

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 6 February 2020 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Bertie (7.08pm), Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Fuller, Gilpin, Jones, Nicholson, Rafferty, Reynolds, Taylor & Wardrop.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillors held a moments silence following the passing away of local resident John Power.

### **8062 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond & Oliver.

### **8063 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **8064 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

The Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. There were 39 crimes reported for January 2020 which again had not been broken down into the specific types of crime. The Town Clerk has been advised that the Town Council's representative at the quarterly Police meeting should raise this matter for discussion. The current police priorities are: Op Sceptre – nationwide knife crime initiative; Speedwatch – to relaunch Speedwatch activities once new equipment is obtained; Burglaries – reminding residents to lock outbuildings, sheds, garages etc.

### **8065 MINUTES RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12 December 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **8066 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

### **8067 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Bertie, Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey Wilcox.

Councillor Fuller commented that there will be a Sail GP briefing for all Town Councillors on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 2pm at the New Holmwood Hotel. Councillor Fuller also commented that, having received details of the IW Council's budget proposals, he is raising his concerns about the plans to introduce parking charges along the seafront from Cowes to Gurnard. Concerns regarding introducing parking charges at the Park and Ride were also discussed.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox advised that parking permits for residents in Pelham Road, York Street, Thetis Road, Bridge Street and St Andrews Street will not proceed as

there were not enough responses received from residents of these roads to the consultation letters.

Councillor Bertie commented that following attendance at the IW Council's Regeneration Committee it is vital that Cowes Town Council makes progress on the agreed Place Plan. In so doing Cowes may be able to access funding from the Heritage High Street Action Fund as Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council and Ryde Town Council have successfully done.

## **8068 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 18 December 2019 & 30 January 2020 were received and noted. The Chairman thanked Councillor Jones and the other Planning Committee members for the time that they spend on this Committee's business.

### b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 January 2020 were received and noted. The Chairman thanked Councillor Ellis for his work as Chairman on this Committee. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2019 be noted and approved.**
- 2. That the balances in the budget headings for Mayor's Allowance; Northwood Recreation Ground – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance; Dog and Litter bin emptying; Grounds Maintenance at Northwood Recreation Ground and other areas in Cowes; Cowes Library; Warmer Cowes; Park Road Crossing Patrol; New Projects; VE Day 2020 budget; Public toilet refurbishment programme, be ring fenced or ear marked as appropriate at the financial year end on 31 March 2020.**
- 3. That a grant be made to the IW Story Festival in the sum of £1,200.**

### c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 14 January 2020 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £250 for production of temporary bollard covers and fixings, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £150 to provide tent pegs, discs and engraving and printing costs of the Tree Trail leaflet, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council informs the IW Council that, following legal advice, the Town Council is unable to register the land at Egypt Light, but asks the IW Council to:**
  - 1. Seek first registration of the land at Egypt Light by means of adverse possession; and**
  - 2. Establish a trust or association to manage the future of Egypt Light, subject to successful registration of the land at Egypt Light.**

- d) VE Day 2020 Working Group  
 The Minutes of the VE Day 2020 Working Group meetings held on 21 January 2020 & 5 February 2020 were received and noted. It was:  
**RESOLVED**  
**1. That Cowes Town Council approves and adopts the Terms of Reference for the VE Day 2020 Working Group.**  
**2. That Cowes Town Council set aside £5,000 from the 'Grants' budget heading for 2019 / 2020 for the event in Cowes on Sunday 10 May 2020.**  
**3. That Cowes Town Council arranges for the installation of bunting through the High Street prior to 10 May 2020 for the sum of £1,000. This amount being in the 2020/2021 budget heading 'Civic – Xmas trees / Festive lights / Bunting'.**  
**4. That Councillor Reynolds be appointed to the vacancy on the VE Day 2020 Working Group.**
- e) Cowes Week Ltd Shoreside Committee  
 The Minutes of the Cowes Week Ltd Shoreside Committee meeting held on 14 November 2019 were received and noted.
- f) IW Council & Town and Parish Councils' Budget Discussion  
 The Presentation of the IW Council & Town and Parish Councils' Budget Discussion held on 4 December 2019 was received and noted.
- g) Cowes Picnic in the Park  
 The Notes of the Cowes Picnic in the Park meeting held on 9 January 2020 were received and noted.
- h) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee  
 The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 January 2020 were received and noted. The Chairman thanked Councillor Reynolds for raising some good points at this Committee meeting.
- i) Supporters of Cowes Library  
 The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 13 January 2020 were received and noted. The Chairman commented that, as usual, lots of things are going on at the Library and she asked Councillor Wardrop to pass on the Town Council's thanks for all their efforts.
- j) Floating Bridge User Group  
 The Minutes of the Floating Bridge User Group meeting held on 13 January 2020 were received and noted.

#### **8069 COWES INFRASTRUCTURE**

Councillors discussed a report regarding an article in the 13 December 2019 'The Observer' whereby Ryde Town Council resolved to call on the IW Council's Planning Department to prepare a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Ryde. Councillors discussed whether this request could be raised by Cowes too as it is a commuter terminal which makes parking an issue, along with other infrastructure concerns. It is understood that new Government legislation will be implemented regarding infrastructure to support any future planning applications. The issue of where S106

monies is going was also discussed; these monies go into a central pot and each town has to bid for a share of that pot. Councillors felt that developer bonds are not being utilised where they could be by the IW Council's Planning Department. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will call upon the IW Council's Planning department to prepare a comprehensive infrastructure plan for Cowes and ask when the new Government legislation will be implemented.
2. Councillor Nicholson will investigate developer Bonds in the local area and feedback any details to IWALC for raising with the IW Council.

**8070 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of December 2019 and January 2020. Cheque payments for December totalled £33,906.56; petty cash payments totalled £30.54. Cheque payments for January totalled £16,628.82; petty cash payments totalled £53.79. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments for December 2019 of £33,906.56 and petty cash payments for December 2019 of £30.54; and the cheque payments for January 2020 of £16,628.82 and petty cash payments for January 2020 of £53.79 be received, noted and approved.**

**8071 APPOINTMENT AND DEPUTY APPOINTMENT TO THE PLACE PLAN STEERING / STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

The Town Clerk reported that following the Town Council's commitment to support a Place Plan for Cowes an appointment and deputy appointment needed to be made to the IW Council's Place Plan Steering / Stakeholder Group. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Nicholson be appointed to the Place Plan Steering / Stakeholder Group and Councillor Bertie be appointed as deputy representative.**

**8072 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; dogs off leads and beach inspections.

ACTION

The Town Clerk will ask the Environment Officer to investigate an issue of dog fouling in Fellow Roads.

**8073 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8074 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- To consider forming a Place Plan Working Group and prepare draft Terms of Reference.

The proceedings terminated at 7.44pm.

**CHAIRMAN**