

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Nicholson (Deputy Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Brown, Carter, Ellis, Fuller (7.36pm), Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty, Sanders, Walters & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk;
Kay Smith, Action IW's Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Cowes Area.

8387 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie, Hammond, Hollis & Jones.

8388 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8394 as she is an IW Councillor.

Councillors Adams and Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8404 as they work for the NHS.

Councillors Nicholson and Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8403 as they are Trustees of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

8389 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer provided a written report which had been circulated to all Town Councillors.

A range of workshops and talks had been held during Inclusion Week – 27 September to 3 October. Hate Crime Week was 9 October to 16 October at which Island Officers held surgeries at various locations explaining hate crime and hate incidents and the importance of reporting such incidents. County Lines Week was a successful operation Island wide with drugs being seized and offences dealt with. 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 Cowes PCSO's have been starting up engagements again now that lockdown has been lifted and would like to know if there are any events taking place that would benefit from their attendance. Community Speed Watch is continuing in Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard; new volunteers are always needed to assist.

8390 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 October 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8391 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were raised.

8392 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

In response to Councillor Peacey Wilcox's report it was noted that Covid tests can be ordered online.

Councillor Quigley's report referred to litter in the town which is being discussed later in the meeting. Minute No. 8395 refers. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Nicholson will invite Councillor Quigley to the next Projects Committee meeting on 9 November 2021.

The recent outflowing of sewage in the local area was discussed; an upgraded pumping station at East Cowes should go some way to reduce this in the future. It was noted that a new 'No Dogs on Beach' sign had been installed at Egypt Point and other locations along the sea front, with a fine of £100. The question of how and who enforces this byelaw was raised. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to enquire why these new signs have been installed and who enforces the byelaw.

8393 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 19 October 2021 were received and noted.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 October 2021 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council sets aside up to £10,000 of match-funding for the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), with the cost to be met from money held in Reserves.

ACTION

The Town Clerks will request an updated quotation for producing the LCWIP from People Powered CIC.

c) IWALC Executive

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive meeting held on 30 September 2021 were received and noted.

d) IWALC Community Resilience Workshop

The Report of the IWALC Community Resilience Workshop held on 25 September 2021 was received and noted. Kay Smith, Community Resilience Co-ordinator for the Cowes area, explained that the Resilience Project was to build more resilience should there be a further lockdown. Could / should things be done differently in the future? What would a new Resilience Plan look like? Kay is also available to support any community plans in place i.e. the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan.

8394 COWES (NON) FLOATING BRIDGE

Councillors discussed the ongoing problems with Floating Bridge 6 (FB6) and its current lengthy time out of service. This continues to severely restrict movement between the two towns. The problems with the Red Jet have increased the use of the ferry which has exacerbated the problem. The Jenny boat has limited capacity for foot passengers and is not user friendly for those less mobile. This capacity is even greater reduced to 10 passengers by the use of a smaller craft in the evenings. The lack of the Floating Bridge also causes a greater bottle neck and pollution around Newport. There have been several recent articles in the County Press proposing new solutions to the problem i.e. another Floating Bridge, with better monitoring from the outset, or a new idea being a transporter bridge across the River Medina. Councillors were advised that an independent investigation has begun, as required by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP), who funded FB6. Interviews are being undertaken with individuals involved in the procurement process; the legal process is ongoing and mediation is taking place. Unfortunately the suggestion of a transporter bridge is not as simple as it may seem.

8395 TIDYING UP THE TOWN

Councillors discussed ways of tidying the town which included how the Town Council can encourage takeaway food outlets to use containers that can be recycled, in particular not to use polystyrene trays. Polystyrene is difficult to dispose of, does not degrade and is the main culprit for overflowing litter bins. A suggestion was made that the Town Council produce a leaflet, with input from Amey, highlighting which materials go to landfill and the possible replacement materials that could be used. This leaflet could be distributed to the various fast food outlets and restaurants in Cowes that provide takeaway meals, to request that they consider using more eco-friendly receptacles. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Carter will produce a draft letter for distribution to all takeaway outlets advising that Cowes Town Council would like outlets to consider using recyclable alternatives to polystyrene.

8396 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2021

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2021. Cheque payments totalled £21,405.36; petty cash payments totalled £44.97. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £21,405.36 and petty cash payments of £44.97 be received, noted and approved.

