

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Community Hall, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair)(6.22pm), Adams, Brown, Slade and Walters

In attendance: Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut Project); Councillor Wardrop (Non-Voting); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk

397. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Nicholson was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Brown, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Adams, followed by a unanimous show of hands. It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Nicholson be appointed as Chairman of the Projects Committee for the Municipal Year 2021 / 2022.

Councillor Nicholson thanked those Councillors present for their support.

398. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie and Peacey Wilcox.

399. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

400. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 13 April 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

401. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut project) was in attendance and updated Councillors on the project's progress. Planning permission has been granted, with four conditions. Martin has submitted the information requested to the Planning Department to discharge two of the conditions, the remaining two conditions being in regarding to commencing works within three years of the date of the Planning Permission notice and the work being done in accordance with the approved drawings. Island Roads are aware of the situation and are working on revised costings, schedule and timetable for the works. Martin confirmed that the main summer season should be avoided and felt the works should be carried out between the end of September and November, to avoid busy times in the town. The Chairman thanked Martin for his help throughout the lengthy duration of this project. Once discharge of the planning conditions has been received, the Chairman suggested Island Roads be written to, to thank them for their patience. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Chairman will send a courtesy letter to Island Roads following discharge of planning conditions 3 and 4.

Martin Hayles left the meeting at 6.33pm.

b) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

Draft wording and illustrations for the new information board had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors were happy for the information to be passed to the graphic designer to produce a layout for further consideration. Councillors discussed current links with St Mary's settlers in Maryland, USA, which was named after St Mary's Church in Cowes. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will pass the text and illustrations to the graphic designer to design the layout for the information board.

c) **Active Travel**

The IW Council has submitted a bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funds from the 'Capabilities Fund' which they are proposing to allocate funds to town and parish councils to assist with the creation of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). Once a decision has been confirmed, the IW Council will issue application forms to town and parish councils to apply for assistance.

The Cycle Counter was installed at the top of Shooters Hill for 7 days from 7 May to 14 May 2021. It monitored the number of vehicles passing between Shooters Hill and Birmingham Road in both directions. Councillors were in agreement to requesting that the Environment Officer directs time to patrol the area at peak times to educate cyclists / eScooterists riding in the pedestrian zone during the prohibition of vehicles. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the Environment Officer to request they allocate some of their time to patrolling the High Street/Shooters Hill area at peak times to educate those contravening the traffic prohibition.

d) **World Finger Post**

A submission has been made to the IW Council for funding from the Welcome Back Fund, which includes £4,000 for the World Finger Post. The Mayor and Chairman are meeting the IW Council's Director of Regeneration next week and will discuss the Town Council's submission for funds.

e) **Cowes Fayre**

The bid for funding from the Welcome Back Fund includes £2,500 funding for a 'Cowes Fayre'. The Chairman gave an outline of the concept of the fayre for the benefit of new Councillors. Discussions are ongoing with a representative from Cowes Business Association and a number of local businesses have been supportive of the idea. It was felt that the fayre could be held at the end of the main season and could tie in with the Beer and Buses weekend in October, building on their programme.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 6.56pm.

402. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Classic Boat Museum Signage**

A request has been received from the Classic Boat Museum for the Town Council to consider providing promotional signage on the Town Council's finger posts, directing visitors to the location of the Museum. Island Roads are in the process of installing two brown tourist information signs which will be located at the junctions of Bridge Road and Thetis Road, and Bridge Road and Medina Road. The request for three new finger pointers was discussed, with the locations requested being on the finger posts at the junction of High Street and The Cut, top of Shooters Hill, and at the junction of Birmingham Road and

Mill Hill Road. The cost for a new finger pointer is in the region of £185 plus £30 delivery charge. Councillors were happy to promote the Museum and provide the signage as requested. Where there is not capacity for the new finger pointer, Councillors agreed to remove the 'Harbour Viewing' finger pointer and store for future use. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council purchases and installs three finger pointers for the 'Classic Boat Museum', with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.

403. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

A new flagpole has been installed at Francki Place and two new flags are on order.

A number of items of street furniture in the Town Council's ownership require repainting/restaining. Councillors requested costings be obtained for all street furniture requiring maintenance.

A quotation has been received to repaint the bottom section of the Town Clock on Shooters Hill for the cost of £60.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee considers the cost of £60 to repaint the bottom section of the Town Clock, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.

It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain costs for all items of street furniture that require repainting/restaining.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

The annual RoSPA safety inspection has been carried out at Northwood Recreation Ground on the MUGA, Skate Park and Outdoor Gym. The Assistant Town Clerk provided a summary of the recommended repairs. Councillors discussed the ramp run-offs at the Skate Park, two previous repairs having been unsuccessful. Councillors felt that advice should be sought from local engineers on possible solutions. Councillors agreed to visit other skate parks on the Island to see if they have the same issues and will report back to the next meeting. It was agreed:

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ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact local engineers to discuss possible solutions to repair the ramp run-offs.
2. Councillors will visit other skate parks and report their findings to the next Projects Committee meeting.

404. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Toilet block by the Rose Bed, Park Road – Councillor Walters
- Yachting Parade of Fame – Councillor Bertie

The proceedings terminated at 7.15pm

CHAIRMAN