

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 6.15pm

**Present:** Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Rafferty, Sanders and Walters

**In attendance:** Councillor Paler (Non-Voting); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; a representative from Cowes Baptist Church; a representative from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society; Kay Smith, Action IW's Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Cowes Area; a representative from United Kingdom Sailing Academy (UKSA)

### **440. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brown.

### **441. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were received.

### **442. MINUTES RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 November 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **443. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS**

#### **a) The Cut - Enhancements**

Further interventions have been requested by the IW Council, however, the project to enhance the Cut area remains on schedule.

#### **b) Ark and Dove Commemorations**

The Clerks are liaising with several organisations in Maryland, USA to obtain permission to reproduce images on the Information Board. Two organisations have responded and confirmed they hold the images in their archives and permission to use the images are being discussed.

#### **c) Active Travel / Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

The first LCWIP progress meeting was held on 5 January 2022 and the consultation / engagement process is underway. Input from those who reside or work in the Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood area is important to raise ideas and enable a valuable plan to be created.

#### **d) Cowes Fayre**

The IW Council has received one tender in their search for an organiser to set up and run the Fayre which is scheduled for Spring 2022. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are awaiting a date to meet with the IW Council's Regeneration Team to progress the arrangements.

#### **e) Community Orchard**

Red Funnel have ordered the replacement trees for Northwood Recreation Ground and the fruit trees for the new community orchard from a local nursery and delivery is expected in February 2022. The IW Council have agreed to install wooden posts to mark the area of the community orchard as the cost for temporary fencing was considered to be too high.

f) **Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and Woodland**

Feedback received at the biodiversity event in September 2021 included requests for the woodland area at Moorgreen Road to be used for the enjoyment of members of the public. Moorgreen Road Allotment Society (MRAS) shared their ideas for the woodland with the Town Council, which include the creation of a 10 year woodland management plan, a woodland walk and establishment of a local volunteer group to help manage the site. MRAS asked the Town Council to work in partnership to assist with progressing the project. The woodland, which is owned by the IW Council but leased to MRAS, requires removal of bramble and invasive or diseased trees. Once the woodland is tidied, MRAS are looking to create a circular walk through the woodland which will be open to the public. New entrance points will need to be created from the front of the former reservoir and on the corner where the woodland meets the adjoining Cowes Baptist Church site. The estimated cost for the works is £4,500. Grant funding of £2,873 has been offered by Sovereign Housing Association, leaving a shortfall of £1,627. MRAS request financial assistance from the Town Council. Councillor Sanders offered to be the Town Council's point of contact with MRAS. Following consideration, it was

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council considers approval of £1,627 to assist with the creation of a woodland management plan and pathway, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.**

g) **Resilience Plan**

Kay Smith, Action IW's Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Cowes Area, was in attendance. Kay provided a comprehensive resilience plan template for consideration. The Town Council may consider building on its existing Community Emergency Plan. Kay is looking to create a joint resilience plan with neighbouring town and parish councils. The Chairman thanked Kay for her work. It was agreed

ACTION

Kay Smith will continue to work with the area's town and parish councils.

h) **Cowes Place Strategy and Structure**

Action IW have appointed a project manager who will assist with the delivery of the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan's outcomes.

Youth provision has been identified as an area that requires expansion. A representative from UKSA was in attendance and gave an outline of their provision. They are an international training centre for under 25's, and also help disadvantaged children to try sailing and learn new skills.

Engagement with local organisations is needed to identify what services are currently on offer to young people in the Cowes area and identify any areas where there is a need for more services. It was agreed

ACTION

Councillor Nicholson will liaise with Kay Smith and Councillor Carter on the way forward.

**444. NEW PROJECTS**

a) **Uffa Fox Regatta**

The Mayor will meet shortly with organisations to see if the Regatta is proceeding. This item will be removed from the agenda if no progress has been made.

b) **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes**

A grant application has been submitted by the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society to underwrite the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in the sum of £5,000. Councillor Nicholson has been

asked to provide a Historic Blitz Walk leaflet, updating on the previous Blitz Walk. There may be printing costs associated with the production of the leaflets.