8397 APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported that three vacancies remain on the Projects Committee. As the majority of Working Groups have now been disbanded, Councillors may feel that they have time to join this Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillor Rafferty be appointed to the Projects Committee.**
- 2. That two vacancies remain on the Projects Committee.**

8398 APPOINTMENT TO THE FLOATING BRIDGE USER GROUP AND DEPUTY APPOINTMENT TO THE SUPPORTERS OF COWES LIBRARY

Following the resignation of Vanessa Slade there is a vacancy for a second representative on the Floating Bridge User Group and a vacancy for a Deputy representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Councillor Peacey Wilcox be appointed as the Town Council's second representative on the Floating Bridge User Group.**
- 2. That Councillor Fuller be appointed as the Town Council's Deputy representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library.**

8399 DONATION TO MOUNTBATTEN ISLE OF WIGHT

The Town Council normally makes a donation of £400 to Mountbatten Isle of Wight at the annual 'Light up a Life' Carol Concert. Due to the uncertainty around the Coronavirus pandemic, the Town Council will not be organising a 'Light up a Life' Carol Concert in Cowes this year. Councillors discussed whether to still make their annual donation to Mountbatten Isle of Wight. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £400 to Mountbatten Isle of Wight.

8400 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION PRIVACY NOTICE

A review of the General Data Protection Regulation Privacy Notice was carried out and no amendments were required. Councillors discussed the repercussions of a 'reply all' email response as email addresses become visible to scammers. Any breaches of data protection rules should be referred to the IW Council's Monitoring Officer. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the General Data Protection Regulation Privacy Notice.

8401 WARMER COWES REPORT – QUARTER 2 – 2021 / 2022

The Footprint Trust Ltd, as administrators of the Warmer Cowes scheme, provided a report for Quarter 2 - 2021 / 2022. The report showed that 11 people had received assistance during the period. Energy saving measures have saved residents £555. The project cost to Cowes Town Council for Quarter 2 was £375.

8402 REPORT FROM COWES HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY GROUP

Cowes Heritage and Community Group provided a report to advise that the Beckford Centre will re-open for existing members on 1 November 2021 and from then the History, Art and Discussion Groups will be back in action.

The move of the former Cowes Heritage archives and display materials, from the porta cabin in Three Gates Road, has been delayed until 2022 to enable the fitting out and decoration of the Beckford Centre to be completed. The outside decking area is complete; the current focus is to repoint the 120 year old lime mortar brick wall that divides the Beckford Centre building and the adjoining residential property. There will be a formal re-opening in the New Year to which Councillors will be invited to attend.

8403 NORTHWOOD CEMETERY CIVILIAN WAR GRAVE RE-DEDICATION

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery have advised that there will be a short re-dedication service of the refurbished Civilian War Grave on Saturday 7 May 2022 between 4pm and 5pm. Councillors have been asked to note this date and to nominate a member who would be able to periodically liaise with the Friends of Northwood Cemetery, preferably during the working day when their meetings are normally held. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council notes the date of the re-dedication of the Civilian War Grave on Saturday 7 May 2022 between 4pm and 5pm.**
- 2. That Councillor Sanders be appointed to liaise with the Friends of Northwood Cemetery on behalf of Cowes Town Council.**

8404 RESPONSE TO COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S LETTER FROM COWES MEDICAL CENTRE (MINUTE No. 8346 REFERS)

Cowes Town Council wrote to Cowes Medical Centre on 10 September 2021 to ask them to reinstate the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at their earliest opportunity; to offer the Town Council's assistance in notifying residents of any updates from the Health Centre and to ask if a representative from the Health Centre could attend a future Town Council meeting to update Councillors on any changes and ways that the Town Council can help patients navigate the pathways to the most appropriate care.

Cowes Medical Centre (CMC) responded on 26 October 2021 to advise that they have already recruited patients to the new PPG from a cross section of the population; one of whom also happens to be a Cowes Town Councillor. The first meeting will be within the next few weeks. CMC will produce newsletters with the involvement of the PPG. They will be posted direct onto their website and CMC have asked for ideas where else they could be distributed, asking whether the Town Council website could provide a link direct to the CMC website. CMC are happy to attend the Town Council meeting scheduled for 16 December 2021 if that is convenient for Councillors. The Town Council have been asked to help with the navigation of patients by directing them to CMC's practice leaflet on their website which contains information on how patients are supported and who they should go to for a particular need.

Councillors were pleased to receive this response. Councillor Nicholson advised that he will shortly be meeting with CMC. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillors will advise Councillor Nicholson of both positive and negative engagements with CMC for discussion at the meeting.

8405 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Environment Officer in Cowes is currently off sick and therefore no report is available.

8406 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8407 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.57pm.

CHAIRMAN