

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 1 November 2018 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors R. Bartrum, Brown, Bustin (7.01pm), Oliver (7.05pm),  
Peacey-Wilcox, Taylor & Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; County Press reporter.

### **7824 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, J. Bartrum, Bertie, Ellis, Hammond, Jones & Nicholson.

### **7825 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7830b3 as he is a Governor at Cowes Primary School.

### **7826 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

The Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not attend the meeting and no written report was available.

### **7827 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4 October 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **7828 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present therefore no questions were raised.

### **7829 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller & Peacey-Wilcox. Councillor Nicholson had encountered IT problems and was unable to send a report. Those Councillors present were available for questions but none were raised.

### **7830 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

#### **a) Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 11 October 2018 and 30 October 2018 were received and noted. Reference was made to the planning approval for 104 High Street. It was agreed:

#### **ACTION**

The Town Clerk will invite the owner of 104 High Street to meet with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and two other Councillors to discuss his future plans for the property.

- b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee  
The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 23 October 2018 were received and noted. It was:  
**RESOLVED**  
**1. That the Financial Statement as at 30 September 2018 be noted and approved.**  
**2. That Councillors J. Bartrum, Fuller and Wardrop be added to the list of Town Council cheque signatories.**  
**3. That a grant be made to Cowes Primary School in the sum of £500.**  
**4. That Cowes Town Council authorise Martin Hayles to apply on behalf of Cowes Town Council for planning permission for the new scheme at The Cut, with the cost to be met from the money set aside by Cowes Town Council for The Cut project.**  
**5. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £86 plus VAT for a RoSPA safety inspection of the Outdoor Gym in May 2019, with the cost to be met from the Northwood Recreation Ground Maintenance budget, and includes the Outdoor Gym in all future annual safety inspections undertaken by RoSPA.**  
**6. That Cowes Town Council takes responsibility for the flagpole at Princes Green.**  
**7. That Cowes Town Council continues its grounds maintenance contract with the IW Council until 31 March 2020.**  
**8. That Cowes Town Council enters into a Toilet Cleaning & Litter Picking Contract for 2019 / 2020 with All Round Cleaners for the sum of £32,694.82.**  
**9. That Cowes Town Council renews the SLCC membership of the Assistant Town Clerk in the sum of £185.**
- c) Projects Committee  
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held 9 October 2018 were received and noted. It was:  
**RESOLVED**  
**That Cowes Town Council establishes a 'Visitor Cowes Working Group' to consider and develop ideas for what is on offer to visitors to the town.**
- d) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee  
The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 September 2018 were received and noted.
- e) Cowes Week Ltd – Shoreside Committee  
The slides of the Cowes Week Ltd, Shoreside Committee meeting held on 19 September 2018 were received and noted.
- f) SLCC – IW Branch Meeting  
The Notes of the SLCC – IW Branch meeting held on 27 September 2018 were received and noted.
- g) Supporters of Cowes Library  
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 1 October 2018 were received and noted.

- h) Cowes Business Association  
The Report of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 15 October 2018 were received and noted.

**7831 WINTER PLANTING THROUGH THE HIGH STREET**

Councillors discussed a proposal to plant 17 troughs, 2 x 3-tiered planters and 2 tubs to bring a bit of colour to the town during the winter months. Those to be planted will be the main ones through the High Street, The Cut, Francki Place, outside M & S and the bottom of Market Hill. As the usual volunteers are not in a position to undertake this work at present, Care in the Garden were approached for a quote to remove the existing plants, top up with fresh compost, under plant with daffodil bulbs and plant with variegated shrubs, cyclamen and violas for the sum of £625.00. Care in the Garden have also offered a maintenance schedule for watering when necessary, feeding, dead heading and replacing plants at cost if necessary at the charge of £16.00 per hour. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council engage the services of Care in the Garden to plant the 21 troughs, planters and tubs for the sum of £625.00.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council engage Care in the Garden to perform a weekly maintenance schedule of the troughs, planters and tubs at a cost of £16.00 per hour.**

**7832 DESTINATION COWES**

Councillors discussed Destination Cowes' response to questions raised at the Town Council meeting on 6 September 2018 and questioned what Cowes Town Council's contribution to Destination Cowes is being spent on. It was agreed that this matter could be discussed at a future Visitor Cowes Working Group meeting.

**7833 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2018. Cheque payments totalled £18,905.01; petty cash payments totalled £95.55. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £18,905.01 and petty cash payments of £95.55 be received, noted and approved.**

**7834 UPDATE REGARDING THE CASUAL VACANCY IN COWES WEST WARD**

The Town Clerk advised that an election had not been called for the casual vacancy in the Cowes West Ward. The vacancy is now being advertised for co-option with a deadline for written responses of 7 November 2018. Subject to applications being received, the Town Clerk will ask Councillors who would like to be part of the interview panel.

**7835 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE VISITOR COWES WORKING GROUP**

Councillors agreed that a 'Visitor Cowes Working Group' be established to consider and develop ideas for what is on offer to visitors in the Town. The draft 'Terms of Reference' were approved and Councillors Bustin, Taylor and Wardrop were appointed to the Working Group, thereby leaving one vacancy. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will identify a suitable date for the first meeting of the Visitor Cowes Working Group.
2. The Town Clerk will add the vacancy on the Working Group to the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**7836 OVERVIEW OF THE HANGING BASKET PROJECT**

An overview of the Hanging Basket project was reviewed by Councillors. The project had a budget of £3,000 and the cost to Cowes Town Council at the end of the project, after deducting donations from the CBA and local businesses, was £2,559.38.

**7837 RESPONSE REGARDING GATEWAY COWES (MINUTE NO. 7786 REFERS)**

At the Town Council meeting on 6 September 2018 Councillors resolved that Cowes Town Council request sight of the Gateway Cowes plan before any further financial contribution is made to the project. Mr Banks has responded to advise Councillors that at this stage there are no plans available to show an ultimate scheme. At present, the stakeholders are studying a set of viable alternatives for this regeneration project which will guarantee Cowes as a major gateway to the Island. With regard to the costs of the Pre App submission - Mr Banks has paid this himself in order not to delay the process.

**7838 NEW POST OFFICE AT 104 HIGH STREET**

Councillors discussed the information received about a new Post office being located at 104 High Street, with an opening date of 9 November 2018. Councillors were pleased to hear that a new Post Office is opening in the Town. The building, being a former bank, met the strict security criteria to house the Post Office. Disabled access in the building's current structure may be difficult, but it is assumed that the building works will make the whole development accessible to all.

**7839 APPOINTMENT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP (IWASP)**

Councillors were asked to make an appointment to the Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP) which meet approximately every six months. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor R. Bartrum be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP), Councillor Bustin to be deputy representative.**

**7840 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 missing railings at Northwood Recreation Ground; dog fouling; offensive graffiti; beach & playground inspections; cemetery patrols; domestic and commercial waste. Councillors thanked Samantha for all that she does for Cowes.

**7841 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**7842 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

No items were raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**