

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Brown, Bustin (6.16pm), Fuller, Peacey Wilcox and Taylor

In attendance: Councillors Gilpin and Wardrop (6.19pm)(Non-Voting); Kate Gibbs (Assistant Town Clerk)

377. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

378. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

379. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 January 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

380. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was not in attendance but had provided updated drawings for the enhancement works. Councillors had no questions regarding the revised drawings. Scheduling of the works and the Planning Permission is awaited.

b) Ark and Dove Commemorations

The Assistant Town Clerk is liaising with George Chastney, who has kindly offered to write the content and provide images for the new information board, using information from the Cowes Heritage and Community Group's archives and from contacts in Maryland, USA. Mr Chastney provided the content for the two existing information boards on The Parade and west of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

c) Active Travel

The Town Council has requested a meeting 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.

Following a further incident in the High Street, whereby a pedestrian was hit by a cyclist in the pedestrian zone, Councillors felt there is a need to have access to the CCTV footage, when required. Councillors agreed that the Town Clerks should accumulate a log of incidents, including details of the incident – location, date and time. Pedestrians involved in collisions with cyclists in the pedestrian zone should be encouraged to make a formal complaint to the Police if they have sufficient detail; anonymous calls can be made through Crimestoppers.

Councillors were concerned that eScooters are also riding through the High Street during the prohibited hours and requested that Beryl (provider of the eScooter trial) be asked if it is possible to limit the speed of the eScooters in the pedestrianised area. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to request access for the Town Council to CCTV camera footage in the High Street (when required).
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Beryl to consider limiting the speed of the eScooters in the pedestrianised area of the town.

d) **No Cold Calling signs**

Councillor Fuller advised that Gurnard Parish Council (GPC) are installing No Cold Calling signs in the village and suggested that the Town Council may be able to work in partnership with Northwood Parish Council to target the entry points to Cowes at Northwood. Suitable locations for new signage were considered. Councillors were supportive of the project, which will assist the Island's Trading Standards Department to deal with 'cold calling'. Costs for the installation of the new signs will need to be obtained from Island Roads. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Island Roads for the costs for installation of new No Cold Calling signs.
2. Councillor Fuller will liaise with Northwood Parish Council to discuss the number and location of new No Cold Calling signs and working in partnership with the Town Council on this project.

e) **World Finger Post**

This item was deferred.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox left the meeting at 7.03pm.

381. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Accessibility**

Following receipt of a resident's report regarding disabled access in Cowes and Gurnard, Councillors discussed the issues raised. A number of the issues contained in the report had already been identified in the Town Council's own Access Audit of the town centre carried out in 2017 and some have already been resolved. However, there are still areas that require adaptation to assist those who are vulnerable or have an impairment. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will refer the report to the IW Council for their further consideration.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 7.10pm.

382. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The flagpole at Francki Place has a broken halyard and lock casing. The current workings of the flagpole, which allow the flagpole to be lowered for maintenance, were concreted over during installation and a new flagpole is now required. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that a new flagpole is on order, which will have a removable covered base, providing access for future maintenance.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that it has been necessary to install temporary Heras fencing at both entrances to the MUGA and around the Outdoor Gym equipment to stop members of the public from using the facilities, in line with Government restrictions under the Coronavirus Lockdown.

Councillor Adams raised the poor condition of the footways leading into the Recreation Ground, which do not encourage people to walk, run or exercise at this location. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Clerks will raise the poor condition of the footways at Northwood Recreation Ground with the IW Council during discussions regarding Active Travel.

383. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.19pm

CHAIRMAN