairs to the ramps and tarmac will be undertaken.

d) **Access Audit of the Town**

Councillors were pleased that members of the community have volunteered to join a community forum to look at mobility issues in Cowes. Isle Access have confirmed their willingness to attend and provide assistance in the setting up the forum, for a small donation towards their costs. Councillors discussed the possibility of using S106 monies to make improvements in the town.

Councillors agreed to rename the agenda item to reflect the development of this project.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £30 to Isle Access to assist in the creation of a community access forum, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

ACTION

The agenda item be renamed to 'Accessibility in Cowes' to take into account the development of this project.

e) **Tree Planting and appreciation / Community Orchard**

The Chairman circulated a list of the trees that have been provided and planted by the Town Council in the 2017/18 financial year. The trees have been planted in community spaces at Northwood Park, Northwood Recreation Ground and on The Green, Crossfield Avenue. At the previous Projects Committee meeting the creation of a community orchard on a corner of land at The Green, Crossfield Avenue was raised. An estimated budget of £300, which will allow for approximately ten trees and installation of a plaque, was proposed.

Councillors felt that residents on The Green and Crossfield Avenue should be consulted on the community orchard initiative. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council agrees in principal to the sum of £300 being set aside for the creation of a community orchard, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

ACTION

A leaflet drop be undertaken on properties at The Green and Crossfield Avenue, to establish residents' opinion on the creation of a community orchard at this location.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox left the meeting at 6.40pm

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

Councillors are pleased with the new floor stand which will promote the work of the Town Council at future events. Further consideration needs to be given to the display content for the table-top display stand.

g) **Opportunities to promote the town**

Red Funnel are doing a number of special deals for ferry travellers during the IW Pride event, which will encourage people into the town. A flotilla off Cowes seafront is being explored by the Sailing and Cruising Association in support of the event. The Town Council could support the event by flying the rainbow Pride flag from the Town Council's flagpole for the duration of the event. The offer of a complimentary rainbow Pride flag has been made to the Town Council by World Leisurewear.

Councillors Bertie and Fuller left the meeting for the substantive discussion and recommendation.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council accepts the donation of a rainbow Pride flag from World Leisurewear.

h) Resident and Visitor Parking Matters

The IW Council's public consultation on residents' parking on the Island has now concluded and we await the outcome.

i) Drinking Fountains

The IW Council have confirmed that the ornamental fountain on Princes Green will be uncovered in time for Easter weekend. They are looking into making the fountain operational in due course. A number of organisations are looking into providing water refill stations and drinking fountains in the town.

ACTIONS

1. Councillor J. Bartrum be asked to provide an update on refill / water stations.
2. Drinking Fountains be added to the Full Council agenda for 5 April meeting.

j) Green spaces and beach cleans

The Town Council was pleased to support the Great British Spring Clean by holding their own event on Saturday, 17th March. Councillors and the Assistant Town Clerk undertook a litter-pick at Northwood Recreation Ground. The IW Council supported the event by providing free rubbish bags and a collection service. Those who attended were thanked for their hard work in very difficult weather conditions.

Councillors are encouraged to volunteer to undertake frequent tidying up of the town's green spaces and beaches, with suitable equipment being available from the Town Council's office. The Mayor felt that there was a possibility of the Mayor's allowance being used to sponsor any clean-ups by rewarding volunteers for their efforts and at the same time supporting local businesses. This idea will be considered further.

ACTION

That all Councillors be invited to periodically clean up their local green spaces or beach areas.

k) Residential on-street charge points for electric vehicles

Research is ongoing to establish the number of electric vehicles in use on the Island to determine if there is a demand for on-street charge points.

ACTION

Cllr Adams will continue to research this item.

185. NEW PROJECTS

a) Cowes as a pesticide free town

The Chairman raised his concerns about the use of pesticides, including Glyphosate, in and around Cowes. He acknowledged that there may be certain situations where these products need to be used, but the way they are used needs to be strictly controlled, with the area cordoned off and warning signs erected while the pesticide is being used and until it is dry. Councillors felt that more research is needed into alternatives to pesticides. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council adopts a pesticide free approach to work towards a pesticide free environment.

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the grounds maintenance contractors supported by the Town Council to enquire what pesticides they use and their procedure when using these products.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to ask how they control weeds, what pesticides they use, which weeds they consider to be invasive enough to only be treatable by Glyphosate or similar, and the working practices they have when using these products.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact councils already declared as a pesticide free council to enquire about the process they followed to attain this status.

186. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) Street Furniture

Councillors were advised that the lock on the Town Council's noticeboard has been repaired.

It was noted that the Town Clock will need to be altered for the start of British Summer Time on Sunday, 25th March.

b) Northwood Recreation Ground

A routine inspection has been undertaken at the Recreation Ground. Two of the Dog Bins on site have lost their lids. Island Roads have agreed to repair the Dog Bins at no cost to the Town Council.

187. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Street Banners – Cllr Bertie
- Mornington Woods Management Plan – Cllr Fuller
- Mornington Road Car Park - Cllr Fuller
- Town Maps – Cllr Bertie
- Promoting the Outdoor Gym
- WW1 Centenary Celebrations

The proceedings terminated at 7.50pm.

CHAIRMAN