

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 19 July 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Brown, Glendinning, Hammond, Jones, Nicholson (7.03pm), Oliver, Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; County Press reporter; one member of the public.

7755 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

7756 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761e as she attended the Northwood House – Park Sub Committee meeting on 26 June 2018.

Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761e as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Northwood House – Park Sub Committee.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761h as Cowes Town Council's representative on The Big Lunch.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761b2 as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Shoreside Committee, Cowes Week Ltd.

Councillor Glendinning declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7763 as her husband had been involved in discussions about Project Cowes in 2003.

Councillors Jones and Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761b3 as they are shortly to be judging a competition organised by the Moorgreen Road Allotment Society.

Councillor Hammond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761b1 as she manages the parking for the bowls competitors.

Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, R. Bartrum, Brown, Fuller and Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7761b8 as they are members of the 'Nextdoor' social network.

7757 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer sent his apologies for the meeting but had provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for the last 31 days up to 15 July 2018 showed 14 assaults; 8 criminal damage; 10 theft; 1 theft from a motor vehicle. In respect of anti-social behaviour the report showed 2 environmental; 9 personal; 11 community. Their priorities remain as the night time economy; safeguarding / prevention / domestic violence; youth anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

7758 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 June 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7759 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The member of the public commented about the hostility between Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association and asked what the Town Council could gain from this. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox explained the background to the correspondence between Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association. The member of the public asked whether Cowes Town Council have a long term strategy for Cowes High Street and whether they would support the High Street becoming shorter with residential developments at the extended ends of the High Street. Councillors explained that the Town Council is not the Local Planning Authority but can make comments on planning applications in the High Street. Several planning applications for change of use from retail to residential in the extended High Street have already been considered by the Town Council who have raised no objections to those planning applications.

The member of the public left the meeting with one final question – when will there be a roof put in place over The Cut?

7760 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey-Wilcox.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox was asked about the Solent LEP meeting that she attended on 22 June 2018. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox said that the meeting went well, she said what needed to be said and felt that she had been listened to. Councillors commented that a recent IW Council press release regarding usage and income generated from the Floating Bridge had been misleading and needed clarification. Councillor Nicholson urged Councillors to support the Noel Turner Physics Festival at Cowes Enterprise College on 18 & 19 October 2018. He also commented that the new IW Council Policy for the erection of scaffolding will prevent the previous poor standards of practice and will ensure public safety.

Councillor Fuller was available for questions but none were raised.

7761 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 13 June 2018 and 5 July 2018 were received and noted.

b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 June 2018 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That a grant be made to the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £400.

2. That a grant be made to the Cowes Week Fireworks in the sum of £1,500.

3. That a grant be made to the Moorgreen Road Allotment Society in the sum of £370, with a request that the toilet is cleaned regularly and securely locked overnight.

4. That Cowes Town Council approves the installation of three drinking water taps at the public conveniences at The Cut, Medina Road and The Parade for the sum of £740 with the cost to be met from the 'Public Toilet Refurbishment' budget heading.

5. That Cowes Town Council provides one dressed Christmas Tree, to be located at Francki Place, with the cost of up to £770 being met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees / festive lighting / bunting' budget heading.
6. That Cowes Town Council funds the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the festive lights with the cost of up to £14,500 being met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees / festive lighting / bunting' budget heading.
7. That Cowes Town Council makes a donation to the Breakout Youth charity in the sum of £250.
8. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £10 to provide 2,000 A5 'Nextdoor' leaflets with the cost being met through the 'Office Equipment / Photocopier' budget heading.
9. That Cowes Town Council sign Bright Brown Chartered Accountants' Service Agreement.
10. That Cowes Town Council sign Bright Brown Chartered Accountants' updated Engagement Terms and Terms of Business.

c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 12 June 2018 and 17 July 2018 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That the recommendation to agree in principal to the sum of £300 being set aside for the creation of a community orchard at Northwood Park be adjourned, subject to further discussions.
2. That Cowes Town Council purchases 100 Cowes Town Council logo vinyl stickers at a cost of £45 plus VAT, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.
3. That Cowes Town Council agrees the cost of £598.95 for Wight House Construction to remove the anti-graffiti paint and prepare the surface for a new mural at The Cut, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.
4. That Cowes Town Council agrees to reserve a table display at Cowes Christmas Fair at Cowes Yacht Haven on 17 & 18 November 2018 at a cost of £85, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.
5. That Cowes Town Council purchases a white Corian promotional plaque, 400mm x 150mm, engraved with blue lettering, at a cost of £67.95, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.

d) Isle of Wight Council / Town & Parish Councils Seminar

The Notes of the Isle of Wight Council / Town & Parish Councils Seminar held on 25 June 2018 were received and noted.

e) Northwood House – Park Sub Committee

The Notes of the Northwood House – Park Sub Committee meeting held on 26 June 2018 were received and noted.

f) Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 May 2018 were received and noted.

