

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Bustin and Taylor

In attendance: Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project); Debbie Faulkner (Town Clerk), Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

270. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and Peacey Wilcox.

271. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

272. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 June 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

273. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was in attendance and presented the changes that had been requested by the Planning Officer at the IW Council and Island Roads. These included realignment of the proposed footpath leading from Cross Street into The Cut; increasing the size of the loading bay to accommodate larger vehicles; and expanding the plan drawing to show the sweep of large vehicles exiting Denmark Road. Martin will send the completed documents to the Planning Department and Island Roads for their final comments. Once approved Island Roads will be able to provide final costings for the project. The timescale for the works is estimated to be in early 2020. Correspondence received from a local resident opposing the project was discussed.

It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. Martin Hayles will send the completed revised documents to the Planning Department and Island Roads.
2. Martin Hayles will email the revised plans to Cowes Town Council for their records.

The Cut - Mural

Painting of the new mural commenced on 24 June. The completion date is not yet known. Once completed, the mural will have a new anti-graffiti paint covering added to protect the design from vandalism. It was agreed

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will ascertain the estimated completion date of the mural from the artist.

b) **Tree Planting and appreciation**

The Western Red Cedar at Northwood Recreation Ground has died. The IW Council's Parks Officer has visited the site and will schedule removal in the weeks to come. The Assistant Town Clerk attempted to contact the supplier of the recently-purchased trees to see if the two dead trees at Northwood Recreation Ground can be replaced free of charge, or discounted, however the company has ceased trading. Councillor Taylor has been using the

drinking water tap and water bowser to water the young trees at Northwood Recreation Ground and The Green.

c) **Cowes Town Council engagements to promote the town**

Councillors were of the opinion that many people are unaware of what the Town Council does. Promoting the Town Council and the town could be improved by including our logo and the Cowes flag symbols on all correspondence. The Chairman felt that the Town Council should be raising awareness of historical and cultural points of interest in the town.

The Town Council's newsletter was discussed. This is produced quarterly and delivered to 5,000 residences in the Cowes area, along with a number of local businesses. It is also sent electronically to a number of local businesses and organisations, and included on the Town Council's website. There has been very little feedback received regarding the newsletter. Councillors agreed it would be beneficial for each Councillor to speak to 10 residents from their neighbouring properties to gauge their opinion of the newsletter.

Councillors discussed whether to have a display stand to promote Cowes Town Council at 'Cowes Christmas Fair' at Gurnard Pines on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th November 2019. The change of location of the Fair for 2019 is due to Cowes Yacht Haven's events centre not booking events during the winter season. Councillors suggested the Town Council's floor-standing display stand could be erected at the Christmas Fair to increase the public's awareness of the areas of responsibility of the Town Council.

It was agreed

ACTION:

1. The Clerks will look into the possibility of including the Town Council's logo and Cowes flags on all correspondence.
2. Councillors on the Projects Committee will speak to 10 residents from neighbouring properties to gauge their opinion of the newsletter and report back to the next meeting.
3. Councillor Adams will contact the organisers of Cowes Christmas Fair to seek permission to display the floor-standing display stand only at the Christmas Fair.

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

The IW Council were previously asked for their agreement to the Town Council trialling a Glyphosate-free product on the weeds around the Skate Park and MUGA areas for a six month period. They advised that the person who undertakes the trial needs to be qualified and licenced to use pesticides. Their grounds maintenance contractor coordinates training for their staff, which includes training in the use of pesticides. They unfortunately cannot provide training for volunteers. The IW Council's Parks Officer has been asked to investigate if there is a way that Town Councillors can undertake the trial or be trained in the use of pesticides.

In view of the Isle of Wight gaining UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status, Councillors suggested the IW Council be asked what their policy is on the use of pesticides is. It was agreed

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to ask what their policy is on the use of pesticides, in light of the Isle of Wight gaining UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status.

e) **Mornington Road Car Park**

Councillor Fuller is writing to the IW Council's Strategic Highways and Transportation Manager to discuss the future use of the Mornington Road car park.

