

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut Project); a representative from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society (6.30pm); Kay Smith, Action IW's Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Cowes Area (6.22pm)

454. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Bertie and Brown.

455. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 457j as he is the auditor for the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society.

456. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 8 February 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

457. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) The Cut - Enhancements

Martin Hayles, Architect for The Cut project, was in attendance and provided an update. A revised cost of £62,575.18 for the enhancement works has been received from Island Roads. This is lower than the previous amount quoted due to removal of the fencing element around the SSE sub-station. The cost includes the maintenance of the area by Island Roads until the end of the PFI Contract. The Town Council is very keen for the works to be completed before the main tourist season to minimise disruption to businesses, residents and visitors and has requested they be carried out at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed ACTION

The Clerks will write to the IW Council to request a commencement date for the works.

b) Ark and Dove Commemorations

High resolution images and permissions for use have been obtained and passed to the graphic designer and an updated design was tabled at the meeting. Councillor Walters questioned the origins of the name of 'St Mary's' in Maryland. It was agreed ACTIONS

ACTIONS

1. The Clerks will circulate the updated draft design to Councillors and Kay Smith.
2. Councillor Walters will research the origin of the naming of St Mary's, Maryland.
3. The Assistant Town Clerk will progress this project, obtaining updated costs and permissions for the information board.

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

People Powered CIC have completed the auditing of the routes identified from the consultation process. The draft LCWIP is due to be completed by the end of March 2022 and will be circulated to Councillors when received.

d) Cowes Fayre

The Fayre will not be proceeding at this time and will be removed from future agendas.

- e) **Community Orchard**
The trees for Northwood Recreation Ground are currently being held at a local nursery, pending payment by Red Funnel.
- f) **Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and Woodland**
Tree management works were carried out in the woodland during February; self-seeded Cherry and Bay trees have been removed. The storm delayed works and caused some Ash branches to fall. Removal of self-seeded trees has improved the light for properties on Stones Close. Bay trees have been cleared from the boundary adjacent to Moorgreen Road. Concerns raised by Badger Trust IW that the works will disturb the badger setts was resolved following a site visit and they are happy with the plans. Chippings from the cuttings will be used to create the pathways. The Green Gym Co-ordinator has confirmed that their volunteers will assist with the creation of the new pathways and tidying of the area. The works should be completed around the time of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June.
- g) **Resilience Plan**
Kay Smith has been working with Northwood Parish Councillors and is keen to commence Resilience Forum meetings to get the community working together. The Community Day has been scheduled for Saturday 19 March, 11am – 3pm at the IW Community Club. The Town Council have reserved a table and Councillors are requested to be present to represent the Town Council.
- h) **Cowes Place Strategy and Structure**
The Chairman felt that the Town Council's long-term goals and objectives should be linked to the Place Plan. It was
RECOMMENDED
That the Place Plan Working Group develop a strategy and objectives for the Town Council, aligned to the Place Plan.
It was agreed
ACTION
The Assistant Town Clerk will combine the Resilience Plan and Cowes Place Strategy and Structure items for the next agenda.

Kay Smith left at 7.21pm.

- i) **Uffa Fox Regatta/Festival**
There is no update on this item and it will be removed from future agendas.
- j) **80th Anniversary of the Defence of Cowes**
There is no update on this item and it will be removed from future agendas.
- k) **Secrets of the Solent**
Southern Water have agreed to site the mural on their pumping station opposite Mornington Road, subject to access being retained to their cover flap. No response has been received to our request to site the mural on the wall at Day Lewis. It was agreed
ACTION
The Assistant Town Clerk will ask the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust to consider Southern Water's pumping station as a suitable location for a section of the mural.

l) **Signage on public conveniences**

A Quotation Request Form for the supply and installation of two directional signs at The Parade public conveniences has been sent to Island Roads. They have suggested a new post be installed on the seaward side of the public conveniences, however, the Town Council is keen to utilise the lampposts at each end of Parade Path as they are ideally located and will keep costs down. Island Roads have been asked to provide a quotation based on utilising both lampposts, including maintenance costs to the end of the PFI Contract.

m) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Councillors discussed promoting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee including High Street flags and bunting, lighting a beacon and providing commemorative mugs. The Mayor has designed a commemorative mug specifically for the Jubilee, a sample of which was tabled at the meeting. Councillors are supportive of providing commemorative mugs for pre-school and primary school children in the Cowes area to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The cost of custom printed mugs is £1.78 each and they can be purchased in boxes of 36 mugs. 1,008 mugs will provide enough for the local primary schools with a surplus for other Jubilee events/prizes.

