

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Bertie, Brown, Bustin, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond (7.04pm),  
Jones, Nicholson (7.20pm), Oliver, Rafferty, Reynolds (7.02pm), Taylor and  
Wardrop (7.08pm).

**In attendance:** Ian Boyd, Arc Consulting; One member of the public; Debbie Faulkner, Town  
Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk.

Prior to the start of the presentation, Councillor Peacey Wilcox thanked Councillors and the Clerks from the bottom of her heart for their support during her two years as Mayor of Cowes. She believes it is a better Town Council and working well. The next Council still has lots to do and to achieve for Cowes.

### **PRESENTATION FROM IAN BOYD, ARC CONSULTING, TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE PLACE PLAN FOR COWES AND NORTHWOOD**

Ian Boyd attended the meeting to discuss the results of the final Place Plan document. It is a large document but is easy to read and each page tells its own story. There are three headlines / key measures to take forward / priorities for positive change:

#### **North Medina Forum**

The North Medina Forum will establish a single, coherent voice for the four communities (Cowes, Northwood, East Cowes and Whippingham), with an open invitation to Gurnard, that define the harbour and its working estuary. Infrastructure, transport and regeneration in these areas are crucial for the future of the Island.

#### **Resilience Group**

The Resilience Group will create a new local framework of social and civic organisations covering health, wellbeing, economy, education and environment, sharing resources and boosting local self-sufficiency. Residents can feel isolated very quickly due to the Floating Bridge and road works that can cut people off from the rest of the Island. Cowes has the densest population on the Island.

#### **Local Network Plans**

Local Network Plans will identify key areas to invest in and improve permeability and safe access and active travel between clusters of improved facilities for public amenity, recreation and employment.

Councillors asked where we go next. Ian advised that after the election in May Councillors should discuss the Place Plan with the Regeneration Team at the IW Council, Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Cowes Harbour Commission and the three other local Town and Parish Councils. Small pop up events could take place to promote the Place Plan at events like the Noel Turner Science Festival and the IW Literary Festival.

The Mayor thanked Ian and his team for all their hard work in producing the final report. Councillors discussed the steps to take this forward. It was agreed:

#### **ACTIONS**

1. At the Annual Town Council Meeting on 20 May 2021, Councillors will be appointed to the 'Place Plan Working Group' to discuss and take forward the priorities of the Place Plan document.

2. The Town Clerk will make available hard copies of the Place Plan document for new and returning Town Councillors after the election on 6 May 2021.

Councillor Reynolds left the meeting at 7.37pm.

**8247 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**8248 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Oliver declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8253a1 as the applicant for the Full Turn Circus grant is his son.

**8249 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 March 2021 showed 5 criminal damage; 2 public order; 2 drug offences; 11 assaults; 5 burglaries; 1 shoplifting offence; 1 theft; 3 malicious communications; 4 harassments; 5 sexual incidents. 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.

Councillors discussed the incidents regarding users of the Beryl eScooters and the problems that the scooters are causing in Cowes. Councillors would like those incidents recorded on the monthly written report from the local Safer Neighbourhood Officer. Councillors would also like a further meeting with Beryl to discuss the eScooter problems in Cowes. Any incidents observed by Councillors, for onward reporting to Beryl, should include the date, time, location and details of the incident. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will ask the local Safer Neighbourhood Officer to include incidents of eScooters in Cowes on the monthly crime statistics report.
2. The Town Clerk will arrange a meeting with representatives of Beryl in the next two / three weeks.

**8250 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

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

**8251 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The member of the public thanked the Mayor and Councillors for making him feel welcome in attending the meeting. He raised the issue of ownership of the land at Mornington Woods, Jenny's Wood and the green area in front of the public toilets at Mornington Road. The IW Council claim to be the owner of these areas but a file, made available by the original village green applicant dated 26 July 1957, indicates that the land at that time was in the ownership of Cowes Urban District Council and may have transferred to Cowes Town Council. The Town Council have been asked to investigate this matter. It was agreed:

## ACTIONS

1. A copy of the village green file will be made available to Cowes Town Council.
2. Cowes Town Council will ask the IW Council for proof of ownership of the aforementioned land.
3. Cowes Town Council will ask for advice from IWALC when the above details have been received.
4. This matter will be followed up at the June 2021 Town Council meeting.

Councillors thanked the Mornington Woods Volunteer Group for doing a superb job in this area.

## **8252 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

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

Councillor Peacey Wilcox advised that those who have not received proof of vaccine cards should not be concerned as all details are held on their personal records. Vaccine passports are currently being considered by Government. People will be called when their second jab is due.

Councillor Bertie was asked about the location for the proposed 'Cowes Fayre'. He explained that it is very early days but it could possibly be the length of the High Street plus entertainment. Cowes Business Association is also involved in the discussions.

Councillor Fuller referred to the success of the Gurnard Neighbourhood Plan in preventing the building of 6 new dwellings in Baring Road and increasing the number of dwellings at Dottens Farm. He continues to fight against parking charges on the Cowes / Gurnard seafront and has been advised that meters will not be in place until after 4 June 2021; he has received support from all parties at the IW Council.

