

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 6.15pm

**Present:** Councillors Taylor (Chair), Adams, Brown, Bustin and Fuller (6.28pm)

**In attendance:** Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

### 236. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicholson and Peacey-Wilcox.

### 237. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillors Brown and Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 239d as members of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

### 238. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 6 November 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 239. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

#### a) **The Cut**

Martin Hayles was not in attendance but had provided a written update. Martin is working on the technical information and amending the drawings as requested by Island Roads to progress The Cut project. Island Roads will advise the project commencement date when their 2020 timetable for works has been agreed. Martin will submit a revised planning application towards the end of January on behalf of the Town Council. Councillors discussed the possibility that the St Mary's roundabout scheme may be delayed which may enable The Cut project to be moved forward on Island Roads' schedule of works.

An informal meeting with the artists to further discuss the new Mural at The Cut has been arranged for 23 January 2019.

#### ACTIONS:

1. Martin Hayles will submit a revised planning application towards the end of January on behalf of the Town Council.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Martin to raise the possibility of this project being moved forward with Island Roads.

#### b) **Tree Planting and appreciation / Community Orchard**

The IW Council were asked if they would support a proposal to site a community orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground near the lower Park Road entrance. While in support of the creation of a community orchard, officers felt that the location proposed was not suitable. Councillors felt that an alternative location at Northwood Recreation Ground could be considered and will ask the IW Council for their suggestions.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the IW Council for suggestions for an alternative location for the siting of a community orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground.

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

A number of comment cards were completed by members of the public at the Town Council's display stand at Cowes Christmas Fair. Comments received related to the seafront railings; speed of traffic using Park Road; inconsiderate parking at various locations; cyclists on Shooters Hill and a lack of parking on the Parade. The Town Council is monitoring a number of the issues raised. The speed of traffic had previously been monitored in Park Road but Councillors felt that this could be revisited. The concerns regarding inconsiderate parking will be raised with the IW Council.

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Councillor Peacey-Wilcox to request consideration be given to further monitoring the speed of traffic on Park Road.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to raise concerns regarding inconsiderate parking.

d) **Resident and Visitor Parking Matters**

Councillors raised further concerns relating to parking in the town and felt that a parking strategy for Cowes is needed. A working group could be established to develop a strategy. Concerns are ongoing regarding parking for patients travelling to the mainland for hospital appointments. Councillor Brown has contacted Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd. (NHCTCL) concerning the parking strategy for their long-stay car park and asked whether they would consider making a number of spaces available for those attending mainland hospital appointments. She has been invited to attend a meeting with NHCTCL to discuss this further. Councillors considered questions to be raised at the meeting with NHCTCL. Councillors sought clarification from the IW Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) regarding the establishment of a user group to look at the impact of cross-Solent travel for patients travelling to mainland hospital appointments, whether any meetings have taken place and, if so, what the outcomes were.

It was

**RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council establishes a 'Parking Strategy Working Group' to develop a parking strategy for Cowes.**

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the CCG to request clarification on the establishment of a cross-Solent travel user group and the outcome of any meetings held.

e) **Drinking Water Stations**

New drinking water taps have been fitted to the public conveniences at Medina Road, The Cut and The Parade, along with new signage. A replacement drinking water tap is due to be fitted at Northwood Recreation Ground public conveniences shortly. There is no further work for the Projects Committee on this item and it will be removed from the agenda.

f) **Cowes as a pesticide free town**

The Assistant Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Heritage requesting acknowledgement that Cowes Town Council has resolved that Cowes will be a pesticide free town and advising that it will tailor its weed control accordingly. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the Town Council's comments relating to the introduction of new products and advised that they have asked their contractors to actively look at new environmentally friendly pesticides to see if they could be introduced in the future. The Cabinet Member requested that if the Town Council decide to use alternative methods of weed/pest control at its own expense, the IW Council would also be interested in the longer term how successful these alternatives are. The Chairman of the Projects Committee and Assistant Town Clerk will look at other methods of weed

control. Councillors asked how other pesticide free towns/cities were coping with their status, what methods were being used and how do they carry out weed control.

**ACTIONS:**

1. The Chairman of the Projects Committee and Assistant Town Clerk will look at other methods of weed control and update at the next meeting.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the other councils who have declared pesticide free status to ask how they are achieving pesticide free status.

**g) Mornington Woods Management Plan / Mornington Road Car Park**

There has been no update on the progress of the Management Plan and a further meeting regarding the future management of Mornington Woods will be set up between all interested parties to further this project.

**ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk will set up a meeting with interested parties.

**h) Updating the Town Maps**

An inspection of the town map display cases has been undertaken by Councillors, revealing that replacement of the maps will require removal of the display cases from their supporting uprights. Councillors felt that the fitting of the new maps should be included when obtaining quotations for the maps. An informal meeting will be arranged to further develop ideas for the new town map.

**ACTION:** The Assistant Town Clerk will set up an informal meeting to further develop ideas for the new town map.

Councillor Bustin left the meeting at 7.12pm

**i) High Street Bollards and Cycling**

Island Roads are producing an A5 flyer which will be used to raise the awareness of the current restrictions for vehicle drivers and cyclists in the High Street. Councillors will hand out flyers at entry points to the High Street. The finalised flyer is awaited from Island Roads.

**240. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS**

**a) Street Furniture**

The Assistant Town Clerk has undertaken a condition survey of the Town Council's assets which has identified that some assets require decorating. Quotations are being sought.

**b) Northwood Recreation Ground**

Inspections were carried out by the Assistant Town Clerk on 3 January 2019 at Northwood Recreation Ground. Fencing has become detached along the top edge on both sides of the MUGA and will require repairing. A quotation for the repairs is currently awaited. The new matting for the static outdoor gym equipment has been fitted, and the ground levelled with sand to minimise trip hazards. New bark has been ordered for the Playbuilder to ensure the equipment meets required safety standards.

**241. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Recreational Path at Northwood Recreation Ground.

The proceedings terminated at 7.24pm.

**CHAIRMAN**