

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk; PCSO Lisa Paul.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Nicholson, made the sad announcement that Cowes Town Council's former Assistant Town Clerk, Mrs Sue Waters, had passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Sue was a jolly and hardworking lady who had recently retired to Wales to be nearer her family. Councillors have fond memories of Sue and send their condolences to her family.

8454 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carter & Jones.

8455 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8462 as he is Chair of the Isle of Wight Local Access Forum.

8456 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 that the scheduled PaCT (Police and Communities Together) meeting had to be cancelled due to Covid. Councillors advised PCSO Paul of problems with inconsiderate parking around school drop off and pick up times at Newport Road near to Lanesend School. Parents with pushchairs are finding it difficult to get past parked cars on double yellow lines, mounted on the pavement and blocking dropped kerbs.

PCSO Paul was also advised of a spate of vandalism at Northwood Recreation Ground public toilets by girls wearing Cowes Enterprise College uniforms. Councillors were advised where possible to take photos of the offenders so that they can be identified and dealt with.

The shop in Cowes High Street who has repeatedly had their windows broken does not appear to have been targeted, it is more about the location of the shop and people's route home after a night out. This also relates to other issues with people leaving pubs late at night and causing problems in the town. Residents should report any incidents of drink or drug related problems to the Police and Environmental Health. PubWatch are also taking stronger actions with bans etc.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Paul for attending the meeting.

8457 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3 March 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8458 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present therefore no questions were raised.

8459 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Fuller reminded Councillors that the clearance of the protected woodland on the seafront was actioned by SGN; the IW Council will be prosecuting SGN.

Councillor Fuller advised Councillors that he has not yet got any details regarding the one share that the IW Council have in Cowes Town Waterfront Trust Ltd. He will follow this up and update Councillors in due course.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox referred to Whitegates Pontoon. There has been some discussion about who is actually responsible for this area, Cowes Harbour Commission, Newport Harbour Commission or the IW Council. CCTV has now been installed in this area; however there is a lot of repair work needed to the timber structure.

ACTION

This matter will be followed up at the next Place Plan Working Group meeting.

8460 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 March 2022 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That the balances in the following budget headings, Northwood Recreation Ground- Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance budget; Public Toilet Refurbishment; Street Furniture Maintenance; Cowes in Bloom be ring fenced or earmarked, as appropriate, at the financial year end on 31 March 2022. Other monies to be earmarked at the financial year end on 31 March 2022 are the contribution received towards the roof at The Parade public conveniences which will be used to offset the costs of the conversion to mains feed water at this facility; the ORP Blyskawica 80th Anniversary Event; the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event; the Uffa Fox (UF50) grant, which will be held in lieu of the IW Council's charges for suspending parking on The Parade. Councillors also discussed the ring fenced amount for the Parade Roof held for Emerald Construction to be changed to F.W. Marsh – Conversion to mains feed water – The Parade PC.

2. That Cowes Town Council receives details of the NJC pay rise of 1.75% applicable from 1 April 2021.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 8 March 2022 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That the Place Plan Working Group develop a strategy and objectives for the Town Council, aligned to the Place Plan.

2. That Cowes Town Council sets aside £5,500 from the 2021/22 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading for Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

3. That Cowes Town Council purchases 1,008 custom printed mugs for the sum of £1,800 with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

4. That Cowes Town Council purchases a gas beacon and propane gas canisters for the sum of £700, with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

5. 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.

c) Place Plan Working Group

The Minutes of the Place Plan Working Group meeting held on 29 March 2022 were received and noted.

d) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 14 March 2022 were received and noted.

ACTION

A note of thanks will be sent to the Supporters of Cowes Library in recognition of all their hard work.

e) IWALC Executive Committee

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 27 January 2022 were received and noted.

8461 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Councillors discussed the arrangements and costs regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Cowes, having already agreed to set aside a sum of £5,500 for these expenses (Minute No. 8460b2 refers). The distribution of the 100 flags would be for use in the High Street and donated to other local organisations. The IW Council have agreed to pay a sum of £1,200 to Cowes Town Council for the purchase of new union jack bunting. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the following expenses (in addition to the Platinum Jubilee mugs, beacon and propane gas canisters):

Platinum Jubilee Flags – 100 x £3.50	£ 350.00
Erection of Platinum Jubilee flags in the High Street - 38 x £10.00	£ 380.00
Estimate for PA, bandstand, fencing around the beacon etc.	£ 500.00
Estimate for Gazebo	£1,200.00

8462 ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Councillors discussed the Isle of Wight Local Access Forum questionnaire. The Forum want to know what are 'my / our five priorities to improve mobility access to local services, facilities and the countryside'. The deadline for replies is 5pm on Friday 23 April 2022. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Councillors will make individual responses to the questionnaire by the deadline of 5pm on Friday 23 April 2022.