## **8253 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 23 March 2021 were received and noted. Councillor Peacey Wilcox thanked Councillor Ellis for the Chairing of this Committee.

Councillors discussed the benefits of holding meetings virtually and how well they have worked for Cowes Town Council.

Councillor Oliver left the meeting while the Grant for Full Turn Circus was discussed.

It was:

### **RESOLVED**

1. That a grant be made to Full Turn Circus in the sum of £775.
2. That a grant be made to Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £400.
3. That Cowes Town Council approves the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of bunting in Cowes High Street from May to September 2021 in the sum of £1,080 with the cost to be met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees / Festive Lights / Bunting' budget heading.
4. That Cowes Town Council approves the removal and disposal of 6 light motifs on Birmingham Road for the sum of £438.90 with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.

5. That Cowes Town Council suspends Financial Regulation 10.3 to allow consideration of only two quotations for maintenance works on the Playbuilder equipment at Northwood Recreation Ground.
6. That Cowes Town Council approves the installation of shredded rubber mulch under the basket swing and cone climber Playbuilder equipment at Northwood Recreation Ground by Contractor B, being MCM Construction, for the approximate sum of £3,500 with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skatepark / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 March 2021 were received and noted. Councillor Peacey Wilcox thanked Councillor Nicholson for the Chairing of this Committee.

**8254 CONDITION OF ROADS IN COWES**

Councillors discussed the condition of some roads in Cowes. While some roads have not been upgraded, many have had sections resurfaced with other sections of the road left in a very poor condition. The preference appearing to be to resurface roads that are subject to light traffic, while more well used roads have not been resurfaced. Mill Hill Road is an example of a road that has been resurfaced which is now breaking up in places and it appears that the work done is not fit for purpose. Other roads in urgent need of remedial work are St Faith's Road, Three Gates Road, Crossfield Avenue, Arctic Road and Baring Road. Councillors were asked to consider whether Cowes Town Council should make representations to the IW Council to request that they contact Island Roads and ask them to fulfil the conditions of the original PFI agreement to tackle this Island-wide problem. Councillor Peacey Wilcox has raised this matter with the Leader of the IW Council, the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport, the Director of Neighbourhoods and Island Roads and is currently awaiting a response. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Peacey Wilcox will share any replies that she receives with the Town Council before any further actions are considered.

**8255 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of March 2021. Cheque payments totalled £46,390.55; petty cash payments totalled £96.56. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £46,390.55 and petty cash payments of £96.56 be received, noted and approved.**

**8256 WATERING CONTRACT IN COWES FOR JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2021**

Councillors were asked to consider three quotations for the Watering Contract in Cowes for June – September 2021 (18 weeks x twice weekly). Quotations are:

Contractor A, £79.00 per watering x 18 weeks = £2,844.00

Contractor B, £158.00 per watering x 18 weeks = £5,688.00

Contractor C, £72.90 per watering x 18 weeks = £2,624.40

Additional waterings may be required if there is a particularly dry spell.

It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council appoints Contractor C, being JW Autoshine Watering, for the Watering Contract in Cowes for June – September 2021, for the sum of £72.90 per watering.**

**8257 PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR THE SPRING / SUMMER OF 2021**

Councillors were asked to consider the planting and maintenance contract in Cowes for the Spring / Summer of 2021. One quotation, from our usual contractor, has been received for the sum of £1,467.90. As this amount is under £1,500 it complies with Financial Regulation 10.2. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council appoints Care In The Garden for the planting and maintenance contract in Cowes for the Spring / Summer of 2021 for the sum of £1,467.90.**

**8258 APPLICATION TO REQUEST A NEW ROAD NAME FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AT THE LAND AT, AND REAR OF, 64 AND 66 VICTORIA ROAD, COWES**

Councillors have been asked to consider a new road name for the new development at the land at, and rear of, 64 and 66 Victoria Road, Cowes. The name proposed being 'The Poppins'. Royal Mail has confirmed that they have no objections. Councillors felt that the name 'The Poppins' is too similar to 'The Pippins' off of Bellevue Road and could cause confusion. They also felt that the new name should reflect the heritage of the two stilted houses where this new development is being built. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**Cowes Town Council proposes that the new road name at this development should be 'Stilt House Close' to prevent confusion between 'The Poppins' and 'The Pippins' and to reflect the heritage of the area.**

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 8.30pm.

**8259 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

A spreadsheet outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Services included dog warden services, play park inspections, litter issues and beach and slipway inspections.

**8260 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Details of miscellaneous publications and correspondence received were circulated to all Town Councillors.

**8261 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Arrangements for Cowes Week street traders – Councillor Oliver

Prior to the close of the meeting Councillor Peacey Wilcox once again thanked Councillors for their support and hard work, recognising how well they had all worked together. She hopes that this continues after the election in May.

Councillor Jones, as the eldest Town Councillor, thanked Councillor Peacey Wilcox for her last two years as Mayor and wished her well for the future.

The proceedings terminated at 8.35pm.

**CHAIRMAN**