

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Bertie, Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Fuller (7.04pm), Jones, Nicholson, Oliver, Rafferty, Reynolds, Taylor & Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Town Mayor advised Councillors that she had sent a Get Well card on behalf of the Town Council to Councillor Gilpin who is recovering in hospital following an operation; Councillors sent their best wishes to Councillor Gilpin.

### **8029 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gilpin & Hammond.

### **8030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8037 as he is the Secretary of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8037 as she is a Vice President of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillors Brown & Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8037 as they are members of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8035c as he is the Treasurer of Cowes Heritage.

Councillors Bertie, Fuller & Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8035b7 as they are IW Councillors.

### **8031 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 September 2019 showed 12 assaults; 6 criminal damage; 8 theft; 2 malicious communications; 3 drug offences; 9 public order offences; 5 domestic incidents.

Their priorities are Shed breaks: in light of recent breaks Island-wide, the message to residents is to ensure that outbuildings are locked and secure; Drug related harm: to identify and reduce harm to people who may be affected in the community; Op Sceptre: Force-wide educational initiative / awareness into knife crime.

### **8032 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3 October 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **8033 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present therefore no questions were raised.

## 8034 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey Wilcox. Councillors were available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Bertie asked Councillors for suggestions as to how to join together the proposed 'Cyclists Dismount' bollard sign for the High Street; heavy duty Velcro was suggested.

## 8035 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

### a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 23 October 2019 were received and noted.

### b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 October 2019 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**1. That the Financial Statement as at 30 September 2019 be noted and approved.**

**2. That Cowes Town Council replaces the broken 'Yacht Haven' cast iron finger arm outside of the Vectis Tavern at a cost of up to £204.44 with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.**

**3. That Cowes Town Council extends the contract with Andy Butler Sports Ground Specialist for grounds maintenance work at Northwood Park from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 for the sum of £10,165.00.**

**4. That Cowes Town Council extends the contract with All Round Cleaners for toilet cleaning in Cowes and litter picking at Northwood Recreation Ground from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 for the sum of £34,246.02.**

**5. That Bright Brown Chartered Accountants are engaged as the Town Council's Internal Auditor for the years ending 31 March 2020 for the sum of £805; 31 March 2021 for the sum of £820; 31 March 2022 for the sum of £835.**

**6. That Bright Brown Chartered Accountants be engaged as the Town Council's Internal Auditor to continue to provide their services after 31 March 2022 and until further notice.**

**7. That Cowes Town Council continues to fund grounds maintenance services in the areas in Cowes i.e. Park Road Recreation Ground, St Mary's Park, Arctic Park, Moorgreen Reservoir, Mornington Green, Park Road Rose Bed, Brunswick Road Playground, Egypt Point and Mornington Woods, through the local authority contract for the annual sum of £13,848.30.**

**8. That Cowes Town Council does not support the provision of summer bedding at Princes Green and requests that the local authority grasses over the bedding areas.**

**9. That the following bullet point be added to the Town Council's Grant Application guidelines:**

- Any request for a grant of over £2,000 will require the applicant to attend to make a written or oral presentation, of up to 10 minutes, and to answer any questions about the application at the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting where the grant application is being considered.

**10. That Cowes Town Council renews the Society of Local Council Clerks membership of the Assistant Town Clerk in the sum of £196.**

- c) Projects Committee  
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 8 October 2019 and 29 October 2019 were received and noted. It was:  
RESOLVED  
**That Cowes Town Council becomes a member of Cowes Heritage.**
- d) Parking Strategy Working Group  
The Minutes of the Parking Strategy Working Group meeting held on 19 September 2019 were received and noted.
- e) Visitor Cowes Working Group  
The Minutes of the Visitor Cowes Working Group meeting held on 10 October 2019 were received and noted. It was:  
**RESOLVED**  
**That Cowes Town Council purchases a cast iron directional finger displaying 'Seafront / Parade' in April 2020, with the cost to be met from the 2020 / 2021 Street Furniture Maintenance budget.**
- f) Supporters of Cowes Library  
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 30 September 2019 were received and noted. Councillors once again record their thanks to the 'Supporters' for their hard work and innovative ideas for the Library.
- g) Cowes Business Association  
The Minutes of the Cowes Business Association meeting held on 1 October 2019 were received and noted.
- h) Floating Bridge User Group  
The Minutes of the Floating Bridge User group meeting held on 14 October 2019 were received and noted.
- i) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee  
The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 September 2019 were received and noted.
- j) IW Council Environment & Sustainability Forum  
The Minutes of the IW Council Environment & Sustainability Forum held on 19 September 2019 were received and noted. The Minutes showed that the meeting had been attended by 'Councillor Roger Bartrum – Cowes Town Council' which is incorrect as Roger Bartrum is no longer a Town Councillor. It was agreed:  
ACTION  
The Town Clerk will write to the Minute taker of the Forum to advise that Mr Bartrum is a former Town Councillor and does not represent Cowes Town Council on this Forum.

