

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Drawing Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Bertie (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Brown, Ellis, Fuller (7.02pm), Hollis, Nicholson, Paler, Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty, Sanders, Walters & Wardrop.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; Chris Preston & Jo Manser for the Hamlet Court presentation; two members of the public; PCSO Lisa Paul; County Press reporter.

PRESENTATION REGARDING HAMLET COURT, QUEENS ROAD

Mr Jo Manser, architect for the Hamlet Court redevelopment project, gave a presentation to the Town Council regarding the plans for the site. The existing Hamlet Court building has been deteriorating over recent years to the point where it is uneconomical and impractical to restore the building and demolition is considered the best option. The architect showed Councillors the design of the new development which consists of two houses separated by a green area which will open up the view in Queens Road and add to the character of Queens Road. A public consultation about the proposed development was held in December 2021 to which around 45 / 50 people attended. There were 25 written responses of which 24 were favourable. One of the proposed houses will be attached to Lantern Cottage, subject to a method statement about the flank wall. The properties will be no higher than the existing building and will be built from materials that pick up on the features of the existing surrounding buildings.

Q Was the plan to build two properties suggested by the local planning authority?

A The architect felt that three properties would be too much for the site.

Q Why does Hamlet Court need to be demolished?

A The internal changes to the building have caused structural damage and made changes to the sub structure.

Q A decision in 2010 was made that the building should not be demolished. Is it not the case that it is uneconomic to do the work as the building could be fixed if there was a will to do so? Hamlet Court being the last great house in Queens Road.

A Hamlet Court is not a listed building but it would have been restored if at all possible. Trying to save the building would attract costs that could never be recouped on the property.

The Mayor thanked Chris and Jo for attending the meeting and for leaving the design boards for Councillors to look at in more detail after the meeting.

8420 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Carter, Hammond & Jones.

8421 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8432 as Chairman of the Footprint Trust Ltd.

8422 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not provide a written report but attended the Town Council meeting. PCSO Paul advised Councillors that there had been a spate of graffiti in Cowes and Gurnard during the last week. There are different tags with a link to certain individuals which the Police are investigating. Any information can be reported to PCSO Paul.

Councillors raised the issue of the 101 system and the difficulty in reporting non urgent crimes via this method. A business owner in Cowes has had his shop window broken so many times that it is now uninsurable. A report of two extremely drugged / disruptive persons at Northwood Cemetery was observed and reported to the Police but they advised that they were unable to attend. Councillors pointed out that this is not a personal attack on the PC present and Councillors are very supportive of the Police, but need to know if these problems are caused by the service being under resourced. PCSO Paul advised Councillors that they should continue to use the 101 system but to dial 999 if a problem is happening there and then. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the following to register the Town Council's concerns about the lack of police response and to advise that a good policing response is needed to address the issues in Cowes:

- Donna Jones, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- Superintendent Sarah Jackson, IW Police
- Councillor Ian Stephens, the IW Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Protection.
- Councillor Richard Quigley, the IW Council's Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

2. The Town Clerk will ask IWALC to make policing a future agenda item as other Town & Parish Councils have been experiencing the same problems as Cowes Town Council.

8423 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 December 2021 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8424 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Q When is the next Projects Committee meeting?

A Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 6.15pm.

Q At the Extraordinary Town Council meeting on 26 November 2020, it was Resolved that Cowes Town Council liaises with the IW Council to look to access Government funding to introduce an experimental change of use to the Traffic Order, for at least an 18 month trial period to permit cyclists to use the High Street. How has this been moved forward?

A This resolution has been superseded by the Town Council's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which is currently under consultation.

Q Is there any update on Whitegates Pontoon?

A Discussions have been ongoing with the new Cowes Harbour Master. It is not known whether any crafts are currently padlocked to the pontoon.

Q Whilst looking around Cowes as part of the LCWIP, is it possible that the old toilet block adjacent to the Park Road rose bed could be converted into accommodation?

A Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd, who own the building, are currently appraising all their property to make a decision about future usage of their buildings.

Q What progress has been made with regard to the Land at Market Hill?

A This is being discussed later in the meeting under Minute No. 8426c.

8425 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson, Peacey Wilcox and Quigley. Councillor Quigley was not in attendance and therefore unavailable to answer any questions.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox advised Councillors that it had come to her attention that Shamblers Copse had been put up for sale, looking for offers of around £30,000. It has been intimated that the land is suitable for building but this is not the case as it is an ancient woodland with many Tree Preservation Orders. Councillor Peacey Wilcox will be discussing this matter with the IW Council's Tree Officer.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox also referred to the poor condition of the road surface in Stephenson's Road which is currently not listed for works.

Councillor Quigley's report referred to the poor cleanliness of the toilets on The Parade. The Town Clerk advised that all issues should be reported to the Town Clerk for onward transmission to the cleaners who will attend and rectify.

8426 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 January 2022 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council approves the sum of £1,627 to assist with the creation of a woodland management plan and pathway at Moorgreen woodland, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council approves the set aside 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.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council approves the Town Clerk administering the funds for the community event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council approves the increased cost of £1,000 for the shredded rubber mulch to be placed 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.**

ACTION

The Town Clerk will request a signed copy of the Lease between Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and the IW Council.

b) Place Plan Working Group

The Minutes of the Place Plan Working Group meeting held on 18 January 2022 were received and noted. It was agreed that boatyards and shipyards should be taken into account when considering the Place Plan.

