

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 5 April 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Bertie, Brown, Glendinning, Hammond, Jones, Nicholson, Oliver, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; 4 members of the public.

7669 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

7670 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7675d as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7675f as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on The Big Lunch.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 7676 and 7681 as Cowes Town Council's deputy representative on the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7675d as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.

Councillor Bertie declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7675a4 as proprietor of World Leisurewear.

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7675a4 as his wife may be working with Councillor Bertie.

7671 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

PC Dollery was unable to attend the Town Council meeting but he provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days up to 31 March 2018 showed 10 assaults; 6 criminal damage; 7 theft. In respect of anti-social behaviour the report showed 2 environmental; 4 personal; 3 nuisance. Their priorities remain as the night time economy; safeguarding / prevention / domestic violence; youth anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

7672 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5 April 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7673 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Concerns were raised about the condition of the High Street in that it is looking very tired and could do with a lick of paint to enhance the Town and bring people into Cowes. A suggestion to add hanging baskets was made which had previously been used to brighten up the Town. A possible joint initiative between Cowes Town Council, Island Roads and Cowes Business Association could be considered. It was agreed that Councillors Glendinning and Taylor would liaise with local businesses to

seek suggestions and report back to the next Town Council meeting to avoid any delays in progressing this project.

A local resident raised concerns about the loss of the St Mary's Road Car Park Recycling Centre which had been removed by the IW Council. The IW Council now expect residents to use the weekly kerbside recycling facility which the resident said that all bottles are crushed into the collection lorry and therefore are not recyclable as they are in pieces. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor R. Bartrum as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Community Waste Forum will take this matter up with Amey and report back to a future Town Council meeting.

Concerns were raised about the increase in parking charges, lack of accessible parking spaces and car parks which are not convenient for shopping in the Town. Businesses are concerned that it will affect their custom and are working together to find a solution but they will need help from Cowes Town Council. The IW Council Parking Strategy Survey has now concluded; it is 85 pages long. It was agreed:

ACTION

The four IW Councillors, plus the member of the public who raised these concerns, will meet within the next few weeks to look at the results of the IW Council Parking Strategy Survey and report back to a future Town Council meeting.

7674 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox and had been circulated to all Town Councillors. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised that she was extremely disappointed that the Medina Yard planning application had been approved by the IW Council who paid no regard to the concerns raised about this development. Councillors who attended the IW Council Planning Committee meeting praised Councillor Peacey-Wilcox and Councillor Fuller for the representations they made on behalf of Cowes.

Councillor Fuller was asked if it was illegal to park on the pavement. He advised that providing there are no yellow lines it is not illegal if there is 0.8 of a metre of pavement available for use. Councillor Fuller clarified that the ongoing Boundary Review applies to the IW Council only, not Town and Parish Councils.

Concerns were raised about the forthcoming joint Costa / Gurnard Parish Council beach clean. Councillor Fuller advised that this is a matter for Gurnard Parish Council. Concerns were raised about the late delivery of the Spring newsletter. Councillor Fuller asked Town Councillors to let the Clerks know if they have not received a copy by Friday 13 April 2018. Consideration will be given to alternative distributors for future newsletters.

7675 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 20 March 2018 were received and noted.

Councillor Fuller abstained from voting on Resolution 7675a4.

It was:

RESOLVED

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

2. 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.

3. That Cowes Town Council agrees in principal to the sum of £300 being set aside for the creation of a community orchard on a corner of land at The Green, Crossfield Avenue, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.

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

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

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 21 March 2018 were received and noted.

c) IWALC Executive Committee

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 15 March 2018 were received and noted.

d) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 5 March 2018 were received and noted.

e) Cowes Business Association

The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association Committee meeting held on 5 March 2018 were received and noted. A question was raised in regard to the Floating Bridge. Have Cowes Business Association discussed the Floating Bridge? They were requested by a Cowes Town Councillor to gather facts and figures regarding loss of revenue to businesses due to the problems of the Floating Bridge for forwarding on to the IW Council. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Bertie will raise this matter at the next Cowes Business Association Committee meeting on 16 April 2018.

- f) The Big Lunch
The Notes of The Big Lunch meeting held on 23 March 2018 were received and noted.
- g) Destination Cowes
The Minutes of the Destination Cowes Board meeting held on 7 February 2018 were received and noted.
- h) Amey Community Waste Forum
The Notes of the Amey Community Waste Forum meeting held on 31 January 2018 were received and noted.
- i) SLCC IW Branch AGM
The Notes of the SLCC IW Branch AGM held on 22 March 2018 were received and noted.
- j) IW Council / Town & Parish Councils Seminar
The Notes of the IW Council / Town & Parish Councils Seminar held on 26 March 2018 were received and noted.

7676 COWES WEEK 2018 – SHORESIDE UPDATE

Councillor Glendinning advised that discussions are ongoing about sponsorship opportunities between Cowes Town Council and Cowes Week Ltd. The suggestion for water stations would logistically be difficult for stakeholders in time for Cowes Week 2018. However refill stations will be available through the town. Family day activities, youth day and colour co-ordinated signage was discussed. With regard to the 'Youth Day' it was agreed that home educated children should be included in the event. There will be a full Shoreside meeting at the end of April when sponsors are likely to have confirmed their plans. A grant application for the Cowes Week fireworks will be submitted to Cowes Town Council in due course.

