

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held virtually by Zoom on Thursday 5 November 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Bertie, Brown, Ellis, Fuller, Gilpin, Hammond, Jones, Nicholson, Oliver, Rafferty, Taylor & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; Ian Boyd & Claire Hector (for the Arc Consulting presentation); four members of the public.

PRESENTATION FROM IAN BOYD AND CLAIRE HECTOR OF ARC CONSULTING, TO SHARE PROGRESS ON THE COWES & NORTHWOOD PLACE PLAN

Ian Boyd gave a brief overview of the data collection process and results so far, accompanied by a slide show. They follow the Place Standard tool - a national standard which gives robust data and allows for comparison. Data collection has continued longer than originally planned due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but will conclude at the end of November 2020. The results from completed questionnaires are used to generate maps which provide evidence and information on the areas where improvements are needed or changes required, and provide a useful bridge to potential funders, the IW Council and other organisations. The feedback so far has been positive for Cowes. Although data collection has not yet been completed, there are a number of headline areas being raised including traffic and parking, cycling and affordable housing. Councillors were encouraged to continue promoting the survey to members of the public; the Town Clerks will resend the link to the survey to all Councillors.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Ian and Claire for their presentation.

8169 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bustin.

8170 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jones declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8175a3 as he is Treasurer of Cowes Heritage.

Councillor Rafferty declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8176 as he is an employee of Cowes Harbour Commission.

Councillor Wardrop declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8184 as she was Cowes Town Council's representative on Cowes Deauville Twinning Association when the devolving of their funds was discussed.

8171 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 October 2020 showed 2 criminal damage; 8 public order; 7 harassment; 4 drug offences; 12 assaults; 1 burglary; 1 shoplifting offence; 8 theft; 4 malicious communications; 1 blackmail. 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.

8172 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1 October 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

8173 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were raised by members of the public.

The meeting adjourned and resumed at 7.30pm.

8174 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Peacey Wilcox advised that the Post Office in Pallance Road had now reopened.

Councillor Fuller advised that there have been over 2,600 signatures objecting to the proposals to charge for parking between Egypt Light, Cowes and The Woodvale, Gurnard. This figure continues to grow and Councillor Fuller hopes that the IW Council's Cabinet will listen to these objections.

Councillor Bertie expressed his concerns regarding cycling in the High Street stating that this issue needs addressing by a full Town Council debate.

8175 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 20 October 2020 were received and noted.

Councillor Jones left the meeting while the Cowes Heritage and Cowes Voluntary Community Group grant applications and resolution was discussed.

It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 September 2020.

2. That Cowes Town Council transfers the funds held in the Nationwide Building Society into another Nationwide Business 1 Year Fixed Rate Saver Account with a gross interest rate per annum of 0.30%.

3. That Cowes Town Council support, in principle, the grant applications from Cowes Heritage and Cowes Voluntary Community Group, subject to the newly formed Cowes Heritage and Community Group making a new grant application to the Town Council once planning permission has been granted and a third quote for the building works has been received.

4. That Cowes Town Council extends the contract, for grounds maintenance work at Northwood Park, with Andy Butler Sports Ground Specialist from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 for the annual sum of £10,165.00.

5. That Cowes Town Council does not pay for locking the toilets at Northwood Park as from 1 April 2021.

6. That Cowes Town Council extends the contract, for toilet cleaning in Cowes and litter picking at Northwood Recreation Ground, with All Round

Cleaners from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 for the annual sum of £38,720.24.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 7 October 2020 and 4 November 2020 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council has a full debate to decide the Town Council's view on cycling in the High Street. This will be a single agenda item for an Extraordinary Town Council meeting with a date to be arranged at the earliest convenience.

c) IWALC

The Minutes of the IWALC meeting with the IW Council held on 14 September 2020 were received and noted.

8176 WHITEGATES PUBLIC PONTOON

Whitegates public pontoon in Arctic Road was raised for discussion due to the large number of fishing vessels padlocked to the pontoon which presented problems for other boats trying to tie up there. A site meeting was held in August with the Newport and Cowes Harbour Masters to discuss areas of waterfront responsibility, local crime issues, historical use of the pontoon and other associated issues. As a result the Harbour Masters agreed to undertake a clear up operation of the boats along the side of the bridge to the pontoon, subject to the publication of notices to remove these boats. CCTV is also being considered to prevent future problems in this area.

8177 COWES DEAUVILLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Town Council has been advised that due to the lack of members, Cowes Deauville Twinning Association has closed as from their AGM on 15 October 2020. Four committee members (2 couples) were leaving the Association and the remaining members were so few that a Committee is barely able to be formed. Their remaining funds will be discussed later in this meeting.

