

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 17 July 2018 at 6.15pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Glendinning (non-voting), Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk), Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut Project)

203. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and Nicholson.

204. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

205. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 June 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

206. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut

Martin Hayles updated Councillors on Island Roads' request for additional information and drawings. Councillors were disappointed at the complexity of the project which will increase the workload for Martin on the Town Council's behalf in order to assist Island Roads in the preparation of a Bill of Quantities. Island Roads have moved their allocation of funds for programmed works at the Cut into the 2018-19 financial year, with works not expected to be undertaken until early-mid 2019. Councillors were concerned at the further delays in moving this project forward, including the time limit of our current planning permission. Martin advised that an amendment or extension to the planning permission will be required due to changes in the project since the planning permission was obtained. Martin was asked to provide details of his costs for the project since its inception. Councillors felt that a meeting with representatives from Island Roads would be beneficial in the light of Island Roads' request for further information.

The Assistant Town Clerk has identified the anti-graffiti product used on the existing mural, after speaking to the original artist. Manufacturers of the anti-graffiti paint have provided the procedure to follow for its removal. Councillors considered quotations from local contractors to remove the anti-graffiti paint and prepare the surface for a new mural. Three local artists will be invited to meet with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Councillor Brown to discuss designs for a new mural.

It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council agrees the cost of £598.95 for Contractor C to remove the anti-graffiti paint and prepare the surface for a new mural, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.

ACTIONS:

1. Martin Hayles will provide details of his costs for the Cut project since its inception.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will invite representatives from Island Roads to attend a meeting of the Projects Committee to discuss this project.

3. The Assistant Town Clerk will arrange for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Councillor Brown to meet with the three artists to discuss designs for a new mural.
- b) **Northwood Recreation Ground – Maintenance of the Skate Park**
The surface of the Skate Park ramps are being painted with black and grey anti-slip paint. The underside of the Skate Park ramps have been sandblasted and are due to be repainted shortly.
ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will take photos of the Skate Park and prepare an article for the next newsletter detailing the maintenance undertaken and costs involved.
- c) **Accessibility in Cowes**
Councillor J. Bartrum reported on the recent meeting of the Cowes Mobility Forum. The Forum are hoping to invite Wendy Perera from the Isle of Wight Council to be guest speaker at their next meeting to answer questions regarding building regulations and planning relating to accessibility. Councillors felt that the Forum should have a representative and deputy representative appointed by the Town Council.
ACTION: That Town Clerk will request an appointment to the Cowes Mobility Forum at the 6 September 2018 Town Council meeting.
- d) **Tree Planting and appreciation / Community Orchard**
This item was deferred until the next meeting, pending the outcome of a report to the Town Council meeting on 19 July 2018 concerning the role of the Town Council's tree wardens.
- e) **Activities to promote Cowes Town Council**
Councillors considered promoting the Town Council at Cowes Christmas Fair to be held at Cowes Yacht Haven on the weekend of 17 and 18 November 2018. The cost for a display table is £85 for both days, or £45 for the Sunday only. The event runs from 10.30am to 4.30pm and volunteers will be required to man the stand throughout the event. Councillors felt that it would be beneficial for the display stand to be available throughout the event, and that it should include promotion of the Festive Lights switch-on event which will take place on Saturday 17th November 2018. It was
RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council agrees to reserve a table display at Cowes Christmas Fair, at a cost of £85 for both days, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.
ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will include promotion of the Festive Lights switch-on event on the Town Council's display stand.
- f) **Opportunities to promote the town**
45 new hanging baskets have been installed along the extended High Street and have been added to the summer watering contract. Some concerns were raised about the spread of the baskets and the quality of some of the plantings. A strict criteria specified by Island Roads for installing the baskets had been complied with, including basket minimum height and the necessity to avoid buildings with elaborate or delicate frontages and any listed buildings. The prolonged period of hot weather has meant an increase in the frequency of watering of the new baskets, along with the existing troughs and planters throughout the town. Local businesses have been encouraged to water their baskets as required in addition to the watering contractor.

- g) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**
A meeting will take place between the four IW Council ward councillors and IW Council Officers to progress parking issues in the town. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox emphasised the need for additional parking spaces in Cowes, especially with increasing numbers of Island residents needing to travel to Southampton for NHS treatment.
- h) **Drinking Fountains**
Councillor Peacey-Wilcox advised that Southern Water are supportive of establishments providing free drinking water refills as an alternative to providing drinking fountains which could have health and safety consequences.
- i) **Green spaces and beach cleans**
Regular beach cleans were being organised in Cowes and neighbouring Gurnard. Councillors are supportive of these organised events and will promote locally. There being no further action for the Projects Committee, this item will be removed from the agenda.
- j) **Cowes as a pesticide free town**
Councillor Taylor has written to Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited (NHCTCL) seeking their support for Northwood Park's grounds maintenance contractor, which is currently funded by the Town Council, to avoid Glyphosate-based chemicals in the grounds of the Park except in exceptional circumstances, when the area should be cordoned off with suitable signage until the chemical has dried. The Chairman of the Board of Directors at NHCTCL is supportive of the Town Council requesting the Park's grounds maintenance contractor to follow its pesticide-free approach.
ACTIONS:
1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to NHCTCL's grounds maintenance contractors stating our requirements for no Glyphosate to be used in the Park except for brambles, bindweed and nettles, and where it is used that the area is cordoned off with appropriate notices until the area has dried off.
 2. The Chairman of the Projects Committee will write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage advising him of our resolution regarding the use of pesticides and giving details of alternative methods of weed control and our safety requirements where the Glyphosate must be used within the Cowes boundary.
- k) **Street Banners**
There was no update on this item.
- l) **Mornington Woods Management Plan / Mornington Road Car Park**
There was no update on this item.
- m) **Promoting the Outdoor Gym**
Councillor J Bartrum has contacted Age Friendly Island regarding promotion of the outdoor gym. Councillor Brown has written an article for inclusion in the next newsletter.

n) **Christmas Trees in the town**

Councillors considered designs for a plaque which will promote the Town Council as provider of the Town's Christmas Tree. The preferred design was for the words 'Provided by Cowes Town Council', engraved on a 400mm by 150mm white Corian plaque, with deep v-groove engraved lettering in blue font. It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council agrees to purchase a white Corian plaque, 400mm by 150mm, engraved with blue lettering, at a cost of £67.95, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.

207. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Community Composting**

There was no update on this item.

b) **Community-Led Housing**

Councillor Bartrum provided a booklet for Councillors on Community Led Housing.

208. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The picnic benches at Mornington Green have suffered minor surface damage caused by hot barbeques.

209. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.38pm.

CHAIRMAN