

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Dining Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 14 July 2022 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Bertie (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Adams, Hollis, Nicholson, Paler, Peacey Wilcox (7.22pm) Rafferty & Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Izzie Tween, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust; PCSO Lisa Paul; Councillor Cameron Palin, East Cowes Town Council's representative; two members of the public.

### **PRESENTATION FROM IZZIE TWEEN, BEAVER RECOVERY PROJECT OFFICER, HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST**

Councillors received a presentation from Izzie Tween, Beaver Recovery Project Officer, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) in regard to a consultation to reintroduce the Eurasian beaver back to the Isle of Wight. The benefits of beavers are improved water quality, more wildlife, the land holds more water (which reduces the risk of flooding) and encourages people to engage with wildlife. Beavers can play a really important part in creating a 'Wilder Wight', they have the ability to define entire ecosystems which would enable them to transform the Eastern Yar for the benefit of both people and wildlife. There were two beaver projects in Devon, one was an illegal release of beavers at the River Otter and one was an enclosed release on the River Tamar of beavers from Bavaria and Germany. Results showed that the introduction of the beavers, and the dams that they built, improved the water quality, pollutants were captured and filtered, the flow of water was slowed and the dams were a buffer to flash flooding. The Isle of Wight could benefit from a beaver population as it has a similar climate and geology as Devon. There is some resistance by landowners who abut a water source but their valuable resources i.e. trees etc. can be protected by the HIWWT who will fence them off from the beavers. The consultation for the reintroduction of beavers on the Isle of Wight continues.

The Mayor thanked Izzie for attending the meeting and for her interesting presentation.

### **8521 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown, Carter, Ellis, Fuller, Hammond, Jones, Sanders & Walters.

### **8522 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were received.

### **8523 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 the Police will be undertaking their usual arrangements for Cowes Week. Issues raised at Northwood Cemetery had not been resolved as the CCTV images were not clear enough to identify anyone; patrols of this area continue. The police have emailed Cowes Enterprise College three times to discuss the issue of vandalism by their students at Northwood Recreation Ground; to date no response has been received.

The public are encouraged to continue to report any incidents on the 101 number or online. If the statistics of problems in Cowes are not logged this could result in a reduction of policing in the area.

Councillors thanked PCSO Paul for attending and for persevering with a uniform and stab vest in this very hot weather.

#### **8524 MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9 June 2022, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

#### **8525 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The members of the public present at the meeting are members of the Vectis Badminton Club. They reported that they are being prevented from using the Winder Sports Hall at Cowes Enterprise College (CEC). The hall was built in 1997 / 1998 with funds from a lottery grant. The hall was intended to be used by the school during the day and by the public at other times. Public access has gradually been reduced and in the last two years public access has been denied. CEC seem to be believe the hall is exclusively for their use and is now their primary location for exams. It was agreed:

##### ACTIONS

1. Councillor Peacey Wilcox, Leader of the IW Council, will write to the IW Council's Head of Children's Services to ascertain details of the lottery grant and what, if any, arrangement has been made with the Ormiston Academy in relation to public access to the Winder Sports Hall.
2. The Town Clerk will write to CEC asking for an explanation as to why public access to the Winder Sports Hall is being denied.
3. This matter will be added to the Agenda for the Town Council meeting on 1 September 2022.

#### **8526 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson, Peacey Wilcox and Quigley and were circulated to all Town Councillors. Councillors Nicholson and Peacey Wilcox were in attendance but no questions were raised.

#### **8527 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 28 June 2022 were received and noted.

b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 14 June 2022 and 12 July 2022 were received and noted. It was:

##### **RESOLVED**

**1. That Cowes Town Council agrees the cost of £194.40 plus VAT for Island Roads to supply and fit 2 No. WC directional signs at The Parade public conveniences, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.**

**2. That Cowes Town Council does not accrue the 2 No. WC directional signs for ongoing maintenance by Island Roads.**

3. That Cowes Town Council takes responsibility for the maintenance of the 2 No. WC directional signs at The Parade public conveniences.
4. That the 2 No. WC directional signs at The Parade public conveniences are added to the Town Council's insurance policy.
5. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £100 for Dovetailed Design to supply an oak plaque, with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Community Orchard.
6. That Cowes Town Council seeks the permission of the IW Council to install a dedication plaque at Northwood Recreation Ground.
7. Subject to permission being granted, Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £297.00 plus £55.00 postage and packing, for JFK Signs Ltd to supply a plaque, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.
8. That Cowes Town Council approves providing one dressed Christmas Tree to be located in Francki Place, at a cost of up to £800, with the cost to be met from the 'High Street Decoration / Festive Lights / Bunting' budget heading.

c) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 13 June 2022 were received and noted.

d) IWALC Executive Meeting

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive meeting held on 26 May 2022 were received and noted.