The Town Council acknowledged this closure with sadness and asked Councillor Wardrop to pass on the Town Council's sincere thanks to the Association for their many years of service.

Councillors also discussed whether a future twinning association or friendship link could be formed with Cherbourg due to the future Cowes to Cherbourg Fastnet races starting in 2021. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Bertie will discuss this proposal with Councillor Wardrop.

8178 CHILD NUTRITION

Councillors discussed the issue of hunger and nutrition amongst children. A number of initiatives have been instigated including cooking classes for parents to enable the proper use and preparation of raw cooking materials. It was acknowledged that a careful approach was needed to avoid parents feeling patronised. Some schools are offering free school meals during the school holidays or vouchers that can be used in supermarkets. Sadly, like any system it can be open to abuse. Cowes Town Council acknowledge that this is a very important subject and the Town Council should seek

the views of local organisations to see how it can help. It is not just about children being hungry; nutrition and vitamins are important too. Vitamin D deficiency can be prevalent in winter months and although Vitamin D supplements can be purchased over the counter it is not always affordable to families.

Councillors Fuller and Peacey Wilcox will be having meetings with the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills. They will be discussing support for vulnerable children by providing free school meals during school holidays. Councillors will be advised of the outcome of these discussions in due course.

8179 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2020

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2020. Cheque payments totalled £21,260.63 and petty cash payments totalled £117.49. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £21,260.63 and petty cash payments of £117.49 be received, noted and approved.

8180 DONATION TO MOUNTBATTEN ISLE OF WIGHT

The Town Council normally makes a donation of £400 to Mountbatten Isle of Wight at the annual Light Up a Life Carol Concert. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic there will not be a Light Up a Life Carol Concert in Cowes this year, although streaming of services will take place online. Councillors discussed whether to still make their annual donation to Mountbatten Isle of Wight. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £400 to Mountbatten Isle of Wight.

8181 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S REPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

On behalf of Cowes Town Council, Councillor Jones prepared a Town Council response to the Government's White Paper on National Planning Policy. The Town Council support the MP's request for the Island to be treated differently due to its unique features and to challenge the National Planning Policy.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox thanked Councillor Jones for trawling through of mountains of paperwork to enable an agreed Town Council response.

8182 IWALC'S REPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Councillors noted IWALC's in-depth response to the Government's White Paper on National Planning Policy which included the responses from all Town and Parish Council IWALC members.

8183 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S LETTER TO SOLENT LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (SLEP) AND THEIR RESPONSE (MIN. NO. 8157 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 1 October 2020 it was agreed that the Town Mayor would write a letter to SLEP to support the Floating Bridge Stakeholder Group and to raise issues surrounding FB6. SLEP have replied to the letter and offered a meeting with the Town Council and other stakeholders to discuss FB6. The meeting is taking place on Monday 9 November 2020 at 10am, via Zoom. All Councillors are invited to attend; the Mayor and Councillor Oliver have confirmed their attendance.

The meeting adjourned and resumed at 8.10pm.

Councillors Bertie, Hammond and Wardrop left the meeting at 8.10pm.

8184 CLOSURE OF COWES DEAUVILLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Following the news of the closure of Cowes Deauville Twinning Association, Cowes Town Council have been asked to hold their funds of £1,000 with a request for this to be ring-fenced for five years in case anyone in the future wishes to re-establish the Association. The Association have also asked for the Town Council to store their box of memorabilia. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council holds the funds of £1,000 from Cowes Deauville Twining Association, with the amount to be ring-fenced for five years.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council stores the box of Cowes Deauville Twinning Association's memorabilia.**

8185 REPORT FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

As required by any recipient of a Town Council grant over £2,000, St Mary's Church have provided a report on the repair to the Church clock which was received and noted by all Town Councillors.

8186 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR) PRIVACY NOTICE

Since the introduction of GDPR in May 2018 the Town Council have implemented various documents to comply with the regulations. The Privacy Notice is to advise those who communicate with the Town Council how their data will be processed, stored and secured. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves and adopts the GDPR Privacy Notice.

8187 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; patrolling Northwood Cemetery, fly-tipping, dogs off leads and dog fouling; beach inspections. Councillors commented how hard the Environment Officer works. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write a letter of thanks to the Environment Officer for all her efforts and hard work in Cowes.

8188 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8189 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Cowes / Gurnard / Northwood Cluster meeting – Councillor Fuller

The proceedings terminated at 8.27pm.

CHAIRMAN