

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Fuller (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Brown, Bustin, Hammond, Jones, Nicholson,
Peacey-Wilcox, Reynolds, Taylor & Wardrop.

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

7884 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie, Ellis & Oliver.

7885 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7890b1 as a former Committee member of the Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day Committee 2019.

7886 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 month of February showed 14 assaults; 8 criminal damage; 5 theft; 1 theft of a motor vehicle; 1 malicious communication; 2 drug offences; 5 public order. Their current priority is reducing drugs misuse within the local area which includes utilising their powers to tackle those producing and dealing controlled substances as well as education and referrals to diversionary practices.

7887 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 February 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7888 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public raised a question regarding the future of the Watch House shelter which is a well-used facility that has been fenced off since August 2018. The shelter was initially going to be refurbished with the cost to be met jointly by the IW Council and Cowes Town Council. However, a structural engineer has now visited the shelter and advised that it is beyond economical repair and dangerous and should be removed as soon as possible. The Town Clerk advised that a proposal to consider replacing the shelter will be discussed at the Town Council's Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee on 26 March 2019. Subject to Councillor approval the Town Clerk will obtain a specification for a replacement and seek quotations for any such works.

7889 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Bertie was not in attendance and was therefore unavailable for any questions.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox added that Smithards Lane will be shut off for carriageway reconstruction from 11 March 2019 which will increase traffic pressure in the Milton Road and Tennyson Road area. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox is investigating whether an area in Tennyson Road can be coned off to provide a turning area in the road. It was reported that the road at the bottom of Mill Hill Road (cemetery end) has sunk; Councillor Peacey-Wilcox has already reported this to Island Roads for their attention; she will also copy Colin Rowland, Director of Neighbourhoods at the IW Council into any communications regrading this matter.

Councillor Nicholson was advised that the road surface at the traffic lights in Northwood is in a very poor condition and especially dangerous for cyclists. He commented that this area is not included in the Island Roads programme but he will follow this up with Island Roads. Councillor Nicholson informed Councillors about the new Blyskawica walk planned for the 5 May 2019. The walk is scheduled to start at the mass grave in Northwood Cemetery and proceed down to The Parade. He invited Councillors to try out the walk and to make any comments.

Councillor Fuller was available for questions but none were raised.

7890 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 27 February 2019 were received and noted.

b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 February 2019 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That a grant be made to Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day Committee 2019 in the sum of £350.**
- 2. That the contract for the annual cleaning of the 12 plaques at The Bandstand and Francki Place be awarded to Newnham Maintenance for the annual sum of £430, under the budget heading 'Street Furniture Maintenance'.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council funds the cost of the CiLCA registration fee for the Assistant Town Clerk, in the sum of £350, from the budget heading 'Admin Contingency'.**

c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 February 2019 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council agrees to the administration of four Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd parking bays donated for the use of patients with hospital appointments at Southampton General Hospital or associated mainland NHS Trusts on a three month trial basis.

- d) Visitor Cowes Working Group
The Minutes of the Visitor Cowes Working Group meeting held on 5 March 2019 were received and noted.
- e) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee
The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 January 2019 were received and noted. Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee have agreed that the Town Council can send an alternative representative to future meetings should the Representative or Deputy Representative be unable to attend. Future meeting dates are published at the end of the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- f) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 4 February 2019 were received and noted.
- g) Cowes Business Association
The Notes of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 25 February 2019 were received and noted. The matter of cruise ship passengers visiting and staying in Cowes was raised; this is an ongoing issue which is also being discussed at the Visitor Cowes Working Group.
- h) IW Council Community Plastic Forum
The Minutes of the IW Council Community Plastic Forum held on 31 January 2019 were received and noted.
- i) Cowes Big Lunch
The Notes of the Cowes Big Lunch meeting held on 1 February 2019 were received and noted.

7891 ASIAN HORNET

Councillors were made aware of an 'ALERT!' issued by the GB non-native species secretariat (NNS) and National Bee Unit (NBU). The Asian Hornet is a real threat to biodiversity both on the Island and the mainland. If nothing is done and the Asian Hornet is allowed to establish on the Island, it will devastate the eco-system. None have yet been seen on the Island, the nearest sighting being in Brockenhurst in September 2018. If there is a suspected sighting of an Asian Hornet this can be reported online at www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet or by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk For further information contact: Isle of Wight Bee Keeping Association (IWBKA) www.iwbka.org.uk or Facebook: Isle of Wight – Asian Hornet Watch. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Council will make residents aware of this potential problem via the Town Council's newsletter, notice board, website and Facebook.

7892 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2019

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of February 2019. Cheque payments totalled £18,063.92; petty cash payments totalled £12.50. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £18,063.92 and petty cash payments of £12.50 be received, noted and approved.