8463 CHEQUE AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of March 2022. Cheque payments totalled £52,631.24; petty cash payments totalled £94.06. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £52,631.24 and petty cash payments of £94.06 be received, noted and approved.

8464 TERMS OF SERVICE FOR THE PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF MEDINA ROAD PUBLIC TOILETS

Councillors discussed the Terms of Service for the proposed refurbishment of Medina Road Public Toilets received from M. J. Hayles Architectural Service for the sum of £1,175.00. It was:

RESOLVED

That M. J. Hayles Architectural Services be engaged for the architectural services for the proposed refurbishment at Medina Road Public Toilets for the sum of £1,175.00.

8465 SUMMER PLANTING OF THE TROUGHS AND PLANTERS IN COWES FOR THE 2022 SUMMER SEASON

Councillors were asked to suspend Financial Regulation 10.4 as only one quotation from Care in the Garden has been received. Their quotation for the summer planting of the troughs and planters in Cowes is for the sum of £898.59; the filling and installation of hanging baskets is for the sum of £1,410 and maintenance, weeding and dead heading and removal of the plants at the end of the season is for the sum of £692. Councillors asked where possible that the plants be red, white and blue. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the summer planting of the troughs and planters in Cowes for the sum of £898.59.

2. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the filling and installation of hanging baskets in Cowes for the sum of £1,410.

3. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the maintenance, weeding and dead heading, and removal of the plants at the end of the season in Cowes for the sum of £692.

8466 WATERING CONTRACT FOR THE TROUGHS AND PLANTERS IN COWES FOR THE 2022 SUMMER SEASON

Councillors were asked to suspend Financial Regulation 10.4 as only one quotation from JW Autoshine Watering has been received. Their quotation, although higher than last year due to increased fuel prices, is still considered best value. The cost of watering, is £100 per water based on twice per week, is £3,600; the monthly cost for plant feed will be £30 which totals £120. The total cost of the contract being £3,720. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council engages JW Autoshine Watering for the watering contract in Cowes for the 2022 summer season for the sum of £3,720.

8467 PLANTING AND WATERING ADDITIONAL HANGING BASKETS IN COWES HIGH STREET

Councillors have been asked to consider contributing towards the planting and installation of additional hanging baskets through Cowes High Street for the summer season; the baskets have already been donated for this project. The cost to plant and install the baskets is £1,208 of which the IW Council have agreed a donation of £800; the cost to the Town Council being £408. In addition there will be a watering cost of £1,612.80 for watering three times a week for 18 weeks. Inspection and maintenance of the baskets would be charged at £50 per month for four months i.e. £200. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council approves the planting and installation of hanging baskets through Cowes High Street for the sum of £1,208.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council approves the watering cost for the hanging baskets of £1,612.80.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council approves the inspection and maintenance of the hanging baskets for the sum of £200.**

8468 INSTALLATION OF BUNTING THROUGH COWES HIGH STREET FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2022

Councillors have been asked to consider the costs of installing, maintaining and subsequent removal of the new Union Jack bunting throughout Cowes from Shooters Hill to Bath Road for the cost of £1,100. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the Union Jack bunting for the sum of £1,100.

8469 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Cowes Town Council have been asked to consider supporting the Armed Forces Covenant which is a pledge made between the Island's civilian community and the armed forces. The aims are to tackle any disadvantages arising from military service and to develop a better understanding between the civilian and armed forces community. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports the Armed Forces Covenant and the Mayor be authorised to sign the pledge on behalf of Cowes Town Council.

8470 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officers in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken included issuing two Fixed Penalty Notices for dogs off leads at Northwood Cemetery; patrolling Bellevue Road as a hot spot area known for dog fouling; weekly playground inspections; weekly public convenience inspections; checking for fly tipping; removal of fly posters in the High Street and reporting of graffiti.

8471 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8472 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 8.26pm.

CHAIRMAN