### **8036 ROADS IN COWES**

Councillors discussed a report regarding the dreadful condition of the busier roads in Cowes with many little used roads and cul-de-sacs being the ones that are resurfaced. There are examples all over Cowes where roads have reached a condition that makes them dangerous to two wheeled traffic as well as very unpleasant to drive on. The worst roads being lower Park Road and Terminus Road (well used by buses every day), Denmark Road, St Mary's Road, sections of Arctic Road, Bridge Road, Granville Road, Union Road, Market Hill, parts of Baring Road and St Faith's Road. Councillors discussed the PFI contract which at the start indicated that within a seven year period every road on the Isle of Wight would be resurfaced; now the criteria has been changed to bring roads 'up to a certain standard'. Rather than resurfacing, some roads are not stripped but just replaced with crushed old road surface mixed with bitumen which is not lasting and the old road surface soon shows through. It is believed that Island Roads are falling behind with their schedule of works and penalty clauses could be invoked. Are these penalty clauses being invoked? If not, why not? Councillors commented that some of the works that have been done have been to a good standard but some roads have fallen below standard and are needing further repairs. Councillors asked who is monitoring the quality of the work and commented that it is difficult to find out any information from IW Council Officers. It was agreed:

#### ACTIONS

1. Town Councillors will send details through to the Town Clerk of all roads in their areas that have been resurfaced in the last three to five years where problems have arisen.
2. The four IW Councillors, who are also Town Councillors, will write to Colin Rowland, Director of Neighbourhoods, IW Council, to raise the issues as discussed at the Town Council meeting; asking why the Island Roads targets are not being met and confirmation of which IW Council Officer is managing the PFI contract.

### **8037 PROPOSED DOG BAN**

Councillors discussed a report regarding a public consultation to ban all dogs in cemeteries. Councillors were reminded that when this matter was discussed at their Town Council meeting in December 2018 the Town Council made the following comment "Councillors feel that all dogs should be allowed in cemeteries providing they are kept on leads". The Friends of Northwood Cemetery are asking for the Town Council's support to oppose the banning of dogs from cemeteries, in particular Northwood Cemetery, but also all Island cemeteries and public open spaces, except for children's play areas. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That, in response to the consultation, Cowes Town Council strongly objects to any proposal to ban dogs from cemeteries and public open spaces, except for children's play areas.**

### **8038 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2019. Cheque payments totalled £15,856.60; petty cash payments totalled £10.00. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £15,856.60 and petty cash payments of £10.00 be received, noted and approved.**

**8039 APPOINTMENT TO THE SUPPORTERS OF COWES LIBRARY**

The Town Clerk reported that following the resignation of Councillor Brown from the Supporters of Cowes Library there is a vacancy on this Other Body. Councillors thanked Councillor Brown for the time that she has given to the Supporters group. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Wardrop be appointed as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.**

**8040 WINTER BEDDING IN COWES**

Councillors discussed a proposal for Care in the Garden to plant 18 troughs, 2 x 3 - tiered planters and 2 tubs from Birmingham Road through the High Street to Market Hill. The quote is to remove the existing plants, top up with fresh compost, under plant with daffodil bulbs and plant with variegated shrubs, cyclamen and violas for the sum of £676.00. Care in the Garden have also offered a maintenance schedule for watering when necessary, feeding, dead heading and replacing plants, at cost if necessary, at the cost of £18.00 per hour. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council engage the services of Care in the Garden to plant the 22 troughs, planters and tubs for the sum of £676.00.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council engage Care in the Garden to perform a weekly maintenance schedule of the troughs, planters and tubs at a cost of £18.00 per hour.**

**8041 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 playground inspections; toilet inspections; business and domestic waste, dog fouling and beach inspections. The Town Clerk asked the Environment Officer if the hours allocated for Cowes are sufficient for the work that is required; she confirmed that she had sufficient time to undertake the work required in Cowes. Councillors thanked the Environment Officer for her diligence in Cowes. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will ask the Environment Officer for an update regarding the dog fouling / dog bin problem at Northwood Recreation Ground.

**8042 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8043 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

No items were raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 8pm.

**CHAIRMAN**