

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held virtually by Zoom on Thursday 1 October 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams (7.07pm), Bertie, Brown, Bustin, Fuller, Gilpin, Jones, Nicholson (7.05pm), Oliver, Rafferty, Reynolds, Taylor & Wardrop (7.04pm).

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; one member of the public (7.23pm).

8141 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis & Hammond.

8142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jones declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8147a as he is Treasurer of Cowes Heritage.

8143 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors. The crime statistics for September 2020 showed 2 criminal damage; 3 public order; 5 harassment; 2 drug offences; 8 assaults; 1 burglary; 1 shoplifting offence; 2 theft; 3 malicious communications; 1 threat to life. The current police priorities are: Op Sceptre – nationwide knife crime initiative; Domestic violence – signposting / referring to partner agencies; Drugs – gathering intelligence and taking appropriate action.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox reminded Councillors that if there is a crime happening in front of you, do not hesitate to call the 999 number.

8144 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3 September 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

8145 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting at this time, therefore no questions were raised.

8146 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Taylor referred to an email sent by Councillor Nicholson regarding the future use of an alternative to glyphosate. Councillor Taylor advised that Cowes Town Council have already provided the IW Council with alternative solutions. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Taylor will send a copy of the glyphosate alternatives to Councillor Nicholson.

Councillor Jones raised the issue of the road works at St Mary's roundabout and asked what is going on? He said that details of who suggested and agreed the scheme should be made known. Councillor Peacey Wilcox advised that problems are arising and accidents have been happening. Pavement issues in the area were also raised.

8147 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 September 2020 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That a grant be made to St Mary the Virgin Church, Cowes in the sum of £2,100.**
- 2. That, for the next 12 months, Cowes Town Council subscribes to the Zoom service for the cost of £11.99 per month.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council notes the Local Government Services' Pay Agreement for 2020-2021.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council renews the Assistant Town Clerk's membership of the SLCC for the sum of £202.**

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council sets aside a budget figure of £3,500 for a new information board on The Parade, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.**

8148 POP UP CYCLE LANE IN BECKFORD ROAD

At the Town Council meeting on 3 September 2020, Councillors discussed and were against the IW Council's proposal to introduce a pop up cycle lane in Beckford Road. The IW Council have now paused the Beckford Road scheme and have asked the Town Council for a meeting to discuss other viable alternatives. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will arrange a Zoom meeting, during the day, with the IW Council. All Councillors will be invited to attend.

During the pop up cycle lane discussion a member of the public joined the meeting,

8149 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of September 2020. Cheque payments totalled £21,956.75 and petty cash payments totalled £29.40. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £21,956.75 and petty cash payments of £29.40, be received, noted and approved.

8150 WINTER BEDDING AND MAINTENANCE 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, which remains at the same price as 2019, 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.**

8151 HIRE OF PA SYSTEM AND FLAG POLE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider the hire of a PA system in the sum of £275 and flag pole in the sum of £225 for the Remembrance Sunday event at Northwood Park on Sunday 8 November 2020. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That, should the Remembrance Sunday event proceed as usual, Cowes Town Council hires a PA system in the sum of £275 and flag pole in the sum of £225 for the Remembrance Sunday event at Northwood Park on Sunday 8 November 2020.**
- 2. If the event does not go ahead as usual, Cowes Town Council will make a donation of £500 to the Royal British Legion to help support their veterans.**

8152 DONATION TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £100 to St Mary's Church for the production of the Remembrance Sunday programmes. It was:

RESOLVED

That, should the Remembrance Sunday event proceed as usual, Cowes Town Council make a donation of £100 to St Mary's Church for the production of the Remembrance Sunday programmes.

8153 DONATION TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Sunday wreath. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council make a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the Remembrance Sunday wreath.

8154 DONATION TO COWES BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider making a donation of £300 to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday event on 8 November 2020. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That, should the Remembrance Sunday event proceed as usual, Cowes Town Council make a donation of £300 to the Cowes Branch of the Royal British Legion for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday event on 8 November 2020.**
- 2. If the event does not go ahead as usual, Cowes Town Council will make a donation of £300 to the Royal British Legion to provide meals for their veterans over the winter period.**

Councillors Reynolds and Wardrop left the meeting at 7.34pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7.34pm and resumed at 7.40pm.