- g) Island Environmental Conference
The Reports of the Island Environmental Conference held on 26 June 2018 were received and noted.
- h) The Big Lunch
The Notes of the Big Lunch meeting held on 9 July 2018 were received and noted.
- i) Cowes Business Association
The Report of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 25 June 2018 was received and noted. Councillors also discussed the contents of Cowes Business Association's response to Cowes Town Council's letter dated 13 June 2018 (Minute No. 7738 refers). A copy of Cowes Business Association's Constitution had also been received. It was agreed that any future correspondence from Cowes Business Association should be sent to the Town Clerk for onward transmission to Councillors.

7762 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S TREE WARDENS

Councillors discussed proposed responsibilities for the existing two tree wardens and considered whether there may be scope for increasing the number of tree wardens, possibly seeking volunteers from local residents. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. Councillors Jones and Taylor will arrange to meet in the Town Council Office to discuss tree warden responsibilities.
2. A request for tree warden volunteers will be made in the next Town Council newsletter.

7763 GATEWAY COWES UPDATE

Councillors discussed the Gateway Cowes project of which Cowes Town Council, Red Funnel, Cowes Harbour Commission and Cowes Town Waterfront Trust are stakeholders. The Town Council has been asked to consider paying a contribution of £217.00 plus VAT towards the cost of a pre-planning application for future potential development on the site. The purchase of the old Nat West building by a local businessman has caused some delays to the project which if it does not come to fruition may mean the loss of the Red Funnel service to Cowes. Councillors agreed that they needed more information about the scheme before making any further financial contributions and would wish to see the proposed plans for the area. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will arrange an extraordinary Town Council meeting to include all Gateway Cowes stakeholders and Chris Ashman, Head of Regeneration, IW Council, to view the plans and discuss the project in more detail.

7764 COWES WEEK 2018

Councillors discussed the lack of Town Council involvement in the Cowes Week 2018 arrangements even though Councillor Bertie stated that the Contract between the IW Council and Cowes Week Ltd gives an undertaking for Cowes Week Ltd to work with Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association for discussions around how The Parade Village is run. To date, no such discussions have taken place and the Town Council has not had sight of the contract document. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will request a copy of the Contract between the IW Council and Cowes Week Ltd.
2. A Town Council representative must attend the Cowes Week 2018 wash up meeting.
3. That Beth Taylor, Taylor Events Ltd, is invited to give a presentation on Cowes Week 2018 to the October or November Town Council meeting.

7765 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2018. Cheque payments totalled £25,360.07; petty cash payments totalled £126.10. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £25,360.07 and petty cash payments of £126.10 be received, noted and approved.

7766 FLOATING BRIDGE USER GROUP (MINUTE NO. 7741.2 REFERS)

The IW Council have requested that a representative be appointed from Cowes Town Council to join the Floating Bridge User Group. The first meeting will be held at East Cowes Town Hall in the week commencing the 24 September 2018. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Oliver be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Floating Bridge User Group.

7767 3G PITCH AT COWES ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Councillors have been asked to lend their support to the funding bid to the Football Foundation for a 3G pitch at Cowes Enterprise College. Although the funding bid is aimed around football and promoting grass roots football within the community, it is also an opportunity to develop the Academy's links within the community to promote more sporting activities. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council writes a letter of support for funding a 3G pitch at Cowes Enterprise College stating that it is important that the pitch is made available to the community at a reasonable cost.

7768 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 repairs to play equipment at Brunswick Road playground and Northwood Rec; fly-tipping at St Mary's Road Car Park and the HSBC slipway; faulty drain covers at Francki Place.

7769 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7770 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Cyclists in the pedestrianised area – Councillor Glendinning

The proceedings terminated at 8.35pm

CHAIRMAN