c) **Secrets of the Solent**

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have approached the Town Council to enquire if we are able to identify a suitable location in Cowes to site an 8 foot by 8 foot mural. Six murals will be installed around the Solent which, if placed together, would form a giant map of the Solent. The mural will depict a section of a map of the Solent and will include various species, habitats and landmarks suggested by the local community during workshops. Councillors discussed possible suitable sites that could house the mural and be visible to the public. It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Chairman will contact Southern Water to discuss siting the mural on the pumping station opposite Mornington Road.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust how long the mural is expected to be on display.

d) **Signage on public conveniences**

Councillor Adams requested new signage for the Parade public conveniences, to assist visitors to locate the facilities. Signage could be added to nearby lampposts to direct visitors to the entrance. The existing signs on the building need updating. Examples of suitable signage are on the Department for Transport website. It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Chairman will speak to Island Roads regarding adding signage to the nearby lampposts.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain costs for new signage for the Parade public conveniences.

e) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Town Council has received a request from Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd to support a community event in Northwood Park to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Town Council has supported similar events, both financially and with the Town Clerk administering the funds. The Town Council is currently holding funds from The Big Lunch 2019 totalling £1,576.05. £2,000 was set aside by the Town Council for The Big Lunch 2020, but this event did not go ahead and the money was earmarked for future events. Councillors felt that the £2,000 set aside by the Town Council should be used for a community event to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Northwood Park, with the funds administered by the Town Clerk.

In 2012 the Town Council provided commemorative mugs for pre-school and primary school children in the Cowes area to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Councillors were supportive of providing celebratory mugs to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and are awaiting a draft design and costings.

Additional bunting and flags for the High Street to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was discussed. The Mayor will obtain costs.

The Mayor suggested a pop up gazebo could be purchased to promote the Town Council at various community events and will provide details and costings at a future meeting.

It was

**RECOMMENDED**

1. **That Cowes Town Council considers approval of the above sum of £2,000 being used for a community event to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, organised by Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.**

**2. That the Town Clerk administers the funds for the community event to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Mayor will obtain costings for bunting and flags.
2. The Mayor will obtain details and costings for a pop up gazebo.

**445. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS**

**a) Street Furniture**

Councillor Adams provided a quotation for the supply of BBQ stands at £165 each, excluding VAT. Permission will be needed from the IW Council to install anything at Mornington Green and, subject to approval, installation costs will need to be sourced. Councillors considered that permission for four BBQ stands should be requested from the IW Council.

The tree surgeon has inspected the 'Jack' tree sculpture and will provide a report on its current condition. It is not considered to be urgent and he is liaising with the sculptor to identify the best solution going forward.

A rat infestation at The Cut public conveniences resulted in the destruction of two of the CCTV cameras. The infestation issue has been resolved by Hillbans and a local contractor has completed remedial works to repair the damage to the structure. Two replacement CCTV cameras have now been fitted.

The vanity mirrors at The Parade public conveniences have been vandalised and are unrepairable. A power outage during the Christmas period means that this facility is currently locked and awaiting an electrical inspection to identify any fault.

The Assistant Town Clerk suggested that a new standing item for maintenance of the public conveniences is included on future agendas.

It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the IW Council for permission to install four BBQ stands at Mornington Green.
2. The Assistant Town Clerk will add public conveniences as a new item under Maintenance issues on future agendas.

**b) Northwood Recreation Ground**

Inspections were carried out by the Assistant Town Clerk on 5 January 2022. Weeds, fallen leaves and graffiti have been raised with the cleaner. The IW Council advised that the basket swing had been removed to enable a rotten post to be replaced. This has been completed and the basket swing will be refitted shortly.

There has been an increase in the cost for installing shredded rubber mulch under the basket swing and cone climber. The continued use of chipped bark has proved to be unsatisfactory and requires frequent maintenance and restocking. The Town Council has approved £3,500 (Minute No. 8253a6 refers) for the installation of shredded rubber mulch by contractor MCM Construction; this cost has increased to £6,000 due to an increase in the cost of materials. The IW Council have advised they will contribute £1,500 towards the installation of the shredded rubber mulch, leaving the Town Council to fund the shortfall of £1,000. It was

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council considers approval of £1,000 for the increased cost of the shredded rubber mulch under the basket swing and cone climber Playbuilder equipment at Northwood Recreation Ground, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skatepark / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.**

**446. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Public conveniences refurbishment

The proceedings terminated at 7.47pm

**CHAIRMAN**