

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Councillor Palin, East Cowes Town Council's representative; PCSO Lisa Paul.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a minute's silence held in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth the Second.

8570 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carter, Fuller, Hammond, Jones & Peacey Wilcox.

Councillors discussed extending Councillor Hammond's period of absence due to ill health. It was:

RESOLVED

That an extended period of absence will be granted to Councillor Hammond until February 2023.

8571 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8572 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer advised that this is County Lines Week but had nothing else significant to report at this time. Councillors advised that the online crime statistics were two months behind and asked if this could be updated.

Alternatively could up to date statistics be given monthly, in a report, of the type that the Town Council used to receive. It was agreed:

ACTION

PCSO Paul will investigate who updates the online statistics and request that they are brought up to date.

8573 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 September 2022, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8574 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8575 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson, Peacey Wilcox & Quigley and were circulated to all Town Councillors. Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox's report referred to rumours regarding the proposed Medina Yard development.

Councillor Quigley's report referred to the 'Island Plan' which has since been rejected by the IW Council.

It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will ask Councillor Peacey Wilcox for an update regarding the proposed Medina Yard development.
2. The Town Clerk will write to Councillors Fuller and Peacey Wilcox (copy to Ollie Boulter) asking why it took so long to sign off the planning permission for the proposed Medina Yard development.
3. The Town Clerk will write to Councillor Fuller for an explanation as to why the 'Island Plan' has been rejected by the IW Council.
4. The Town Clerk will ask all IW Councillors to keep their monthly reports succinct to include a report on their local activities.

8576 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 28 September 2022 were received and noted. Councillors acknowledged and approved the removal of the objection for a Premises Licence for ACW Trading Ltd.

b) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 5 September 2022 were received and noted.

c) Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee

The draft Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 September 2022 were received and noted.

8577 COWES HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillors received a report from the Town Council's representative regarding the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 7 September 2022. Councillors raised the issue of the cancelled Isle of Wight phase of the Tour of Britain cycle race. Councillors asked if those involved had received refunds as a result of the cancellation, especially the large contribution made by the IW Council. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council to enquire if they have received a refund for their contribution to the cancelled Tour of Britain cycle race.

8578 PAVEMENT LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Councillors discussed the short timescale given to the Town Council to make comment on any Pavement License applications. These applications should be considered by the Town Council as they are more aware of any potential local issues that may arise and the short deadlines are flouting local democracy. The IW Council's Licensing department have said that there are strict rules and regulations that they have to adhere to when setting the deadline for responses. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the IW Council's Acting Chief Executive to ask for extended deadlines for Pavement license Applications to enable the Town Council to give a considered response. This letter will be copied to the Leader of the IW Council and the MP.

8579 LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON FRACKING

Councillors discussed the lifting of the moratorium on fracking by the new government. Concerns are being raised again that this may have an impact on the Isle of Wight. Councillors agreed that although it is early days, they will keep a watchful eye as things progress.

PCSO Paul left the meeting at 7.27pm.

8580 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of September 2022. Cheque payments totalled £37,579.65; petty cash payments totalled £10.00. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £37,579.65 and the petty cash payments of £10.00 be received, noted and approved.

8581 ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)

Councillors discussed the benefits of the Assistant Town Clerk being a member of the SLCC. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council renews the Town Clerk's membership of the SLCC in the sum of £215.

8582 ZOOM SUBSCRIPTION

Councillors discussed whether to renew the Town Council's Zoom subscription for the annual sum of £119.90. Zoom can still be used for free with a maximum meeting time of 40 minutes. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council renews its annual Zoom subscription for the sum of £119.90.

8583 REVIEW OF COWES WEEK 2022

Councillors were asked for any feedback from Cowes Week 2022 in advance of the Cowes Week Shoreside Wash Up meeting scheduled for 13 October 2022. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillors will send any feedback regarding Cowes Week 2022 to the Town Clerk by the close of play on Monday 10 October for onward transmission to Councillor Ellis, Cowes Town Council's representative on the Cowes Week Ltd Shoreside Committee.

8584 HAMLET COURT PLANNING APPLICATION 22/01190/FUL

Cowes Town Council's Planning & Licensing Committee discussed the Hamlet Court planning application at their meeting on 10 August 2022. The Committee resolved to object to the planning application on the grounds that the proposal is of a poor design, it has a flat roof; it is too high and has a block feel and fails to reflect the traditional character of the conservation area. The Committee also requested that the planning application is considered by the IW Council's Planning Committee. The Town Council has been asked, as a whole, to reconsider the objection raised by the Planning & Licensing Committee. Following a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports the Planning & Licensing Committee's objection to the Hamlet Court Planning Application 22/01190/FUL.

