

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Paler, Sanders, Walters and Wardrop

In attendance: Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut Project)

447. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

448. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 450.j) as he has connections with the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica.

Councillor Bertie declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 450.i) as he is on the main Uffa Fox organising committee.

449. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 January 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

450. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

The IW Council's PFI Contract Management Team will liaise direct with the Town Council to oversee the project through to completion. They have raised further questions relating to the bollards and fencing which Martin Hayles, Architect for The Cut project, was able to clarify. The tactile paving has been realigned and the drawings amended. The fencing has been removed from the contract, which should result in a reduction of the overall cost. Confirmation is awaited on the final amount of S.106 funding. Island Roads are unable to deliver the scheme by Easter 2022 and works undertaken after April 2022 will be subject to an RPIX uplift. Following discussion, Martin Hayles was requested to instruct Island Roads, through the PFI Contract Management Team, to timetable the works at the earliest opportunity, rather than delay until Autumn 2022. It was agreed

ACTION

Martin Hayles will inform the PFI Contract Management Team that we would like the works to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

b) Ark and Dove Commemorations

The Clerks have been liaising with several organisations in Maryland, USA to obtain permission to reproduce images on the Information Board. Two organisations have provided the Town Council with high resolution images and permission for their use. One further organisation is in the process of providing the images and permissions.

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

Drop-in sessions were held in Gurnard, Cowes and Northwood in January 2022, for residents to leave comments as part of the LCWIP consultation process. All the submitted comments have been read and draft walking and cycling routes produced. A stakeholder workshop was held on 2 February 2022 to discuss the draft routes. The draft routes are currently being audited before the draft plan is compiled.

- d) **Cowes Fayre**
The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been in contact with the IW Council's Director of Regeneration. With the Fayre looking uncertain for Spring 2022, funding from the Welcome Back Fund to support the provision of flags and bunting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been requested.
- e) **Community Orchard**
Councillors Brown and Paler are liaising with Red Funnel to progress the arrangements for the new trees at Northwood Recreation Ground. The trees are currently being held at a local nursery.
- f) **Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and Woodland**
Councillor Sanders is liaising with representatives from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society regarding the creation of a woodland management plan and pathway for the woodland area at Moorgreen Road. An on-site meeting is being held with contractors on 9 February 2022 to discuss the improvement works.
- g) **Resilience Plan**
Kay Smith, Action IW's Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Cowes Area, was not in attendance but had provided an update. The resilience plan is in progress and will be shared with Councillors shortly.
- h) **Cowes Place Strategy and Structure**
The Chairman has consulted with representatives from UKSA and Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council to discuss youth provision.
- i) **Uffa Fox Regatta**
There is uncertainty as to whether the Regatta will proceed. Councillors felt they should not provide financial support to fund a sailing regatta; regattas should be self-financing from entrance fees and revenue.
An Uffa Fox Festival is planned, comprising of a static display of Uffa Fox's designs. Cowes Heritage and Community Group are working in partnership with the Festival organisers to put on a heritage display about the life of Uffa Fox at Commodore's House.
- j) **80th Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes**
A grant application has been submitted by the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society to underwrite the 80th Anniversary events in the sum of £5,000; this will be considered by the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee.
Councillor Sanders attended the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society's recent meeting where a draft plan of events for Cowes and East Cowes was discussed.
The Friends of Northwood Cemetery are about to start works on the refurbishment of the Community War Grave.
- k) **Secrets of the Solent**
The Chairman contacted Southern Water to discuss siting a mural on the pumping station opposite Mornington Road. A response is awaited. Councillors were concerned that the pumping station may not have a sufficient flat surface area to house the mural and discussed alternative locations. It was agreed

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Day Lewis Pharmacy to ask if they will consider giving permission to site the mural on their wall at The Cut.

l) Signage on public conveniences

At the previous meeting, Councillors discussed additional and replacement signage at the Parade public conveniences to assist visitors to locate the entrance to the facilities. The Chairman has asked Island Roads if new signage can be placed on nearby lampposts; a response is awaited. The Assistant Town Clerk has cleaned the main sign and added the Town Council's logo. It was agreed

ACTION

The Chairman will contact Island Roads again for a reply.

m) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillors discussed taking part in the official Beacon lighting ceremony. Locations suitable for a beacon were discussed, with the circular paved area of the Parade being suggested. Permission will be required from the IW Council to site the beacon, and arrangements made for the safe running of a beacon lighting event.

The Mayor felt that a Platinum Jubilee theme should be promoted for the whole of June 2022 throughout the High Street, with displays of bunting and flags in a Union Jack design. Councillors were supportive of purchasing new flags and bunting; the Mayor will provide costings.

The Mayor offered to liaise with local organisations to obtain details of all commemorative events which are being held locally, in addition to the Jubilee Picnic in the Park community event. Councillor Paler offered to assist.

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 suggested purchasing 1,000 celebratory mugs to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; the Mayor will provide costings.

Councillors discussed purchasing Platinum Jubilee commemorative flags to be flown from the Town Council's flagpoles at Francki Place and on Cowes seafront; they felt that Union Jack flags would be more suitable as they could be flown again in the future.

It was suggested that we write to the Harbour Commission to find out if they are going to dress Trinity Landing with flags for the Platinum Jubilee.

Councillors suggested that any costs associated with commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee could come from the unused funds from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.

It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will contact the IW Council to enquire about holding a beacon lighting event on The Parade.
2. The Mayor will obtain costs for Union Jack bunting and flags for the High Street.
3. Councillors Bertie and Paler will compile a list of local commemorative events.
4. The Mayor will obtain costs for 1,000 commemorative mugs.
5. The Mayor will provide the Town Clerks with supplier's details for large Union Jack flags for the Town Council's two flagpoles.
6. The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Cowes Harbour Commission to ask if they will be dressing Trinity Landing with flags for the Platinum Jubilee. Councillor Walters to provide contact details.

451. NEW PROJECTS

a) Public Conveniences Refurbishment

Refurbishment of the Town Council's public conveniences has not progressed to date due to delays in converting the Parade facility to mains-fed water. Councillors felt that the refurbishment of the facilities at Medina Road should be progressed ahead of the Parade facilities and options for both a traditional refurbishment and upgrading to a modern automated facility should be explored. It was agreed

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will obtain current costs and possible timescale for conversion to a modern automated facility at Medina Road public conveniences.
2. Councillor Adams will provide details of recently refurbished public convenience facilities in Yarmouth.

b) Cowes Week

This item was deferred.

452. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) Street Furniture

The Assistant Town Clerk presented quotations for various items of street furniture for redecoration in April 2022, ahead of the summer season. Following discussion, it was:

RECOMMENDED

1. That Cowes Town Council considers the cost of £340 for Contractor A to repaint two 'Cowes' entry signs, located at Baring Road and the Park and Ride, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.
2. That Cowes Town Council considers the cost of £670 for Contractor A to restrain 9 curved benches located on Cowes Parade with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.
3. That Cowes Town Council considers the cost of £970 for Contractor A to repaint and restrain 13 curved benches located on Princes Green, with the cost to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading.

b) Public Conveniences

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that routine inspections of the public conveniences had been undertaken and a number of maintenance issues had been raised with the cleaning contractor.

453. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.50pm

CHAIRMAN