8155 APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE

There is a long standing vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee which Councillors are asked to consider filling. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Gilpin be appointed to the Planning & Licensing Committee.

8156 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE FLOATING BRIDGE AND ITS ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS (MIN. NO. 8123 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 3 September 2020, the Town Clerk was actioned to write to the IW Council to express the frustration, disappointment and disquiet by the public since Floating Bridge 6 (FB6) was brought into service, the situation being made worse by the major road scheme at St Mary's roundabout causing major delays to road users. The Town Council also expressed its concerns about not being directly informed of any issues with FB6 rather than hearing through the media. The Leader of the IW Council responded by noting the Town Council's concerns in relation to the difficulties of using a launch by the disabled and visually impaired and this will be taken up with IW Council Officers. With regard to the hydraulics problem, the IW Council expected to have FB6 back in service by the end of September but this does depend on progress with repairs. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk will write to the Leader of the IW Council to raise the issue of a further delay in bringing FB6 back into service and to ask if there are other options that could be considered to resolve this issue in the long term.

8157 EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE FLOATING BRIDGE STAKEHOLDER GROUP'S LETTER TO THE SOLENT LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (SLEP)

The Floating Bridge Stakeholder Group have written to the SLEP to update them on the current situation / issues regarding FB6. East Cowes Town Council have given their support to the letter and have asked Cowes Town Council to also write a letter of support to the SLEP. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Mayor will write to the SLEP to support the Floating Bridge Stakeholder Group and to raise the issues surrounding FB6.

8158 RESPONSE FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP IN REGARD TO COWES MEDICAL CENTRE (MIN NO. 8123 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 3 September 2020, the Town Clerk was auctioned to write to the Alison Smith at the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group to ask whether blood tests will be offered at Cowes Medical Centre and also to ask if there are any plans to reinstate the Patient Participation Group (PPG).

The Town Council have been advised that there will be a phlebotomy service at Cowes Medical Centre when some work has been completed on the property; discussions about the PPG were taking place with Cowes Medical Centre. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Council will write again to the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group to ask for an update on when work will be completed on Cowes Medical Centre, when blood tests will be made available and how often the clinics will be held. An update on the reinstatement of the PPG will also be requested.

8159 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE IW COUNCIL'S (PARKING PLACES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER NO 2 2020 – DRAFT NOTICES (MIN. NO. 8136 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 3 September 2020, Councillors discussed the Notices, Orders and Plans that are included in the alteration to the Parking Places Traffic Order No 2 2020. The legal period where representation can be received by the IW Council is from 21 August 2020 until 18 September 2020. The Town Council lodged its objections to these proposals on 15 September 2020. Councillor Fuller advised that he had been copied in to 156 objections and had written to the IW Council's officer concerned for an update. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will send a copy of the Town Council's objections to Councillor Ian Ward, IW Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport.
2. Councillor Fuller will send a copy of the IW Council's response to his request for an update to the Town Clerk.

8160 REPORT FROM THE IW LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019 EVENT

As required by any recipient of a Town Council grant over £2,000, the IW Literary Festival have provided a report on their 2019 event which was received and noted by all Town Councillors.

8161 POLICY ON DEBATE AND VOTING AT MEETINGS

A review of the Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings.

8162 DIGNITY AT WORK – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

A review of the Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy.

8163 CHILD, YOUNG PERSON AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

A review of the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Policy.

8164 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of the Grievance Procedure for Employees was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Grievance Procedure for Employees.

8165 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of the Disciplinary Procedure for Employees was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Disciplinary Procedure for Employees.

8166 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions included playground inspections; toilet inspections; fly-tipping, recurrence of litter in M & S car park.

8167 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

There were no miscellaneous publications and correspondence received.

8168 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Whitegates Pontoon – Councillor Oliver
- Brand Cowes – Councillor Bertie

The proceedings terminated at 8.17pm.

CHAIRMAN