- f) **Updating the Town Maps**
 Alan Rowe of Potting Shed Cartoons has produced a second draft design for the new town map which was presented at the meeting. Councillors' request at the previous meeting to reduce the amount of East Cowes displayed on the new town map has been actioned.
- g) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**
 Councillor Bertie is producing a bollard cover which will promote the prohibition of vehicles in the High Street. This will be presented at the next Town Council meeting. The installation of new bollards in the High Street was discussed. A number of the existing rise and fall bollards will need to be replaced as a number are missing or faulty. The salty conditions lead to corrosion of the bollards when in the down position. Management of the bollards during the times of the prohibition of vehicles (10am through to 7am the following day) will require someone to be available to lower the bollards at short notice as and when required. Councillors discussed other methods of restricting vehicles. Gated access, as used in the London Borough of Islington, is an option that Councillors felt needed further investigation. Gates could display signage alerting to the start of the pedestrian zone and requesting cyclists dismount. It was agreed
ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the London Borough of Islington to enquire about the gates used in their pedestrian precinct.
- h) **Recreational Pathway and Community Orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground**
 People Powered CIC have started to write the bid for funding for the recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground. They are in the process of researching and identifying the costs which they anticipate will be incurred in the preparatory stages of the project including planning permissions, architectural/design fees etc. They will have to list these in the application to 'Awards for All'.
- i) **Community Emergency Plan**
 Contact details for properties to be used as community space in the event of an emergency will need to be obtained and included in the Town Council's Community Emergency Plan. The previous action remains outstanding.
ACTION: Councillors Fuller and Peacey Wilcox will compile and collate a list of suitable facilities in the town that can be used in the event of a community emergency.
- j) **Land at Market Hill**
 The Town Council meeting on 18 July 2019 will consider establishing a 'Land at Market Hill Working Group' to look at the viability of purchasing a parcel of land on Market Hill, Cowes, however, Councillors understand the land has been sold, subject to contract.

274. NEW PROJECTS

- a) **Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland**
 Councillor Taylor raised the idea of an area of woodland, adjacent to the Moorgreen Reservoir public open space and running down towards the Cowes Baptist Church in Victoria Road, being made accessible to the public as an extension of the public open space. It is believed that the land was originally in the ownership of Medina Borough Council and therefore should have transferred to the IW Council when the Island became a unitary authority. The idea was previously a project of Cowes Green Towns over 5 years ago. At that time the IW Council looked at the site and seemed quite supportive of the project, however, the Green Towns idea faded when the government funding stopped. A set of permanent steps leading from the Reservoir will be required, and a stile erected to replace a run-down gate leading to the woodland. The woodland itself is overpopulated with Sycamore and will

need a management plan. The Town Council's Tree Wardens' could assist with suggesting what tree work needs to be undertaken. There are a few notable trees in the woodland which need to be recorded. The previous walk in the woodland with the IW Council officers showed that there are various paths existent within the woodland and also the possibility of a further access/exit path via Stones Close. Councillor Taylor advised that there was an objection to the Green Towns project from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society with the claims that it was a wild wood within the town which only they had access to as they controlled the opening and shutting of the gates. Green Towns contended that there was no wild wood private use that was beneficial to the town as a whole, and it should be a public semi wild-wood properly managed and accessible by the public. Councillors considered that ownership of the land needed to be clarified in the first instance. It was agreed
ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to ascertain ownership of the woodland.

b) **Historic points of interest**

Councillors felt that the Town Council should be promoting historical and cultural connections in Cowes to visitors and residents in a bid to be more tourist friendly and raise awareness of the town's history. Further consideration will be given to this matter.

c) **Christmas Trees in the town**

Councillors discussed the number and location of Christmas trees in the town for 2019. They felt that one dressed Christmas tree should be provided by the Town Council and sited in Francki Place at a cost of up to £800. A second tree sited at the bottom of Market Hill would draw people into this quieter area of the town. Councillors suggested that Cowes Business Association be requested to consider installing a second tree in the town. It was **RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers providing one dressed Christmas Tree to be located in Francki Place, at a cost of up to £800, with the cost to be met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees/festive lights/bunting' budget heading.**

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Cowes Business Association to request they consider installing a dressed Christmas tree at the bottom of Market Hill.

d) **Festive Lights**

Councillors felt that the Festive Lights were a great success in 2018 and that no changes are necessary for the 2019 season. A date for the Switch On of the festive lights has yet to be set and it had been previously suggested that this should coincide with the town's late night shopping event. Clarification of any late night shopping event will be sought from Cowes Business Association. Once the date for the Switch On is agreed, a VIP will be sought to turn on the lights. It was

RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers approving the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the Festive Lights at a cost of up to £14,500, with the cost to be met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees/festive lights/bunting' budget heading.

ACTION: The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Cowes Business Association to seek clarification of any late night shopping event.

275. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

Repainting of the following assets has been completed: Cowes Town Council sign and Noticeboard at Carvel Lane, all finger posts and arms and all town map display units.

276. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.50pm.

CHAIRMAN