**8528 TOUR OF BRITAIN COWES 2022**

Councillors discussed the Tour of Britain 2022 which will be held on the Island on Sunday 11 September 2022. A meeting with the promotional company took place to outline the plans, further details will be sent in August; the race will pass through Cowes. Councillor Paler has asked the organisers if a Supporters Village with a large screen could be placed in Cowes so that visitors can watch the whole race live. A decision has not yet been received.

**8529 FLAGS AND BANNERS**

Councillors discussed flags and banners in Cowes which used to be organised by Cowes Business Association (CBA). The CBA have been considering dissolving for some time. The Mayor organised the Polish flags for the ORP Blyskawica 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and the flags for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Mayor also coordinated the installation and removal of the Round the Island Race banners. An invoice has been received from the installer and an invoice needs to be sent to the Island Sailing Club for the Round the Island banners. Councillors were asked to consider, in the absence of the CBA, the function of installing and removing flags and banners for other significant events in Cowes. This would involve arranging the installation and removal of the flags and banners, paying the installer and invoicing the relevant organisation. Councillor Rafferty advised Councillors that the CBA may be re-forming, in which case they would resume the flags and banners process in Cowes. It was:

**RESOLVED**

1. Subject to the CBA not reforming, Cowes Town Council will take responsibility for the arrangements for the installation and removal of the flags and banners in Cowes; to include paying the installer and invoicing the relevant organisation.
2. Subject to the CBA not reforming, Cowes Town Council will pay the installer of the Round the Island Race banners and invoice the Island Sailing Club accordingly.
3. Should the CBA reform they will be responsible for paying the installer of the Round the Island Race banners and invoicing the Island Sailing Club and the arrangements for all future flag and banner installations.

**8530 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2022**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2022. Cheque payments totalled £38,428.01; petty cash payments totalled £117.34. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £38,428.01 and petty cash payments of £117.34 be received, noted and approved.**

**8531 APPOINTMENT TO THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Following the Town Council meeting held on 9 June 2022, there remains one vacancy on the Projects Committee. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the vacancy remains on the Projects Committee.**

**8532 APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Following the resignation of Councillor Fuller, there is a vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the vacancy remains on the Planning & Licensing Committee.**

**8533 CONNECT4COMMUNITIES FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME**

Councillors discussed promoting the food voucher scheme through the Foodbank in Cowes as they are able to identify families and elderly people who may be in the greatest need. The Foodbank also suggested contacting Family Liaison Officers in local schools who may also be able to identify families in greatest need. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will send the food voucher application form to the Foodbank in Cowes and to the local schools' Family Liaison Officers.

**8534 POLICY – AUDIO RECORDING – TOWN COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A review of Cowes Town Council's Policy – Audio Recording – Town Council & Committee Meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy – Audio Recording – Town Council & Committee Meetings.**

**8535 RESPONSE FROM BOB SEELY MP IN REGARD TO TRAFFIC SPEED AND NOISE (MIN. NO 8511 REFERS)**

At the Town Council meeting on 9 June 2022, Councillors discussed the issue of traffic speed and noise in Cowes and wrote to the police, the local MP and the IW Council Environment Officers to share their concerns. Mr Bob Seely MP, responded on 29 June 2022, stating that he will be meeting with new police officers once they are in post to share the Town Council's comments. He advised that confirmation has been received that a dedicated Roads Policing Team will be reintroduced on the Island through the Police Officer Uplift programme. Two dedicated roads policing officers and three armed response / roads policing officers are due to be recruited. An uplift of five officers to the nine currently in post will make a significant difference to roads policing on the Island.

Councillors also acknowledged the contribution made by the SpeedWatch volunteers in the battle against speed. New volunteers are always needed. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Council will make a request for more SpeedWatch volunteers in the next Town Council newsletter.

**8536 DONATION FROM FUNDS HELD IN THE PICNIC IN THE PARK BUDGET**

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that a balance of £961.01 was held following the very successful Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic in the Park. It is customary to carry some funds over for the next event in 2023, and for an amount to be given to charity. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That a donation of £461.01 be donated to the Foodbank in Cowes.**
- 2. That the balance of £500 be carried over to support the Picnic in the Park 2023.**

**8537 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 dogs off leads; dog fouling; graffiti; arson; vandalism; play park inspections and public toilet inspections.

**8538 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8539 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- The Winder Sports Hall

The proceedings terminated at 8.25pm.

**CHAIRMAN**