



Minutes of the Thirty fifth Annual Town Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 6.15pm, convened under the provision of the section 99 and schedule 12 of the Local Government Act, 1972

Present: Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)

Councillors Adams, Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Fuller, Jones, Nicholson and Taylor

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk

233 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

**234 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Thirty fourth Annual Town Meeting held on 9 May 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

235 REPORT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor had provided a written report which was circulated to attendees.

April, May and June 2020 meetings were cancelled due to Covid pandemic.

In July we agreed to two of the 'Cowes' entry signs being repainted and cleaning of the 12 plaques.

I am delighted we have an emergency plan now agreed in place - a tad ironic during a pandemic!! It may be worth adding pandemic procedures to the plan.

VE Day commemorations were cancelled. Although many of us decorated and commemorated in our own homes.

We were hopeful that we could commemorate 75th anniversary of VJ Day in August.....

Despite Covid, we felt we should continue to cheer up the town with our annual flowers and planters. Gosh it was a dry time, but they were kept well-watered and maintained.

2020 saw the Cowes Harbour Commission stakeholders' consultation on combining with Cowes Waterfront Trust. This took up CONSIDERABLE time, working with our fellow Councillors in East Cowes; our greatest concern was being transparent and accountable to the public.

We agreed the budget for Christmas trees and decorative lighting.

We agreed more maintenance to the Skate Park. It is SO well used.

We agreed as the Town Council to OBJECT to parking charging on Cowes/Gurnard esplanades. Ongoing.....

It was decided to agree a monthly payment for us to use Zoom to facilitate virtual meetings - after a number of stop starts of being given free 40 minutes, it was decided we definitely

needed to have full access. We are still working on how the link can be added so it's in our diaries automatically as a reminder!

We raised issues alongside Councillors in East Cowes over more problems with the Floating Bridge.....still ongoing.....

In September 2020 we raised concerns about the Cowes Medical Centre patient participation group.....as yet still awaiting communication.

Sadly, after many years the Cowes Deauville Twinning group closed for the last time. Our sincere thanks to the many people that kept this group going for SO many years.....true dedication and I know many happy memories made.

We managed to put out a comprehensive and positive Newsletter during December, full of help available to our residents. I received thanks for this. My thanks to Kate for 'putting' my ramblings together in a comprehensive way!

Cowes Town Council had a number of 'white papers' from Government to do with planning issues. I am delighted that we made strong responses to them.....dare I say, it's gone a bit quiet.....??!!

Still issues over the Floating Bridge continue.....

Cycling in the High Street (seldom off the Town Council agenda) was back on for its 22nd year by my reckoning! We are working on this with the IW Council regarding funding available from government.

Road surfaces have been raised; Cllr Jones put together a detailed report which has been sent to Island Roads for their comments.

The Place Plan, talked about for some time, is now completed. I am truly pleased as this gives a clear identification and way forward.

My utter, sincere thanks to ALL councillors, families, residents, staff, everyone who has supported me in the past 2 years as Mayor of Cowes. The above could not have been achieved without all your efforts.

This has been a really good Town Council to be at the helm of; I truly hope that continues after the election.

There is masses of funding out there.....we need someone to DRIVE the Place Plan forwards for the better of us all in Cowes.

The IW Council is looking for suitable anchoring points to add monitoring equipment to the High Street/Shooters Hill area to monitor vehicular movements.

The Mayor thanked all those who worked throughout the pandemic, providing vital services for the community.

Thanks were given to Councillors Bustin and Taylor for their service to the Town Council, and to Councillor Taylor for agreeing to continue as a volunteer tree warden and supporting SpeedWatch.

Councillor Jones thanked the Mayor for being a first class mayor during her two year term of office, especially throughout the pandemic.

236 ANNUAL SUMMARY – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team were in attendance. The Mayor requested thanks be passed on to the local Police team.

237 QUESTIONS FROM THE MEETING

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

The proceedings terminated at 6.34pm.

CHAIRMAN