

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in The Community Hall, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Walters (Chair), Bertie, Carter, Ellis, Hollis, Jones, Nicholson & Peacey Wilcox.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; two representatives from the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

586 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Councillor Ellis was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Peacey Wilcox, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Walters was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Hollis, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Nicholson.

After a vote of four Councillors for each candidate, Councillor Bertie used his casting vote in favour of Councillor Walters. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Walters be appointed Chairman of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee for the Municipal Year 2021 / 2022.

587 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rafferty.

588 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Councillor Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 591.1 as his children attend the Cowes Area Explorer Unit.

Councillor Hollis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 591.2 as his wife is a member of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillors Bertie and Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 591.2 as they are members of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

b) Written requests for dispensation were received, and granted, from Councillors Jones, Peacey Wilcox and Walters in respect of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery grant application. Minute No. 591.2 refers.

589 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 June 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

590 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the quarter ending 30 June 2021 giving details of income and expenditure. Councillors looked at the spend against the budget headings and the ring fenced and ear marked balances. The financial statement shows that the Town Council have received a refund of £12,075.80 which represents two years business rates paid for public toilets which are now exempt from business rates. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty

cash as at 30 June 2021 were £784,810.99 of which £223,109.67 is ring fenced / ear marked expenditure. The Reserves as at 30 June 2021 were £291,938.69. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2021.

591 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that £16,825 remains in the 2021 / 2022 budget for 'Grants', however, an amount of £4,750 was ear marked from the 2020 / 2021 'Grants' budget to support the current budget, if required. The Town Council have been asked to consider the following Applications for Grant:

1. Cowes Area Explorer Unit – Explorer Scout Unit flag, flag pole, flag mount, flag carrier, flag storage and carry bag - £300
2. Friends of Northwood Cemetery – Community War Grave refurbishment – Underwriting request of £4,000
3. Victim Support – Purchase of security items - £150

After a full discussion about each of the grant applications, it was:

RECOMMENDED

1. **That a grant be made to Cowes Area Explorer Unit in the sum of £300.**
2. **That the sum of £4,750, ear marked from the 2020 / 2021 budget, be reserved for the Friends of Northwood Cemetery, to cover any shortfall in their fundraising for the Community War Grave refurbishment.**
3. **That a grant be made to Victim Support in the sum of £150.**

592 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Projects Committee recommend the following:

1. To consider repainting the bottom section of the Town Clock for the sum of £60.
2. To provide one dressed Christmas to be located at Francki Place at a cost of up to £800.
3. To approve the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the Festive Lights at a cost of up to £14,500.
4. To repaint the two 'Cowes' entry signs located at Three Gates Road and Carvel Lane for the sum of £340.
5. To consider repainting two metal picnic benches located in Northwood Park for the sum of £250.
6. To consider repainting and staining two benches located at Egypt Light for the sum of £340.
7. To consider removing the chains and lower rings from both basketball hoops at the MUGA at Northwood Recreation Ground for the sum of £45.

Councillors discussed the issue of Projects Committee recommendations, for budget headings other than 'New Projects', having to also be considered by the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

1. **That Cowes Town Council approves repainting the bottom section of the Town Clock for the sum of £60, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.**

2. That Cowes Town Council provides one dressed Christmas to be located at Francki Place at a cost of up to £800, with the cost to be met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights / bunting' budget heading.
3. That Cowes Town Council approves the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the Festive Lights at a cost of up to £14,500, with the cost to be met from the 'Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights / bunting' budget heading.
4. That Cowes Town Council approves the repainting of the two 'Cowes' entry signs located at Three Gates Road and Carvel Lane for the sum of £340, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.
5. That Cowes Town Council approves repainting two metal picnic benches located in Northwood Park for the sum of £250, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.
6. That Cowes Town Council approves repainting and staining two benches located at Egypt Light for the sum of £340, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.
7. That Cowes Town Council approves removing the chains and lower rings from both basketball hoops at the MUGA at Northwood Recreation Ground for the sum of £45, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skatepark / MUGA / Outdoor Gym maintenance' budget heading.

It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will review the Terms of Reference for the Projects Committee in relation to their recommendations going before the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee.

593 GRANTS AND FUNDING

This item was deferred until the next Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting.

594 STAFFING MATTERS

There were no staffing matters to discuss.

595 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerks continue to work from home while cases of Covid-19 continue to increase on the Island. This will be reviewed at the next Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting.

596 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.50pm.

CHAIRMAN