

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Peacey Wilcox (6.32pm) and Taylor

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

384. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller and Rafferty.

385. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

386. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 February 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

387. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was not in attendance but had provided an update. The IWC Planning Officer has all the drawings and documents and a decision will be issued shortly. Island Roads will be in a position to issue the documents and programme for the works once planning permission has been decided.

b) Ark and Dove Commemorations

There was no update on this item.

c) Active Travel

The Town Council 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. A virtual meeting with the IW Council is scheduled for 10 March 2021.

Councillors requested access to CCTV footage for Cowes High Street. CCTV Operator, Island Roads, advised that they are unable to allow access to the Town Council due to the CCTV Code of Practice. Incidents should be reported to the Police, who can investigate on the Town Council's behalf.

Councillors were concerned that eScooters are riding through the High Street in both directions and during the prohibited hours; they 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. Beryl have advised that it is not currently possible to restrict the High Street as it is a small area. Councillors were reminded that vehicles are permitted to use the High Street (one-way) between 7am and 10am daily.

d) No Cold Calling signs

Northwood Parish Council are arranging to install No Cold Calling signs at strategic gateways to Northwood village. Once these are installed the Town Council can consider if any further signs are required in the Cowes area.

e) **World Finger Post**

Councillors discussed the benefits of creating a focal point in the town, which would provide photographic opportunities and promote Cowes. Concern was expressed at the estimated cost for this project. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Bertie will obtain further quotations for the supply of a new finger post.

f) **Accessibility**

At the last meeting of the Projects Committee, Councillors discussed a report written by a resident regarding disabled access in the Cowes area, which had also been sent to the IW Council. The IW Council asked Island Roads' Safety Engineer to consider the issues raised; their response was sent to the resident and the Town Council. Some of the issues raised in the report had already been resolved and others require assessment and discussion with the IW Council to establish a priority for funding. There being no further action at this time for the Projects Committee, this item will be removed from the agenda.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 6.56pm.

388. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Cowes Fayre**

Councillors Nicholson and Bertie raised the idea of holding a food fayre in the town to showcase the food our local shops and restaurants produce. Councillors discussed examples of food festivals held in other areas, both nationally and internationally. Such an event could encourage people to the town outside of the main season. Councillors agreed to consider this as a project.

389. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

Councillor Nicholson raised a request received from a resident to relocate a dog bin in the Love Lane area. Councillor Nicholson, as IW Ward Councillor, will look into the request.

A new flagpole is on order for Francki Place.

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the 6 light motifs on Birmingham Road are no longer working and are in need of urgent removal or maintenance. Councillors considered quotations received to: (1) remove and dispose of the lights (£438.90 plus VAT); and (2) remove, inspect each to identify repairs and reinstall, if possible (£678.00 plus VAT); costs for repairs will be in addition to this price. After consideration, Councillors felt that the lights had reached the end of their viable lives and their safe removal and disposal was the best option. It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the cost of £438.90, plus VAT, for removal and disposal of the 6 light motifs on Birmingham Road, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.

It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Nicholson will discuss the resident's concerns with Island Roads to see if the dog bin can be relocated to a more suitable location.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Two quotations have been received to replace the chipped bark with a 'wet pour' shredded rubber mulch under the basket swing and cone climber Playbuilder equipment at

Northwood Recreation Ground. The works are required to ensure the play equipment is safe for users. Councillors were requested to consider suspending Financial Regulation 10.3, requiring three quotations for contracts over £1,500, as it has been difficult to obtain a third quotation due to current Lockdown restrictions and limited contractors on the Island able to carry out the works. Contractor A's quotation is in the sum of £6,561 ex VAT; Contractor B's quotation is for the approximate cost of £3,500 ex VAT. Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers suspending Financial Regulation 10.3 to allow consideration of two quotations for maintenance works on the Playbuilder equipment.**
- 2. That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the approximate cost of £3,500 for Contractor B to install shredded rubber mulch on the above-mentioned Playbuilder equipment, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skatepark/MUGA/Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.**

390. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.33pm

CHAIRMAN