

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 6.15pm

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

In attendance: Councillors Jones and Wardrop (6.20pm) (Non-Voting); Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk

391. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

392. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

393. MINUTES RESOLVED

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

394. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Prior to the meeting, Councillor Jones, Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee, raised his concerns at the length of time it is taking to obtain the Planning Permission for the enhancement works. Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was not in attendance but had provided a response to Councillor Jones' concerns, advising that the Covid-19 pandemic and pressure on the Planning Department had been the reason given for the delays, but he had been assured that a planning decision will be issued no later than 30 April 2021. Councillors felt that the delay, dating back to February 2019, was unacceptable; the Chairmen of the Projects and Planning and Licensing Committees will write to the IW Council to express their concerns. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Chairmen of the Projects and Planning and Licensing Committees will write to the IW Council to express their concerns at the delay in receiving the planning decision.

b) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

George Chastney had produced an initial draft wording and suggested suitable illustrations for the information board for Councillors' consideration. The draft had not been circulated prior to the meeting, but was shared on screen for those with a video feed. Councillors felt that the text was written in easy to read sections and wished for their thanks to be passed on to Mr Chastney. Mr Chastney has advised that the remains of the original fort in Maryland have been found and he will incorporate an artist's impression in the design. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will thank Mr Chastney for the draft information board text.

c) **Active Travel**

A further meeting was held with the IW Council to discuss Active Travel on 10 March 2021, the Notes from which were circulated prior to the meeting. Department for Transport (DfT) funding has been delivered for the Newport and Ryde areas, following completion of their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The IW Council suggested that a LCWIP for Cowes will put Cowes in a better position to qualify for Government funding

when it becomes available. There is an extensive process to follow to compile a LCWIP. The Town Council could engage an expert to undertake the large amount of work required. A quotation to engage the expert who assisted with the compilation of the plan for Newport and Ryde was discussed. Councillors, while in support of a creating a LCWIP for Cowes, felt that the IW Council should also provide funding towards the completion of the Plan and further discussions with the IW Council were required before the Town Council commits any funds. A further meeting with the IW Council is scheduled for 15 April 2021.

d) **No Cold Calling signs**

There being no update, this item will be removed from the agenda.

e) **World Finger Post**

Councillor Bertie has approached four companies for quotations for the new finger post but has received no further quotations currently.

Promotion of the Friendship link with Cowes, Australia was raised.

There may be an opportunity to apply for funding to assist seaside towns. This will be raised with the IW Council. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. Councillor Nicholson will write to the IW Council's Director of Regeneration to enquire about any funding the Town Council may apply for.
2. Councillor Bertie will circulate, via the Clerks, updated information on the finger post.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 6.50pm.

f) **Cowes Fayre**

Councillors Nicholson and Bertie are continuing discussions with a representative from Cowes Business Association, who will ascertain if local businesses are supportive of a Fayre. Such an event would need the support of local businesses to be successful and could start small and potentially expand to other events.

395. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

A new flagpole is on order for Francki Place.

The six light motifs on Birmingham Road are to be removed due to their poor condition.

The possible relocation of a bench on Shooters Hill was raised and discussed. Alternative locations were suggested at The Green, Crossfield Avenue or by the Rose Bed in Park Road.

Those present at the meeting supported the move from Shooters Hill to the Rosebed, as a suitable base for the bench was already at this location. There will be no financial cost borne by the Town Council for the bench's relocation.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The Assistant Town Clerk carried out inspections at Northwood Recreation Ground on 13 April 2021. The MUGA has one piece of railing detached, which will be monitored; one of the basketball hoop chains has become detached. Repairs to the Skatepark run-offs have been completed. The 'wet pour' for the Playbuilder Swing Seat and Climbing Cone is being ordered by the IW Council. A green wheelie bin has been abandoned at the lower Park Road entrance. The Assistant Town Clerk will arrange for the wheelie bin to be removed. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will arrange for the wheelie bin to be removed.

396. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Community Orchard

The proceedings terminated at 7.24pm

CHAIRMAN