

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 18 August 2020 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Ellis (Chairman), Fuller, Peacey Wilcox & Taylor.

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

504 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

505 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 507 as he is a Northwood & Gurnard Parish Councillor.

Councillor Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 507 as he was formerly Cowes Town Council's representative on the Route 32 Bus Management Committee.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 507 as her husband has driven school buses for Southern Vectis.

506 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 21 July 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

507 ROUTE 32 BUS ACCOUNT

Northwood Parish Council have been the holder of the Bus Account for the Route 32 Community Bus since the inception of the scheme. In August 2015 the Community Bus co-ordinator took over the collection of monies received on behalf of the Management Committee for the scheme. The money had been retained to cover any unforeseen expenditure in order to maintain the viability of the scheme with the last payment made in September 2015 to cover the cost of a replacement driver to Go South Coasts Ltd. The closing balance as at 15 July 2020 being £2,112.01. Northwood Parish Council took the decision, at their meeting on 7 July 2020, to close the bank account and distribute the funds equally between Cowes Town Council, Gurnard Parish Council and Northwood Parish Council; the sum received being £704.00. Councillors were advised of the risk that this money could be called upon at some time in the future. Councillors also discussed the future financial viability of the Route 32 Community Bus. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the sum received of £704.00 be ring fenced against any future costs associated with the Route 32 Community Bus scheme.

It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. That Cowes Town Council write to the Isle of Wight Community Bus Partnership Ltd to ask for sight of the accounts for the Route 32 Community Bus to ensure that this vital service is maintainable.

2. That Cowes Town Council advise Northwood and Gurnard Parish Councils that funds received from the Route 32 Bus Account will be ring fenced against any future costs associated with the Route 32 Community Bus Scheme.

508 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Projects Committee recommend the following, further to the annual RoSPA safety inspections at Northwood Recreation Ground:

1. To level and re-turf at the side entrance to the MUGA for the sum of £130.
2. To undertake various repairs at the Skate Park and MUGA for the sum of £1,905.40.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

1. For Contractor A to level and re-turf at the side entrance to the MUGA for the sum of £130, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.
2. For Contractor B to undertake various repairs at the Skate Park and MUGA for the sum of £1,905.40, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.

509 STAFFING MATTERS

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that the Clerks are now working back in the Town Council office but are currently not accepting visitors into the office.

510 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Town Clerk advised that the Clerks are now working back in the Town Council Office but continue to monitor Government advice with regard to safe working practices. Face masks, hand sanitisers and a surface cleaning spray is available for use.

511 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.37pm.

CHAIRMAN