7893 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

Cowes Town Council have submitted a bid to the IW Council for the Future High Streets Fund. The IW Council will consider the information received against the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government prospectus. The bid will also be considered by an independent panel who will make a recommendation to the IW Council's Cabinet as to which submission from the Isle of Wight has the best chance of success. The results of the process will be published to evidence the rationale for confirming the town which the IW Council's regeneration team will then work with to complete the final submission in time for the deadline of 22 March 2019. The Town Council have received confirmation that the successful Island bid has come from Newport. However, there may be future applications when Cowes' bid can be reconsidered. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council will write a letter to support Newport's bid to the Future High Streets Fund.

7894 TWO CASUAL VACANCIES IN COWES MEDINA WARD

The Town Clerk reported that following the resignations of Jean Bartrum and Roger Bartrum there are two casual vacancies in the Cowes Medina Ward. The vacancies are currently displayed on the Town Council's noticeboard, website and Facebook. If ten local electors in the Cowes Medina Ward give notice in writing on or before Wednesday 20 March 2019 to the Proper Officer at the IW Council that they wish an election to be held to fill the vacancies, then a by-election will be held. Otherwise the Town Council will proceed to fill the vacancies by co-option. Councillors discussed the contributions that Jean and Roger Bartrum had made to Cowes Town Council and it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council records a vote of thanks to Jean and Roger Bartrum for all their hard work during their time as Town Councillors.

7895 APPOINTMENTS TO THE FINANCE, ACQUISITIONS & STAFFING COMMITTEE (2); PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE (1); PUBLIC CONVENIENCES WORKING GROUP (2) & AGE FRIENDLY ISLAND WORKING GROUP (2)

The Town Clerk reported that following the resignations of Jean Bartrum and Roger Bartrum there are two vacancies on the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee; one vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee; two vacancies on the Public Conveniences Working Group; two vacancies on the Age Friendly Island Working Group. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillors Hammond and Taylor be appointed to the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor Reynolds be appointed to Planning & Licensing Committee.**

3. That Councillors Hammond and Peacey-Wilcox be appointed to the Public Conveniences Working Group

4. That Councillor Nicholson be appointed to the Age Friendly Island Working Group, with one vacancy unfilled.

7896 APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

The Town Clerk reported that following the resignations of Jean Bartrum and Roger Bartrum there are a number of vacancies on Other Bodies:

- Age Friendly Island Project – Representative and Deputy Representative
- Community Waste Forum – Representative
- Cowes Business Association – Representative
- Cowes Mobility Forum – Representative
- Destination Cowes – Deputy Representative
- Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP) – Representative
- Member Champion – Plastic Free Cowes – Representative and Deputy Representative
- Supporters of Cowes Library – Representative
- The Big Lunch – Deputy Representative

It was:

RESOLVED

That the following appointments be made to the vacancies on Other Bodies:

- **Age Friendly Island Project – Councillor Nicholson – Representative; Councillor Bustin - Deputy Representative.**
- **Community Waste Forum – Councillor Taylor – Representative.**
- **Cowes Business Association – Councillor Bustin – Representative; Councillor Adams – Deputy Representative.**
- **Cowes Mobility Forum – Councillor Fuller – Representative.**
- **Destination Cowes – Councillor Bustin - Deputy Representative.**
- **Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP) – Councillor Hammond - Representative.**
- **Member Champion – Plastic Free Cowes – Councillor Fuller – Representative; Deputy Representative – Vacancy.**
- **Supporters of Cowes Library – Councillor Brown – Representative; Councillor Jones – Deputy Representative.**
- **The Big Lunch – Deputy Representative – Councillor Peacey-Wilcox.**

7897 VACANCY ON THE PARKING STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that there remains one vacancy on the Parking Strategy Working Group. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Brown be appointed to the Parking Strategy Working Group.

7898 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Town Mayor suggested, at a joint meeting of Cowes Town Council and East Cowes Town Council, that it may be beneficial to appoint a representative from each of the Town Councils to attend each other's Town Council meetings and act as a liaison point between the two Town Councils. East Cowes Town Council have appointed Councillor Michael Paler as their liaison representative. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillor Bustin be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative to attend East Cowes Town Council's meetings and to act as a liaison point for the two Town Councils.**
- 2. That Councillor Peacey-Wilcox be appointed as Deputy Representative.**

7899 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken included dog fouling; dogs off leads in public places; toilet inspections; beach inspections; health and safety grave stone testing at Northwood Cemetery; domestic waste issues; playground inspections. Councillors acknowledged the hard work of the Environment Officer and thanked her for all her hard work in Cowes.

7900 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

7901 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.46pm.

CHAIRMAN