

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Bertie, Brown, Bustin, Fuller (6.19pm) and Taylor

In attendance: Councillor Wardrop (Non-voting); Councillor Jones-Evans (Chair – Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council for item 293. b); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

290. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

291. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

292. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 10 September 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

293. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Island Roads' commitments with the PFI Contract mean that, subject to the Town Council's approval of Island Roads' costings, this project is not likely to start until May/June 2020 at the earliest, with an estimated timescale of 4 – 6 weeks to complete. Costings are awaited from Island Roads.

The Cut - Mural

The anti-graffiti protective coating has been added to the Mural. The unveiling ceremony will be held at the Mural, The Cut, Cowes at 10am on Tuesday 29th October. Invitations have been sent to all those involved with the project. There being no further action, this item will be removed from the agenda.

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

Councillor Jones-Evans from Newport and Carisbrooke Parish Council attended for this item, at the request of the Chairman, to speak about the Parish Council's 'Shaping Newport' initiative.

Town Councillors asked what had led the initiative. Councillor Jones-Evans advised that the initiative was in response to the IW Council's harbour regeneration plans. Newport is a historic market town and the Parish Council did not want the town to degenerate against any new facilities at the harbour. She stressed the importance of creating a 'Place Plan' – where you ask your community what their concerns are, such as housing, parking, jobs etc. There are funding bodies which recognise the existence of having a Place Plan, which could open the door to potential funding streams.

The Shaping Newport initiative saw the Parish Council, Newport Business Association and the IW Council working in partnership, each contributing financially to the consultation. Local company ARC Consulting were commissioned to consult with the community. 15,000 responses to a number of questions from 2,500 people were received. The Parish Council put aside further funding and created a steering group to consider, develop and implement

a number of the suggestions received from the consultation. They have created a brand for Newport as a 'historic county town'.

Councillors felt it would be useful to meet with the IW Council's Director of Regeneration to look at ways to regenerate the Cowes area and seek guidance on the creation of a Place Plan.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Jones-Evans for her informative presentation. It was agreed

ACTION:

The IW Council's Director of Regeneration be invited to meet with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Councillor Fuller to look at ways to regenerate the Cowes area and seek guidance on the creation of a Place Plan.

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. A suitable area for the trial will be identified and the trial undertaken when the weather is suitable.

d) **Updating the Town Maps**

A further draft town map was considered at the meeting. The drawing of the new town map is due to be completed by the end of October 2019.

e) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**

Councillor Bertie advised that he has undertaken trials using a variety of materials to identify a suitable product that will withstand the elements to create bollard covers to promote 'no cycling' in the High Street. Examples of wording for the bollard sleeves were tabled for discussion. Councillors compared the wording and agreed their preference. Councillor Bertie will produce a sample using a material made from aluminium and foam for Councillors' consideration. It was agreed

ACTION:

Councillor Bertie will produce a sample bollard sleeve for Councillors' consideration.

f) **Recreational Pathway and Community Orchard at Northwood Recreation Ground**

People Powered Community Interest Company (CIC) have submitted an application for funding to Awards for All for a recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground. A decision should be reached by December 2019.

g) **Community Emergency Plan**

The Town Council is looking to create a community emergency plan for Cowes and has sent a letter to various local organisations whose premises may be suitable for community use in the event of an emergency, seeking their permission to be included in the plan. Three responses have been received to date. Councillors felt that the Mayor should be asked to approach local churches, schools and community groups to seek their support to be included in a local community emergency plan.

Councillors believed it would be beneficial to request guidance from the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection on the creation of a community emergency plan, and to invite the IW Council's Resilience Manager to a future Projects Committee meeting to discuss what plans the IW Council have in place for the Cowes area and what the greatest risks are in our area. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will discuss approaching local churches, schools and community groups with the Mayor for permission to be included in a local community emergency plan.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection to request guidance on the creation of a community emergency plan.
3. The IW Council's Resilience Manager will be invited to a future Projects Committee meeting to discuss what plans the IW Council have in place for the Cowes area and what the greatest risks are in our area.

h) Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland

The Town Council's Tree Wardens undertook an initial survey on the condition of the trees and woodland behind Moorgreen Reservoir. A report on their findings was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report suggests that a woodland management plan should be established for the area, with the priority being the creation of a safe method of access to and from the woodland. Councillors felt that the landowner and current leasehold owner of the site should be invited to meet with the Town Council's tree wardens to discuss the future management of the woodland area at Moorgreen Road. It was agreed

ACTION:

That a meeting be convened with the Town Council's Tree Wardens and representatives from the IW Council (landowner) and Moorgreen Road Allotments Society (leaseholder) to discuss the future management of the woodland area at Moorgreen Road.

i) Historic points of interest

At the previous meeting of the Projects Committee, Councillors discussed promoting historical and cultural connections in Cowes in a bid to be more tourist friendly and raise awareness of the town's history. 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, for which there is no membership fee.

It was

RECOMMENDED: That Cowes Town Council becomes a member of Cowes Heritage.

j) Tree Warden Project

Councillors Taylor and Gilpin, the Town Council's appointed Tree Wardens, and the Volunteer Tree Warden have surveyed and photographed the trees in Northwood Park and have identified a number of rare trees. They hope to create a notable tree trail in Northwood Park which can be included in other heritage trails.

294. NEW PROJECTS

a) Egypt Light

The IW Council have approached the Town Council to enquire if it will consider registering the land at Egypt Light and take on future responsibility for the Light structure. An initial condition survey of the Light has been undertaken, the results of which were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The survey revealed that the Light is in a reasonable condition, having been refurbished by the IW Council in 2007. Councillors were concerned at the lack of clear jurisdiction / ownership of the Light and felt that interested parties should be given an opportunity to come forward before consideration is given to the future of the Light. They suggested that legal advice is sought from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on the possible ways of seeking responses from interested parties. It was agreed

ACTION:

That the Clerks seek legal advice from NALC on the possible ways of seeking responses from interested parties regarding the ownership of Egypt Light.

295. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The cost to replace the broken 'Yacht Haven' cast iron finger on the finger post outside the Vectis Tavern in Cowes High Street is £177.44 plus £27.00 delivery (excluding VAT).

Councillors were in support of the purchase of a replacement cast iron finger as detailed above.

Councillor Taylor raised a concern relating to the condition of the Wishing Well on Shooters Hill. He will prepare a report for consideration at a future Projects Committee meeting.

It was

RECOMMENDED: That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers purchasing one cast iron finger at a cost of up to £204.44, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.

ACTION:

Councillor Taylor will prepare a report of his findings on the condition of the Wishing Well for consideration at a future Projects Committee meeting.

296. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 8.10pm

CHAIRMAN