

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 9 June 2020 at 6.15pm

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

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner (Town Clerk); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

### 330. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bustin.

### 331. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received

### 332. MINUTES RESOLVED

**That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 10 March 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.**

### 333. 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 works have been delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Island Roads are hoping to start in mid-September 2020 and be completed by the end of October 2020. Final confirmation is awaited. Councillors requested the start date be after the rescheduled Round the Island Race on 26 September 2020 if this is possible. It was agreed

#### ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Martin Hayles to request a start date after 26 September 2020.

#### b) **Updating the Town Maps**

An updated town map was tabled at the meeting. It was:

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the new town map.**

#### c) **High Street Bollards and Cycling**

This project is currently on hold.

#### d) **Tree Warden Project**

Councillor Taylor provided an update on tree surveys undertaken in the town. The trees in St Mary's Churchyard have been surveyed and added to the database. The next area the tree wardens will be surveying is Seaview Road.

Councillors expressed their concern that the damaged tree on Mill Hill Road has been removed but not replaced and request an update from Island Roads on the replacement tree. Councillors reported further missing trees in Broadfields Avenue. It was agreed

#### ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Island Roads for a location list and timescale for replacement tree planting in the Cowes area.

e) **Happy to Chat Benches**

There is no update for this item and it will be removed from the agenda.

f) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

The Mayor has contacted associates in Maryland, USA to enable discussions for The Ark and The Dove commemorations. Mr G Banks BEM has agreed to provide the Town Council with information on the history of The Ark and The Dove. Permission is being sought from the IW Council to install a new information board commemorating The Ark and The Dove story on Cowes Parade.

g) **CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground**

At the previous meeting the Assistant Town Clerk was actioned to research the Police and Crime Commissioner's funding process to see if funds are available to assist with the purchase of a CCTV system at Northwood Recreation Ground. In light of the circumstances and developments around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commissioner and his team have decided to postpone the opening of the next grants round until further notice. This item will be revisited in three months. It was agreed:

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will defer this item until September 2020.

h) **Town Signs**

At the previous meeting a new project was suggested to create new signage to promote the town and amuse/inform visitors. Councillors discussed ideas to promote famous local people, events and places of interest. Councillors felt that the existing Rope Walk incorporates a number of historic landmarks and there are blue heritage plaques installed at a number of locations. This project is ongoing.

**334. NEW PROJECTS**

a) **Community Orchard**

The concept of creating a community orchard in the town has been discussed at previous meetings of the Projects Committee and a number of locations have been explored and discounted. A possible location had been previously suggested at Northwood Recreation Ground, incorporating the community orchard as part of landscaping alongside a recreational pathway around the perimeter of the main field. The recreational pathway is not being pursued at this time by People Powered CIC, however, Councillors have been asked to consider pursuing the community orchard at this location, where the recreational pathway could be integrated at a later date.

Councillors suggested that the recreational pathway could be revisited by People Powered CIC as part of the Government's new Active Travel initiative. It was agreed:

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to People Powered CIC to suggest they consider enquiring whether the recreational pathway initiative meets the criteria for consideration as part of the Government's Active Travel scheme.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council's Active Travel Team to seek their thoughts on the recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground being considered as part of the Government's Active Travel fund.

The meeting adjourned at 6.51pm at the end of the first 40 minute Zoom session and reconvened at 6.56pm.

b) **Additional Dog Bins – Baring Road**

Councillor Taylor has been approached by two members of the public requesting the Town Council considers installing additional dog bins on Baring Road. Two locations have been suggested, being at the junction of Baring Road with Battery Road and at the top of the Zig Zag steps. Initial enquiries have been made with Island Roads as to the costs involved.

Detailed costings can be obtained once a location has been agreed.

Following consideration, Councillors suggested setting aside the sum of up to £300 to purchase and install a new litter bin at the junction of Battery Road, subject to clarification that dog waste is permitted to be disposed of in litter bins; and secondly that costs associated with emptying the litter bin by Island Roads be set aside at the current annual emptying cost of £331.50 per litter bin. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will seek clarification from the IW Council that dog waste is permitted to be disposed of in litter bins.
2. Subject to the above, the Assistant Town Clerk will seek a quotation from Island Roads for the supply and installation of a new litter or dog bin on Battery Road.

Subject to completion of the above two actions, it was

**RECOMMENDED**

**That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the cost of up to £300 for the supply and installation of a new litter or dog bin, and ongoing emptying costs (currently £331.50 per bin per annum), with the cost to be met from the ‘Dog and litter bin emptying’ budget heading.**

**335. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS**

a) **Street Furniture**

There are no current issues.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Inspections were undertaken at Northwood Recreation Ground and a number of maintenance issues were identified. There are some chips to the paintwork on the Double Air Walker gym equipment which Councillor Taylor offered to repaint. The Skate Park is to have anti-slip paint reapplied to the surfaces. Once completed, the Skate Park will be reopened to the public. The Skate Park fencing has been vandalised and requires repairing. Annual safety inspections were carried out on 22 May 2020 by RoSPA inspectors on the Outdoor Gym, Skate Park and MUGA areas. A number of repairs have been identified and the Clerks will obtain quotations for Councillors’ consideration. One point raised was missing instructions on the Rower gym equipment. Councillors suggested that the supplier be asked to provide signage free of charge as the equipment was missing this at the time of installation. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Taylor will repair the chipped paint on the Double Air Walker.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the outdoor gym supplier to provide manufacturer’s signage for the Rower.

Councillor Fuller left the meeting at 7.25pm

**336. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Rope Walk – Councillor Bertie

- Fastnet Race 2021 – Councillor Bertie
- VJ Day 2020 – Councillor Peacey Wilcox

The proceedings terminated at 7.27pm

**CHAIRMAN**