Permission is being sought from the IW Council and Island Roads to hold a beacon lighting ceremony on The Parade. A decision is expected shortly.

The Town Clerk suggested setting aside a sufficient budget for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations from the 2021/22 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading. It was

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council considers setting aside £5,500 from the 2021/22 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading for Platinum Jubilee celebrations.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council considers the cost of £1,800 for the purchase of 1,008 custom printed mugs, with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council considers the cost of £700 for the purchase of a gas beacon and propane gas canisters, with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.**

n) **Public Conveniences Refurbishment**

At the last meeting, Councillors felt that the refurbishment of the facilities at Medina Road should be progressed ahead of The Parade facilities, with options for both a traditional refurbishment and upgrading to a modern automated facility being explored. Martin Hayles has visited and photographed the public conveniences in Cowes. He felt that Medina Road is the facility having the most urgent need for refurbishment and offered to produce a drawing and schedule for the refurbishment of this facility. Martin was requested to provide his Terms of Service for the Town Council's consideration. It was

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council engages Martin Hayles, subject to receipt of satisfactory Terms of Service, to provide a draft design for the refurbishment of Medina Road public conveniences.

Martin Hayles left the meeting at 6.38pm.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 8.09pm

458. NEW PROJECTS

a) **Northwood Recreation Ground Plaque**

The Chairman has been approached by a member of public, requesting that the Town Council replaces the dedication plaque originally displayed on the pillar at Northwood Recreation Ground. The plaque is believed to advise that the recreation ground was gifted to Cowes Urban District Council (UDC) for the people of Cowes from the Ward estate. Initial enquiries for information on the wording or photographs of the plaque with Cowes Heritage and Community Group and the Isle of Wight Heritage Facebook group have been inconclusive. Following the dissolution of Cowes UDC and their successor Medina Borough Council, the IW Council should now be beneficiaries of the Deed of Gift. It was agreed

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to request any information they hold on the history of the plaque or Deed of Gift for Northwood Recreation Ground.

459. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The Seafront Shelter sustained damage during the recent storm. A quotation has been received to repair the damage for the cost of £448.60 plus VAT. Councillors were happy for the Town Clerk to authorise the repairs in accordance with Financial Regulation 10.2. The Town Council has asked the IW Council for permission to install four BBQ stands on the lower section of Mornington Green. IW Council officers advised that neighbouring properties need to be consulted before any permission is considered. This was deferred to the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

The detached litter bin at the top of Watch House Slip has still not been refitted by Island Roads and has left the brick pavers loose and in an uneven condition which the Town Council is concerned is a health and safety matter. It was agreed

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will contact Island Roads to request the litter bin is reinstated urgently.

b) **Public Conveniences**

Routine inspections were carried out by the Assistant Town Clerk on 28 February 2022 and a number of repairs were requested to be carried out by the cleaning contractor.

Two fires had been lit in the Ladies' public conveniences at Northwood Recreation Ground on Friday 4 March 2022; minimal damage to the structure was caused and the fires extinguished themselves. The facilities are routinely locked overnight. The cleaning contractor was able to clean up the fire debris and reopen the facility the next day. Two internal lights were affected; one has been repaired and the other will need to be replaced. The Police have been made aware of the incident and requested to increase patrols in the area.

c) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Following removal of the faulty Double Air Walker outdoor gym apparatus, Councillors discussed whether to replace the faulty item. It was agreed

ACTION

Councillor Brown will identify a suitable alternative piece of gym apparatus for Councillors' consideration.

460. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 8.20pm

CHAIRMAN