

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 29 October 2019 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Fuller (6.21pm), Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty and Taylor

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

297. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie and Brown.

298. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 300.c) as he is a member of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.
- b) No written requests for dispensation were received.

299. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 8 October 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

300. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was in attendance and provided an update on the project. Island Roads have agreed the revised plans. The final project costings are expected to be received from Island Roads in writing shortly. Draft project costs are indicative of the figure previously estimated by Island Roads. The final amount may reduce as the annual maintenance cost should be lower due to the proposed drainage channels being altered to a less labour-intensive maintenance method. The project, if approved, has been diarised for completion by May/June 2020. Councillors asked Martin a number of questions to which appropriate replies were provided. If the enhancements are agreed by the Town Council, the amount charged by Island Roads for annual maintenance for the remainder of the PFI Contract will only be for the enhancements, not for maintenance works already scheduled in the area. It was agreed

ACTION:

Martin Hayles will forward the final costings to the Town Council once received from Island Roads.

Martin Hayles left the meeting at 6.35pm.

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

The IW Council's Director of Regeneration will meet shortly 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 in Spring 2020 when the weeds will start growing and the weather is suitable.

d) **Updating the Town Maps**

Alan Rowe of Potting Shed Cartoons is adding the colouring to the new town map. Grid references, road names and notable places of interest will be included before Councillors are presented with a copy for approval.

e) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**

The Town Council sought permission from Island Roads to paint 'No Cycling' road markings on the highway at the junctions of Birmingham Road and Shooters Hill. Island Roads have advised that there is no scope to paint "No Cycling" on the road surface as regulations prohibit such markings; they further advise that the problems that have been raised regarding cyclists riding against the one-way restrictions are enforcement-related and neither the IW Council nor Island Roads have any powers to intervene. Councillors requested that advisory signage be pursued further.

Councillors have been made aware that Sustrans are advertising Birmingham Road, Shooters Hill and the High Street on the National Cycle Network route around the Island and felt that Sustrans should be made aware of the traffic restrictions in these roads.

Councillor Bertie will produce a sample of the bollard sleeves and present it at a future meeting.

It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council's Director of Neighbourhoods to discuss advisory signage in Cowes.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Sustrans to raise our concerns regarding the cycle route promoted in Cowes.

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**

Four responses have been received to date from local organisations who have agreed to be included as a rest centre in the Community Emergency Plan for Cowes. Guidance on the creation of a community emergency plan has been sought from the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection. The IW Council's Resilience Manager will be attending the January 2020 Projects Committee meeting to advise what plans the IW Council have in place and what the greatest risks are for Cowes.

h) **Moorgreen Reservoir and Woodland**

A meeting has been arranged with the Town Mayor, the Town Council's Tree Wardens and representatives from the IW Council and Moorgreen Road Allotments Society to discuss the future management of the woodland area at Moorgreen Reservoir.

i) **Historic points of interest**

A recommendation will be considered at the Town Council meeting on 7 November 2019 for the Town Council to become a member of Cowes Heritage.

The Chairman circulated a number of local historic walk books. Councillors suggested the books should be digitised and agreed to explore this further.

The Chairman outlined the lack of promotion of the historic significance of the Ark and Dove departing from Cowes in 1633. Councillors discussed ways to promote this historic event

and suggested making initial enquiries with a local sculptor regarding the possible creation of a commemorative sculpture. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Chairman will provide contact details of a local sculptor.
2. The Clerks will retrieve the Town Council's Ark and Dove pictures from County Archives.
3. The Chairman will make enquiries for digitising the historic walk leaflets.

j) **Tree Warden Project**

The Town Council's Tree Wardens and volunteer tree warden have been surveying and photographing the trees in Northwood Park and have identified a number of rare trees. There are a number of trees still not accurately identified which the tree wardens will attempt to identify when the trees are in fruit/flower. A draft tree trail in Northwood Park has been created by the tree wardens and was circulated for Councillors' consideration. Councillors thanked the tree wardens for their hard work.

k) **Egypt Light**

At the previous meeting of the Projects Committee Councillors were concerned at the lack of clear jurisdiction / ownership of Egypt Light and felt that interested parties should be given an opportunity to come forward before consideration is given to the future of the Light. The Clerks were requested to seek legal advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on the possible ways of seeking responses from interested parties. Advice has been sought from NALC and a reply is awaited.

301. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Happy to Chat Benches**

A member of the public contacted the Town Council to request consideration be given to providing 'Happy to Chat' benches in the town. 'Happy to Chat' benches have a simple sign placed on them which reads 'Sit here if you don't mind someone stopping to say hello' and are designed to help tackle loneliness and isolation in the community. Councillors were very supportive of the initiative and thought that Island Roads should be approached to work in partnership with the Town Council. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will seek the support of Island Roads to promote this social initiative.

302. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

Councillor Taylor reported on the condition of the Wishing Well on Shooters Hill. The roof tiles are peeling and there is surface rust on the structure. Councillors suggested contacting Cowes Carnival in the first instance to see if they are able to undertake the maintenance.

It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Cowes Carnival to raise the condition of the Wishing Well.

303. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Ark and Dove commemoration
- CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground.

The proceedings terminated at 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN