

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held virtually by Zoom on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Fuller, Gilpin, Jones, Nicholson, Oliver, Rafferty, Reynolds (7.01pm), Taylor and Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Diana Conyers, Chair, IWALC; Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor thanked Councillors for all their hard work.

### **8232 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hammond.

### **8233 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **8234 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 February 2021 showed 1 criminal damage; 5 public order; 5 drug offences; 4 assaults; 1 burglary; 1 shoplifting offence; 4 theft; 4 malicious communications; 2 harassments. 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. The report also included details of the latest scams detected on the Island.

### **8235 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4 February 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.**

### **8236 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present, therefore no questions were raised.

### **8237 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

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

Councillor Fuller reported that students outside of the Cowes area are not able to gain entry to Cowes Enterprise College in the next academic year. The popularity of the College is increasing the demand for places which is causing anxiety for those students who cannot join the same High School as their friends. Discussions on this matter are ongoing between the College and the IW Council.

Councillor Fuller also referred to Mornington Road Car Park which had been identified as a low use car park in the recent IW Council's Parking Strategy report. If this car park is surplus to the IW Council's requirement it may be that Cowes Town Council can do something with it.

Councillor Nicholson referred to the Place Plan draft report and acknowledged the tremendous work that had been undertaken. It was agreed that this would be placed on the Agenda for a future Town Council meeting when the final version has been received.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox referred to the lateral flow testing for key workers which is now available at the Isle of Wight Community Club in Cowes and the need to recruit and keep NHS dentists.

## **8238 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 23 February 2021 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the sum of £4,750 be ear marked, at the financial year end on 31 March 2021, from the 'Grants' budget heading in case the Town Council receive a large amount of grant applications after the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.**

### b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 February 2021 were received and noted.

### c) IWALC Executive Committee

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 28 January 2021 were received and noted.

## **8239 DEDICATION TO LOSSES DURING COVID**

Councillors discussed a proposal to have a place where residents can go to remember loved ones lost during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Rose Bed on Park Road was suggested as a suitable place, subject to permission from Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd. This is a beautiful and accessible area, being lit up at night would deter vandalism, and has benches close by if people want to sit and reflect. A suitable large piece of stone could be purchased and placed in the middle of the Rose Bed. As the Mayor's Allowance of £2,000 has not been used in this Financial Year, this money could be set aside for this project. There could be a simple inscription, detail to be agreed. It was agreed:

#### ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will write to the Trustees of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd to seek permission to place a memorial in the centre of the Rose Bed on Park Road, Cowes.
2. Councillors will email the Town Clerk with suggestions for the inscription.
3. The Town Council will forward all suggestions to all Town Councillors to agree the details of the inscription.

It was:

**RESOLVED**

1. That Cowes Town Council supports the proposal to have a dedication to losses during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. That Cowes Town Council sets aside £2,000 from the 'Mayors Allowance' budget heading, at the financial year end on 31 March 2021, to support this project.

**8240 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of February 2021. Cheque payments totalled £21,982.46; petty cash payments totalled £77.10. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £21,982.46 and petty cash payments of £77.10 be received, noted and approved.**

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 7.40pm.

Diana Conyers left the meeting for the following item.

**8241 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP OF IWALC**

Councillors discussed the benefits of renewing their membership of IWALC for 2021 – 2022 in the sum of £1,308.91, which included a 35% discount of £371.93. Councillors agreed that this membership is especially important as this is an election year and new and returning Councillors will benefit from future training opportunities offered by IWALC. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council renews its membership of IWALC for 2021 – 2022 in the sum of £1,308.91.**

**8242 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP OF COWES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Councillors discussed the benefits of renewing their membership of Cowes Business Association for 2021 in the sum of £35.00. Councillors agreed that this membership is important for the Town Council to maintain contacts with the business community in Cowes. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council renews its membership of Cowes Business Association for 2021 in the sum of £35.00.**

Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 7.48pm.

**8243 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CREATE A NEW OFFICE FOR PLACE**

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have recently launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to create a new Office for Place which would involve each local planning authority drawing up its own design code in consultation with local people that developers would have to adhere to. Councillors acknowledged that NALC have responded to the consultation. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council makes no comment on this consultation.**

**8244 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Issues included dog fouling and fly-tipping.

**8245 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of miscellaneous publications and correspondence received.

**8246 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Resurfacing programme for Cowes' roads – Councillor Jones

The proceedings terminated at 8pm.

**CHAIRMAN**