7677 TOWN MAPS & TOURISM

Councillor Wardrop advised the Town Council that there are four versions of town maps produced by Destination Cowes with funding from Cowes Town Council; Visit IW; Cowes Harbour Commission and Southern Vectis. With the exception of the Visit IW version the rest exclusively relate to Cowes. The Tourist Information Centre in Cowes and Red Funnel are unable / unwilling to accommodate the maps held by Cowes Town Council and several boxes of the maps remain in the Town Council Office. In advance of considering a grant application from Destination Cowes for the production of another 50,000 maps, Councillor Wardrop suggested giving back to Destination Cowes the stock of maps held in the Town Council Office.

7678 DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Councillor J. Bartrum updated the Town Council in regard to the provision of drinking fountains in the Town. She is in the process of getting quotations from UK companies and has been advised that a suitable place to house the fountains could be outside of the public toilet blocks in Cowes. It was agreed that this matter should remain an agenda item for the Projects Committee to discuss.

7679 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING EVALUATION REPORT

Councillor Glendinning advised that four Town Councillors and the two Clerks attended the Code of Conduct training on 14 March 2018 which was delivered by Helen Miles, Monitoring Officer, IW Council. The course was very helpful and could be of interest if delivered as a broader training course on the Role of Councillors.

7680 ISLE OF WIGHT AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP (IWASP)

Councillor R. Bartrum attended a recent Age Friendly Island 'Champions' meeting where he was asked if Cowes Town Council would consider becoming an IWASP partner. IWASP is part of the IW Council's Trading Standards department and their expectation is that Cowes Town Council become the eyes and ears in the Cowes area for any suspected or real scam activity or doorstep crime. This would be a two way partnership with IWASP providing the Town Council with timely and relevant information for Cowes residents that could be disseminated through the quarterly newsletter. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council agrees to work in partnership with IWASP and will raise awareness in the community via the Town Council newsletter and inform IWASP of any real or suspected scams that come to the Town Council's attention.

7681 2018 COWES WEEK PARADE VILLAGE CONTRACT

Councillor Bertie advised that since our last Town Council meeting in March he has still not had sight of the draft contract, before it is signed, between the IW Council and Cowes Week Ltd for The Parade Village. Whilst the contract may work for the IW Council and Cowes Week Ltd, will it work for Cowes? Councillor Bertie advised that he has a meeting arranged with Cowes Week Ltd on 19 April 2018 to discuss the arrangements for Cowes Week 2018. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Mayor and all Cowes Town Councillors strongly supports Councillor Bertie in his request to see the draft contract between IW Council and Cowes Week Ltd before it is signed, and in his discussions with Cowes Week Ltd.

7682 UPDATE ON NAT WEST ATM

Councillor Glendinning provided an update regarding the Nat West ATM machine which has been out of service for some time. She has been advised that the machine needs to be replaced and a new machine is on order. Nat West are unable to give a date of when the new machine will be fitted. It was:

RESOLVED

That if the new cash machine is not fitted within 14 days of the Town Council meeting, Cowes Town Council will lodge a formal complaint with Nat West.

7683 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018

The Town Clerk presented details of cheque payments and petty cash payments for the month of March 2018. Cheque payments totalled £21,401.75; petty cash payments totalled £211.89. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £21,401.75 and petty cash payments of £211.89 be received, noted and approved.

7684 REQUEST FROM THE IW COUNCIL TO PART FUND A COWES BUSINESS SURVEY

Following on from Chris Ashman's presentation to the March Town Council meeting, a formal request to part fund a Cowes business survey has been received in the sum of £3,000. The survey is designed to get a better understanding of the businesses in Cowes, not just the High Street. Councillors questioned how the 50% of businesses on the list would be selected for interview. Councillors queried what the results would look like and what outcome could be expected. It is understood that Mr Ashman has undertaken similar surveys for other local authorities. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will request a copy of the results of a survey already undertaken in a similar size town to Cowes. Also to request, as a result of the survey, what were the outcomes, did the survey evoke any investment, how did the survey help to regenerate the area involved?

7685 CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES WEST WARD

The close date for applying for co-option to the vacancy in Cowes West Ward expired on 3 April 2018. The Town Clerk advised that five candidates had come forward for interview. With the agreement of the Mayor the interviews will take place on Thursday 19 April 2018 in the Library at Northwood House, starting at 6pm. Councillors Jones & Oliver advised that they also wished to be included in the interview panel. The Town Clerk will circulate copies of the candidates' CVs, covering letters and interview schedule to all Town Councillors in due course.

7686 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Issues raised included dog fouling around the town, faulty equipment at the Play Park, fly tipping at St Mary's Road car park and trip hazards on pavements.

7687 APPOINTMENT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ORP BLYSKAWICA SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An appointment was sought for a Councillor to join the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society's Executive Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Jones be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society's Executive Committee.

7688 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Details of miscellaneous publications and correspondence received was circulated to all Town Councillors.

7689 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- CycleWight Presentation – June 2018

The proceedings terminated at 8.59pm.

CHAIRMAN