

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 6.15pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Gilpin (Non-voting); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

283. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

284. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

285. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 6 August 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

286. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was not in attendance but had provided an update on the project. The costings for the enhancement works at The Cut have not been received from Island Roads. Martin is in discussion with Island Roads regarding the planning consent in an attempt to resolve any issues before the consent is given. Island Roads have advised that, due to PFI Contract commitments and the St Mary's roundabout junction scheme, they will not have the resources to start works at The Cut until approximately May 2020. Subject to the Town Council's agreement of Island Roads' costs for the enhancement works, Councillors do not want to delay the project and requested the likely timescale for the duration of the works as they hope this will be undertaken without further delay and before the main summer 2020 tourist season. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Martin Hayles to provide details of the likely duration of the enhancement works.

The Cut - Mural

The painting of the new mural is complete. The Clerks have arranged for an anti-graffiti protective coating to be added. The Clerks and Mayor are discussing the arrangements for an official unveiling ceremony.

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

Councillor Jones-Evans from Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council has offered to speak to Town Councillors about the Building Better Places initiative. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will invite Councillor Jones-Evans from Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council to a future Projects Committee meeting.

- c) **Cowes as a pesticide free town**
Councillor Taylor has obtained permission from the grounds manager at Northwood House to undertake a controlled trial using a Glyphosate-free pesticide on an area of weeds in Northwood Park. They will identify a suitable area for the trial.
Isle of Wight Councillor John Hobart has provided a response to our letter questioning the Isle of Wight Council's policy on the use of pesticides, now that the Island is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Councillors considered Councillor Hobart's reply and felt that a further letter should be sent to Councillor Hobart reinforcing Cowes Town Council's resolve to work towards being pesticide free. It was agreed
ACTION:
The Assistant Town Clerk will reply to Councillor Hobart reinforcing Cowes Town Council's resolve to work towards being pesticide free.
- d) **Mornington Road Car Park**
Parking issues in Mornington Road and in the car park were discussed. Councillor Fuller suggested this item be removed from the Projects Committee agenda as it should be considered by the Parking Strategy Working Group. It was agreed
ACTION:
The Assistant Town Clerk will remove this item from the Projects Committee agenda.
- e) **Updating the Town Maps**
Alan Rowe of Potting Shed Cartoons is producing a design for the new town map. The likely completion date for the new town map is the end of October 2019.
- f) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**
Councillor Gilpin reported witnessing vehicles and cyclists ignoring the prohibition of driving order through Cowes High Street and Shooters Hill, and cyclists cycling against the one-way restriction in Birmingham Road. He has spoken to the Police about enforcement but feels the Police are not taking a strong enough stance with offenders. Councillors have requested additional signage from Island Roads on a number of occasions but it has been refused due to the No Entry signs being all that is required to conform with traffic regulations.
Councillors are concerned that cyclists continue to cycle against the one-way flow of traffic and ignore the No Entry signs. They feel that by painting 'No Cycling' on the highway at the junction of Mill Hill Road and Birmingham Road and at the top of Shooters Hill may act as a deterrent to cyclists, and Island Roads should be approached for costs for painted road markings.
Councillor Bertie has offered to provide a sample of a bollard sleeve to promote no cycling in the High Street. It was agreed
ACTIONS:
1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Island Roads to enquire if 'No Cycling' road markings can be painted on the highway and the associated costs.
2. Councillor Bertie be asked for an update on the bollard sleeves.
- g) **Recreational Pathway and Community Orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground**
People Powered Community Interest Company (CIC) have submitted an application for funding for the recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground to Awards for All. A decision should be reached in the next 12 weeks.
- h) **Community Emergency Plan**
The Town Council is looking to create a community emergency plan for Cowes. The Town Council has sent a letter to various organisations located in the town whose premises,

subject to the agreement of the relevant owners, could be used in the event of a community emergency. Three responses have been received to date. Councillor Adams advised that there is an Island-wide emergency plan administered by the Isle of Wight Council and suggested the Town Council ascertain what is already included for Cowes. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the Isle of Wight Council to request information on their Island-wide emergency plan regarding the Cowes area.

i) **Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland**

The Isle of Wight Council have advised that they own the woodland area adjacent to the former Reservoir at Moorgreen Road, but it is currently leased to the Moorgreen Road Allotment Society, along with the adjacent allotments. A representative of the Allotment Society has advised that access can be made to the woodland from the Reservoir site. Councillors agreed that the Town Council's Tree Wardens should visit the woodland area to assess the condition of the trees and the safety of the site. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Tree Wardens will undertake an initial survey of the condition of the trees and woodland behind Moorgreen Reservoir.

j) **Historic points of interest**

Councillors further discussed promoting historical and cultural connections in Cowes in a bid to be more tourist friendly and raise awareness of the town's history. A suggestion made was that plaques could be set in the pavement in front of relevant buildings which will promote its historic or cultural interest, without impacting on the buildings' structure. A register listing the places of interest could be compiled, which can be promoted through the Town Council's website and with other interested organisations. Councillors felt it would be useful to work with Cowes Heritage on this project and the Town Council should consider becoming a member of Cowes Heritage. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Cowes Heritage regarding the Town Council becoming a member.

287. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Tree Warden Project**

Councillors Taylor and Gilpin are the Town Council's appointed Tree Wardens. They have been surveying and photographing the trees in Northwood Park and have already identified a number of rare trees. Once the survey is completed they will meet with the Park Manager to discuss their findings. They hope to agree a method of tagging the trees and create a notable tree trail in Northwood Park which can be included in other heritage trails. Councillors thanked the Tree Wardens for their work and look forward to being updated on completion of the survey.

288. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that there is a broken cast iron finger on the finger post outside the Vectis Tavern in Cowes High Street. Costs for a replacement will be obtained.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update on the Town Council's facilities at Northwood Recreation Ground, following inspections carried out on 3 September 2019. A replacement seat is on order for the self-weighted rower. The grass matting under the parallel bars is

being refitted by Brighstone Landscaping. A quotation is awaited for repairs to the railings in the Skate Park. Graham Filer Engineering will be inspecting the rust on the underside of the skate ramps and will advise of their findings. One of the dog bins has become detached from its pole and has been reported to Island Roads to repair. The Playbuilder's coned climbing frame requires additional wood chippings to cover the concrete fixing block. The Isle of Wight Council have been asked to replenish the chippings. The Isle of Wight Council have yet to remove the dead tree by the pathway off Park Road. The Isle of Wight Council advised that one of the waste bins has been set on fire. They will arrange for Island Roads to repair or replace.

Councillor Adams offered to write an article on vandalism at Northwood Recreation Ground for the next Newsletter. It was agreed

ACTION:

Councillor Adams will write an article on vandalism at Northwood Recreation Ground for the next Newsletter.

289. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Egypt Light – Councillor Fuller.

The proceedings terminated at 7.25pm

CHAIRMAN