- c) Land at Market Hill Working Group
The Minutes of the Land at Market Hill Working Group meeting held on 25 January 2022 were received and noted. The member of the public present had been sent a copy of the Minutes of the meeting, outlining the actions that the Town Council is taking, but the email had not received. It was agreed:
ACTION
The Town Clerk will resend the email, attaching the Minutes, detailing the actions that the Town Council is taking.
- d) IWALC Executive Committee
The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 25 November 2021 were received and noted.
- e) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 6 December 2021 were received and noted. The Supporters had asked the Town Council to clarify their future support having been made aware of a request from Cowes Town Council to Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils asking them to make a contribution towards the costs. The Town Clerk advised the Supporters that the Town Council is not proposing to withdraw financial support for the Library.

8427 TOWN LITTER BINS EMPTIED BY ISLAND ROADS

Councillors discussed the dual capacity litter bins in the town which are emptied by Island Roads. Although the bins have capacity for 'General Waste' and 'Mixed Recycling', each container has a green bag and operatives tip both bags in together which makes the separation of the items futile and means that all waste collected has to be sorted into recyclable and non- recyclable. The question was raised as to why these bins cannot have green and black bags inside so that the waste items do not need to be sorted. It was advised that the waste has to be sorted as very often the waste is put in the wrong side of the bin. It was also noted that when the new waste plant is fully online there will be no need to sort any waste. It was agreed:
ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council's Strategic Manager for Waste and the Environment to ask for clarification as to why Island Roads are not using any form of recycling when emptying the town's dual capacity litter bins.

8428 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Mayor advised that the Jubilee Picnic in the Park at Northwood House on Sunday 5 June 2022 will be the focal point for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. However there are other things being arranged in Cowes so the Mayor will be meeting with representatives from Cowes Business Association and Northwood House to co-ordinate the events. Councillors Ellis and Hollis agreed to also attend these meetings. The Mayor has requested that some of the 'Welcome Back Fund' held by the IW Council could be used to support the Platinum Jubilee events; the Mayor will provide a report / update in due course.

8429 COWES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATE 2022

Councillor Rafferty, as Cowes Town Council's representative on Cowes Business Association (CBA), reported that a meeting had taken place on 26 January 2022 to discuss if any interested parties would like to join the CBA Committee. During the meeting, six new Committee members were co-opted and they have agreed to fill the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Marketing Committee member at the Annual General Meeting on 16 March 2022, which will be held at the Royal Yacht Squadron.

8430 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of December 2021 and January 2022. Cheque payments for December totalled £20,603.77; petty cash payments for December totalled £70.18. Cheque payments for January totalled £36,400.48; petty cash payments for January totalled £52.50. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments for December of £20,603.77; petty cash payments for December of £70.18; cheque payments for January of £36,400.48; petty cash payments for January of £52.50 be received, noted and approved.

8431 APPOINTMENTS TO THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk advised that two vacancies remain on the Projects Committee. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillors Paler and Wardrop be appointed to the Projects Committee.

8432 WARMER COWES REPORT - QUARTER 3 – 2021 / 2022

The Footprint Trust Ltd, as administrators of the Warmer Cowes scheme, provided a report for Quarter 3 - 2021 / 2022. The report showed that 24 people had received assistance during the period. Energy saving measures have saved residents £1,582. The project cost to Cowes Town Council for Quarter 3 was £375.

8433 ISLAND ROADS PROGRAMME OF WOKS FOR COWES IN 2022 (MINUTE NO. 8419 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 16 December 2021, the Town Clerk was actioned to invite a representative of Island Roads to attend the next Town Council meeting to share the details of the Island Roads programme of works for Cowes in 2022. Island Roads responded by saying that their annual programme of works is in the process of being submitted to the IW Council for approval; until it is approved they are unable to share this information. With regard to attending a future meeting, this will depend upon availability of an appropriate Island Roads representative.

Councillors raised concerns that the annual programme of works had not yet been agreed and also raised concerns about the condition of the road between Castle Road and Baring Road and Stephenson's Road. When considering who to address these issues to, the Town Clerk advised that she had still not received a response to an email sent on 8 June 2021 to IW Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Highways, PFI, Transport and Infrastructure. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council's Director of Neighbourhoods to raise concerns that the Island Roads programme of work for 2022 has not yet been agreed and circulated.
2. The Town Clerk will forward a copy of the email of 8 June 2021 to Phil Jordan to IW Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox, Leader of the IW Council.

8434 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 meeting residents at the land at Market Hill, dog warden services, play park inspections, public convenience inspections, monitoring of fly tipping and dealing with any litter issues.

A campaign to reduce dogs mess is being considered by working with other Town & Parish Councils. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Nicholson will liaise with Ventnor Town Council to move this matter forward and report back at a future Town Council meeting.

8435 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8436 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Cowes Week – Councillor Ellis

The proceedings terminated at 8.47pm.

CHAIRMAN