

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Community Hall, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 15 July 2021 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Bertie (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Brown, Carter, Ellis, Fuller, Hollis, Jones, Nicholson, Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty, Sanders, Slade, Walters and Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; East Cowes Town Councillor Palin.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor welcomed the two newly co-opted Town Councillors Alison Carter and Phil Sanders to their first Town Council meeting.

### **8319 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hammond.

### **8320 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **8321 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 June 2021 showed 8 criminal damage; 8 public order; 1 drug offence; 16 assaults; 1 burglary (residential); 9 thefts; 2 malicious communications; 8 harassments; 3 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.

### **8322 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3 June 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **8323 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

### **8324 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

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

Councillor Peacey Wilcox was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Fuller referred to the Boundary Commission consultation to consider whether the Isle of Wight should be a two member Parliamentary Constituency. The consultation ends on 2 August 2021.

Councillor Fuller is working with Planning Officers on the Island Plan consultation which will start later this month until 30 September. The proposals intend to significantly reduce the 1,045 housing figure and remove the ambiguity of development 'immediately adjacent' to the settlement boundary.

Councillor Fuller also referred to a meeting in Cowes High Street with an IW Council Officer. The meeting was to highlight the use of cycles and eScooters using the High Street during the times of the pedestrianised zone. Consideration is being given to painting the road surface with 'No Cycling'.

Councillor Fuller is also following up the recent Southern Water prosecution and whether sewage has been discharged in the Cowes or Gurnard area; Southern Water and the Environment Office both say no, however, heavy storms do push sewage into the Solent and Councillor Fuller is trying to bring Southern Water to account. A further update will follow.

Councillor Nicholson's report referred to when the old Cowes Urban District Council presided as a decision making very local authority. He was asked whether he thought that this type of local decision making could return; he felt that this was unlikely.

## **8325 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 17 June 2021 and 8 July 2021 were received and noted. It was agreed:

#### ACTION

Hamlet Court, 6 Queens Road, will be added to the Agenda for the next Planning & Licensing Committee meeting.

### b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 8 June 2021 and 13 July 2021 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**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.**

### c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 June 2021 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That a grant be made to Moorgreen Road Allotment Society in the sum of £2,000.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council renews the Town Clerk's membership of the SLCC for the sum of £166.**

### d) Public Conveniences Working Group

The Minutes of the Public Conveniences Working Group meeting held on 15 June 2021 were received and noted.

### e) IWALC Workshop

The Notes of the IWALC Workshop held on 6 February 2021 were received and noted.

### f) IWALC Executive Committee

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 24 June 2021 were received and noted.

**8326 PLACE PLAN STEERING GROUP UPDATE**

A meeting to discuss applications for support grants to progress items highlighted in the Place Plan has taken place between the Mayor, the Chairman of Cowes Business Association (CBA), the IW Council's Director of Regeneration and Councillor Nicholson. They are currently waiting for the government response to an application submitted on behalf of the Town Council by the IW Council. Working with the CBA, an idea to have a Place Plan Fayre in October is being considered. This would extend the summer season and include local pubs, restaurants, businesses and organisations that operate in the area. The Place Plan shows lots of potential for the Cowes / Northwood peninsula and the Steering Group are looking at Newport and Ryde's Place Plans to see how they might shortcut the learning curve in activating the Plan to start seeing benefits locally. The IW Council have indicated that dedicated Officer support will be given to get the Place Plan up and running.

**8327 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2021**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2021. Cheque payments totalled £18,445.25; petty cash payments totalled £17.60. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £18,445.25 and petty cash payments of £17.60 be received, noted and approved.**

**8328 CO-OPTIONS TO COWES SOUTH WARD AND COWES WEST WARD**

Following interviews on 6 July 2021 with interested parties, two co-options have been made:

Cowes South Ward: Mr Phil Sanders

Cowes West Ward: Mrs Alison Carter

The Mayor once again welcomed both Councillors to the Town Council.

**8329 APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES**

Following the Annual Town Council Meeting on 20 May 2021, and subsequent resignations from Councillor Fuller on Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee and Projects Committee and Councillor Peacey Wilcox on Projects Committee, there are the following Committee vacancies:

Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee – 1 vacancy

Planning & Licensing Committee – 3 vacancies

Projects Committee – 3 vacancies

It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the following Councillors be appointed to the following Committees:**

**Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee – Councillor Carter**

**Planning & Licensing Committee – Councillors Carter, Sanders and Wardrop**

**Projects Committee – Councillor Sanders**

**8330 APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES ON WORKING GROUPS**

Following the Annual Town Council Meeting on 20 May 2021 there remains the following Working Group vacancies:

Visitor Cowes Working Group – 1 vacancy

Parking Strategy Working Group – 4 vacancies

Public Conveniences Working Group – 4 vacancies

It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the following Councillors be appointed to the following Working Groups:**

**Visitor Cowes Working Group – None**

**Parking Strategy Working Group – None**

**Public Conveniences Working Group – Councillor Adams**

**8331 APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**

Following the Annual Town Council meeting on 20 May 2021, and further to some resignations and new Other Bodies, there remains the following vacancies on 'Other Bodies':

East Cowes Town Council Liaison (Deputy) (1)

Environment & Sustainability Forum (Deputy) (1)

Floating Bridge User Group (1)

Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP) (Deputy) (1)

Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd Park Forum (Deputy) (1)

The Big Lunch (Deputy) (1)

Place Plan Steering Group (2)

Cowes Heritage and Community Group Liaison (1)

It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the following Councillors be appointed to the following Other Bodies:**

**East Cowes Town Council Liaison (Deputy) (1) – Councillor Rafferty**

**Environment & Sustainability Forum (Deputy) (1) – no appointment**

**Floating Bridge User Group (1) – Councillor Adams**

**Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership (IWASP) (Deputy) (1) – no appointment**

**Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd Park Forum (Deputy) (1) – Councillor Carter**

**The Big Lunch (Deputy) (1) – Councillor Carter**

**Place Plan Steering Group (2) – Councillors Bertie and Nicholson; Deputy – Councillor Fuller**

**Cowes Heritage and Community Group Liaison (1) – Councillor Jones**

**8332 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND KEY SERVICE OBJECTIVES**

A review of Cowes Town Council's Statement of Purpose and Key Service Objectives was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the Statement of Purpose and Key Service Objectives.**

**8333 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY – AUDIO RECORDING – TOWN COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A review of Cowes Town Council's Policy – Audio Recording – Town Council & Committee Meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy – Audio Recording – Town Council & Committee Meetings.**

**8334 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL'S CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PFI CONTRACT (MIN. NO. 8307 REFERS).**

Following the Town Council meeting on 3 June 2021, Councillors agreed to write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure regarding the management of the PFI Contract. Councillor Jordan has passed our letter to Island Roads via the IW Council's Management Team for a response. At the time of the Town Council meeting no response has been received.

**8335 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken included dog warden services; play park inspections; public conveniences inspections; monitoring of fly tipping; domestic waste issues; eScooter monitoring including speaking to persons misusing them on Shooters Hill.

**8336 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8337 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Review of Cowes Medical Centre – Councillor Nicholson

The proceedings terminated at 8.04pm.

**CHAIRMAN**