

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Bertie, Brown and Sanders

In attendance: Councillor Paler, East Cowes Town Council; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk

419. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Slade and Walters.

420. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were received.

421. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 10 August 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

422. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Confirmation of the discharge of the planning conditions has been received from the Local Planning Authority. Condition 3 is discharged on the basis that the tactile paving is relocated 400mm back into The Cut and is perpendicular with the opposing side. These works will need to be undertaken at the time of the construction, which is expected to be Spring 2022.

b) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

The QR code has been provided by Sight for Wight and forwarded to the Graphic Designer for inclusion in the layout. The Clerks are assisting with locating the source of higher definition illustrations and obtaining permission for their use.

c) **Active Travel**

The IW Council has received confirmation of funding from Central Government to support the creation of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) and will write to town and parish councils shortly with grant offers.

People Powered CIC have carried out a cycle access barrier audit for the Cowes area. Areas have been identified where access control measures, such as chicane barriers, could be considered for removal to assist with the usability of routes for everyone. IW Council officers are liaising with Island Roads to check whether current legislation will allow removal of the barriers.

d) **Cowes Fayre**

The Town Council put in a bid for funding from the Welcome Back Fund of £3,000 for a 'Cowes Fayre'. Councillors Bertie and Nicholson met with the IW Council's Director of Regeneration to discuss running the Fayre. The IW Council have gone out to tender for an event organiser. Unfortunately, the timescale is insufficient to arrange an event for this year; it is likely that the Fayre will be delayed until Spring 2022. The Town Council will continue with the application for Welcome Back funding.

e) **High Street Pedestrianisation and Bollards**

The Town Council has approached Island Roads to request the opportunity to look at possible solutions to the ongoing issues with vehicles in the pedestrian zone. Island Roads advised they are involved in discussions with Ryde Town Council regarding the use of a physical barrier to restrict access at the start of their pedestrian zone. The outcome of these discussions will inform what can be done in Cowes.

Upcoming changes in legislation could alter the way enforcement can be carried out. Information should be available towards the end of this year.

f) **Approved Contractors List**

The Clerks were actioned to write to IWALC, the Town Council's insurers and the IW Council to enquire about checklists/procedures used when engaging contractors. Responses received from the Town Council's insurers and the IW Council suggest when engaging contractors for general minor works, to check they have the necessary experience in providing the service required and they hold the appropriate level of public liability insurance. If it's a new contractor, also sight of their Health and Safety policy if it's a large company or statement if it's small. The Chairman suggested checking the procedures that other larger town and parish councils on the Island use. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to East Cowes and Ryde Town Councils and Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council to ask what procedures they use for when engaging contractors.

g) **Community Orchard**

Councillor Brown and the Assistant Town Clerk met with representatives from the IW Council at Northwood Recreation Ground on 16 August 2021 to discuss a suitable location and size for a community orchard. A location at the south-west corner of the main field has been identified. The IW Council will arrange for a sample bore hole to look at the ground's structure and obtain costings for temporary fencing to enclose the young trees.

Councillor Paler, East Cowes Town Mayor, advised that he is in discussions with Red Funnel, who are looking to plant 160 new trees to celebrate their 160th birthday. Councillor Brown will liaise with Councillor Paler to discuss the possibility of sharing the new trees. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Brown will liaise with Councillor Paler to discuss obtaining new trees funded by Red Funnel.

423. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Pesticide Free Trial at Northwood Park**

The grounds maintenance contractor at Northwood Park advised that they have not used any Glyphosate-based pesticide in the Park since June 2018.

Island Roads have employed additional operatives to work alongside their cleansing crews to manually remove weeds; the weather has been a particular challenge this year with one of the wettest summers on record providing ideal growing conditions for weeds. Their trials of two herbicides did not give effective results.

In view of the above, it was felt that a pesticide free trial in the Park is not currently required and this item will be removed from the agenda.

Councillor Brown advised that she is seeking the permission of Northwood House Charitable Trust to dress a tree in the Park during National Tree Week.

b) **80th Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes**

Councillors discussed ways of celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes. The Mayor advised that he is on the 80th Anniversary Committee, who will be meeting next month to discuss. He will provide an update at the next Projects Committee meeting. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Bertie will discuss the provision of a commemorative plaque at the 80th Anniversary Committee meeting.

c) **Uffa Fox Regatta**

Plans to commemorate the life of Uffa Fox, it being 50 years in 2022 since his death, are in their early stages. A Regatta and other events in Cowes are planned for 18 – 21 August 2022. Councillors discussed how the Town Council could support the Regatta and are considering sponsoring the Regatta programme. The Mayor will continue discussions with the Regatta organisers and update at the next Projects Committee meeting.

d) **On-Street Electric Vehicle Charging**

The IW Council have approached town and parish councils on the Island to see if they are interested in working together to install on-street electric vehicle charge points in areas where there is a lack of off-street parking. The IW Council have committed to install one on-street charger in Cowes in 2021/22, at an undisclosed location. Councillors felt unable to commit to purchasing additional chargers without knowing if there is a current demand for on-street charge points. They were concerned that the chargers will become out of date before there is sufficient demand. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the IW Council what location they have identified for the new on-street electric vehicle charger in Cowes.

424. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

There was no update on this item.

b) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Repairs to the Skatepark ramp run-offs were discussed. Previous repairs have been unsuccessful and the advice of Island Roads was sought. Following inspection, Island Roads have submitted a quotation for the required repairs to the tarmac. Councillors were happy for the Mayor to authorise the cost of £592.42 (excluding VAT) in accordance with Financial Regulation 10.3, relating to urgent works to a value of £1,500, for Island Roads to carry out repairs to the Skatepark tarmac in order to expedite the repairs. The cost will be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skatepark/MUGA/Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.

425. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 7.05pm

CHAIRMAN