

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday 5 August 2020 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Brown, Fuller, Peacey Wilcox and Taylor

In attendance: Councillor Wardrop (Non-Voting)(6.38pm); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

344. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rafferty.

345. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received

346. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 7 July 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

347. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

The IW Council have confirmed that funding is still ring fenced and the project supported by the S.106 grant. Island Roads have been asked for their schedules for the works and invoicing as a matter of urgency to enable the S.106 Agreement to be completed.

b) Tree Warden Project

Councillor Taylor advised that the trees in Baring Road from the Roundhouse to Ward Avenue, including Debourne Manor Drive, have been surveyed.

c) Ark and Dove Commemorations

Permission is being sought from the IW Council to install a new information board commemorating The Ark and The Dove story on Cowes Parade. The Assistant Town Clerk met with Island Roads' District Steward to agree a suitable location. Island Roads will provide costings to install the information board. An application for advertisement consent from the Planning Department will be required. The text and accompanying illustrations will need to be designed; Mr G Banks BEM will be asked to assist with the content. The 390th anniversary in 2023 was raised and Councillors felt this should be commemorated. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will make initial enquiries with the Planning Department regarding advertisement consent.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Mr G Banks BEM for assistance with the content and design of the information board.

d) Town Signs

There was no update on this project.

e) **Community Orchard**

Councillors are keen to proceed with the Community Orchard to provide fresh fruit for the community. People Powered CIC will be contacted to consider identifying a suitable location which will work alongside a future recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground.

It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to People Powered CIC to ask them to identify a suitable location to incorporate a community orchard in their design of a recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground.

f) **VJ Day 2020**

VJ Day 2020 is on 15th August 2020. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions regarding public gatherings, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will attend a private commemoration led by Rev. Poppe at the War Memorial.

g) **The Great Tour Cycle Event**

The Great Tour around the coast of Britain is due to finish back on the Isle of Wight, completing the section from Cowes back to Ryde, on Saturday 5 September. Due to the short notice of this event the Mayor will discuss the Town Council's involvement with Councillor Bertie. A suitable commemorative gift will be authorised by the Chairman from the 'New Projects' budget. It was agreed

ACTIONS:

1. The Mayor will liaise with Councillor Bertie to consider the involvement of the Town Council at the final leg of the Great Tour as it passes through Cowes.
2. The Chairman will use his discretionary powers under Financial Regulation 10.2 to authorise the purchase of a suitable gift to commemorate the final leg of the Great Tour from the 'New Projects' budget.

348. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Rope Walk**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

b) **Fastnet Race 2021**

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

c) **Cycling in Cowes High Street**

At the Town Council meeting on 16 July 2020 Councillors were asked to consider a proposal for an experimental pedestrian / cycle lane to be set up in Cowes High Street, similar to the one along Princes Esplanade, for one-way cycling going up Shooters Hill. It was proposed that the scheme should be looked at by the Town Council's Projects Committee with Councillor Oliver's input. Councillor Oliver was not in attendance, however, had provided his input prior to the meeting, welcoming the idea of resolving transport options in Cowes. He feels that different strategies may be needed to meet the needs of residents and visitors to Cowes with the increased use of bicycles, e-bikes, e-scooters and mobility scooters. Councillors are very keen to improve the situation for both pedestrians and cyclists and felt professional advice is needed. Councillors suggested initial contact is made with the IW Council's Sustainable Transport Officer to discuss the way forward. It was agreed

ACTION:

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council to discuss progressing this project.

The meeting adjourned at 6.52pm and resumed at 6.58pm.

d) **Land at Firs Close**

A number of residents of Firs Close have requested to take responsibility for the future maintenance of a triangular piece of land in Firs Close; they would like to let the area grow wild and turn it into a nature area by planting wild flowers. The area is currently maintained by Island Roads under the PFI Contract. Island Roads have indicated that the Town Council will need to take over responsibility and liability for the area of land and could then let residents maintain it, with the Town Council overseeing that it is being done to an agreed standard and safety checking it. Councillors agreed that residents of Firs Close be consulted to gauge the level of support. The Town Council will be responsible for maintaining the area of land at Cowes tax payers' expense should Firs Close residents discontinue maintaining it in the future. It was agreed

ACTION:

Councillor Fuller and the Assistant Town Clerk will consult with residents of Firs Close via a letter to ascertain the level of support for the proposal.

Subject to obtaining the support of the majority of residents in Firs Close, it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council request to take over responsibility and liability for the triangular piece of land at Firs Close from Island Roads.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council allow the residents of Firs Close to maintain the triangular piece of land to an agreed standard.**

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 7.13pm

349. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

A new lock for the Notice Board is on order. The painting of the two 'Cowes' entry signs on the seafront and by the Floating Bridge will be deferred until the end of September to wait for the large hanging baskets to be removed at the end of the season and to reduce the impact on summer visitors. A date for the cleaning of the Bandstand and Francki Place plaques is awaited from the contractor. The Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society have thanked the Town Council for agreeing to take over the ownership of the 60th Anniversary, 75th Anniversary and ORP Grom plaques at the Bandstand.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Annual RoSPA safety inspections of the Skate Park, MUGA and Outdoor Gym areas at Northwood Recreation Ground identified a number of maintenance issues. Quotations to level and re-turf the side entrance to the MUGA and for various repairs in the Skate Park were considered, comprising of: replacing a missing railing, filling holes in the skate ramp decking, grinding the edges of all ramps and the grind box, replacing a bent support rail, filling the exposed ends of all handrails, re-levelling the ramp run-offs with resin, boxing in the side of the central ramp and undertaking a weld repair on one of the basket hoops in the MUGA. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the cost of £130, excluding VAT, for Contractor A to level and re-turf at the side entrance to the MUGA, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec - Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.**
- 2. That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the cost of £1,905.40, excluding VAT, for Contractor B to undertake repairs as listed at the Skate**

Park and MUGA, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec - Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.

350. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.19pm

CHAIRMAN