

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Bustin (6.18pm), Peacey Wilcox and Taylor

In attendance: Councillor Wardrop (Non-Voting) (6.16pm); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

370. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

371. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

372. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 4 November 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

373. 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. Progress is being made towards the final Planning Permission and package from Island Roads. Island Roads have confirmed they are continuing to undertake projects as long as they can be carried out in accordance with current Government guidelines for safe working conditions within the construction industry. This may change if stricter rules are brought in by the Government, at which time this would need to be reviewed including when the project could be commenced and completed.

b) Ark and Dove Commemorations

The Assistant Town Clerk has contacted the graphic designer previously involved in the design of the existing information boards installed on The Parade and to the west of the Royal Yacht Squadron. Costs for his services will depend on how much artwork is provided ready-to-use or whether he will be required to produce artwork for the design. The graphic designer has suggested splitting the story of the journey into a number of sub-sections to make the content easier to read.

The Assistant Town Clerk is liaising with Cowes Heritage, who have kindly offered use of the information they hold on the sailing of the Ark and the Dove from Cowes.

Sight for Wight can provide a QR code for inclusion in the design which they will host for seven years (initially), providing unlimited scans linked to an oral recording of the content of the information board, for the cost of £145. Councillors were supportive of including a QR code to assist those with a sight impairment.

c) Active Travel

An extra-ordinary Town Council meeting was held on 26 November 2020 to discuss cycling in Cowes High Street. The outcome from the meeting was to liaise with the IW Council to see if Government funding can be accessed to introduce an experimental change of use to the Traffic Order, for at least an 18 month trial period, to permit cyclists to use the High Street. The Town Clerk has requested a meeting with the IW Council to further this matter.

d) **No Cold Calling signs**

Councillor Fuller raised this item with Gurnard Parish Council (GPC) to see if the Town and Parish Councils can work in partnership to replace the faded No Cold Calling signs in public areas. The Clerk at GPC is liaising with relevant organisations to obtain approval for a new sign, incorporating the logos of the IW Council and the Police. Once the design is approved, costings will be obtained.

374. NEW PROJECTS

a) **World Finger Post**

Councillor Bertie had prepared a report, which had been circulated as a background paper, for the Committee's consideration as he felt there is nowhere iconic for visitors to stand and be photographed in Cowes. He requested support from the Committee to install a new finger post in a prominent position in the town. He suggested a couple of suitable locations on the seafront where the finger post could be sited. A number of places around the world have links with Cowes and could be included on the directional fingers, along with details of their distance from Cowes.

A location will need to be decided, necessary permissions sought; and agreement on the content to be included on the directional fingers before detailed costings can be obtained. Following discussion, Councillors agreed to consider this as a new project.

375. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The flagpole at Francki Place has a broken halyard and a repair has been sought. The contractor advised that the current workings of the flagpole have been concreted over. Once the concrete has been removed, contractors will be able to see if the flagpole can be lowered and repaired, or whether a new flagpole will be required.

Redecoration of other items of street furniture will be considered once the budget expenditure is known on the flagpole repair/replacement.

Councillors advised that a number of the directional fingers on the Town Council's finger posts are not pointing in the correct direction.

It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will inspect and make any necessary adjustments to directional fingers.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The Assistant Town Clerk carried out inspections at the Recreation Ground on 4 January 2021.

The MUGA has a small piece of detached railing. This will be monitored.

The IW Council have been requested to supply additional chipped bark to the Playbuilder. They have suggested that replacing the chipped bark with 'wet pour' in the future will reduce ongoing maintenance. Costs for installing 'wet pour' at the Playbuilder will be obtained for Councillors' consideration.

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the MUGA, Skatepark and Outdoor Gyms are currently closed off in accordance with Government restrictions under the Coronavirus Lockdown. Councillor Bertie is investigating reports of skateboarders bringing home-made ramps to Cowes seafront and alcohol being consumed at this location.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 6.45pm.

376. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.53pm

CHAIRMAN