8585 WINTER PLANTING IN COWES

Councillors discussed the cost of winter planting (£766) and maintenance (£1,000) in Cowes by Care in the Garden. The Town Clerk advised that due to the extremely hot weather in the summer, requiring additional watering above the agreed contract price, the 'Cowes in Bloom' budget heading is over spent by £1,611.47. The additional cost of the winter planting and maintenance would increase the overspend to £3,377.47. The Town Clerk suggested that the over spend could be taken from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading. It was:

RESOLVED

That the sum of £4,000 be transferred from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading to the 'Cowes in Bloom' budget heading.

8586 RESPONSE FROM HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY DISTRICT COMMANDER (MIN NO 8542 REFERS)

Councillors discussed a response from Inspector Matthew Gooding in regard to criminal damage at Northwood Recreation Ground public conveniences. The Cowes Police team have conducted patrols and have been engaging with young people in the area to prevent this kind of thing happening again. The Police encourage the reporting of crimes in progress by calling 999. This will ensure that the call is assessed and effectively responded to. 101 and online reporting is intended for matters that are not ongoing or do not require an emergency response.

8587 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO MEDINA YARD (MIN NO 8545 REFERS)

The Town Clerk wrote to the IW Council regarding the planning permission granted for Medina Yard. A condition of the planning approval was that phase one (residential) and phase four (industrial) were progressed simultaneously. Councillors questioned whether this is still the case. The IW Council responded by saying that there have been no changes to the planning consent. The legal requirement requires phases one and four to be delivered in parallel. The agreement allows for the foundations for four blocks within phase one to be undertaken but nothing more than that.

8588 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE STATUS OF THE BANDSTAND (MIN NO 8545 REFERS)

The Town Clerk wrote to the IW Council to ascertain the status of the Bandstand and whether, as a village green, it could be considered for redevelopment. The IW Council responded by stating that works on a green which do not contravene the Victorian Acts (that is, the works either are done or are with a view to the better enjoyment of the green, and do not injure the land or interrupt the use or enjoyment of the land as a place for exercise or recreation) will be allowed. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Bandstand will be added to a future Agenda of the Projects Committee for further discussion.

8589 RESPONSE FROM ISLAND ROADS IN REGARD TO THE SCHEDULE OF WORKS FOR COWES IN 2022 (MIN NO 8569 REFERS)

The Town Clerk wrote to Island Roads to ask for the Schedule of Works for Cowes for 2022. Island Roads responded by saying that there are currently no upcoming scheduled carriageway or footways works in Cowes for 2022. Copies of previously undertaken schedules of works were supplied for Councillors' information. Councillors discussed areas in Cowes where urgent resurfacing works are required and it was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads to advise of areas that need urgent resurfacing works i.e. York Street near to the junction with Medina Road and the junction where Baring Road meets Castle Road.
2. The Town Clerk will ask for sight of Island Roads' Forward Plan.

8590 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Councillors discussed a proposal to sign up to the 'Civility and Respect Pledge'. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council signs up to the 'Civility and Respect Pledge' and registers and agrees to the following statements:

- **Our Council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerks and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.**
- **Our Council has committed to training councillors and staff.**
- **Our Council has signed up to the Code of Conduct for Councillors.**
- **Our Council has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy.**
- **Our Council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.**
- **Our Council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.**
- **Our Council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g. via the Local Council Award Scheme.**

- **Our Council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.**

8591 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

Cowes Town Council, having signed up to the 'Civility and Respect Pledge' considered the draft 'Dignity at Work Policy' which would replace the existing 'Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy'. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council adopts the new Dignity at Work Policy.

8592 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of Cowes Town Council's Grievance Procedure for Employees was carried out and one small amendment was required to section 3.6, final sentence, to remove 'Bullying & Harassment'. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the amended Grievance Procedure for Employees.

8593 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

A review of Cowes Town Council's Disciplinary Procedure for Employees was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Disciplinary Procedure for Employees.

8594 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON DEBATE AND VOTING AT MEETINGS

A review of Cowes Town Council's Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy on Debate and Voting at Meetings.

8595 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S CHILD, YOUNG PERSON AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

A review of Cowes Town Council's Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.

8596 WINDER SPORTS HALL (MIN. NOS 8525, 8539 AND 8562 REFER)

At the Town Council meeting on 14 July 2022, Vectis Badminton Group advised that they are no longer able to hire the Winder Sports Hall, located at the Cowes Enterprise College (CEC) site. The Town Clerk wrote to CEC asking why the hall was no longer available for the public to hire. The Town Clerk has been advised by CEC that they need to keep the Winder Sports Hall permanently set up as an exam centre. They will make the main sports hall in the school available to the badminton group but they firstly have to put together a business plan to present to the Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT) to include a proposal to employ a lettings manager who could be in attendance when the sports hall is let to individual groups. This will

not be a quick process, however CEC will keep the Town Council advised as things progress.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox wrote to the IW Council's Head of Children's Services to ascertain details of the lottery grant which paid for the building of the Winder Sports Hall, and to enquire what, if any, arrangements have been made with the Ormiston Academy in relation to public use of the sports hall. To date, no response has been received.

However, Councillor Peacey Wilcox has liaised with UKSA and the Vectis Badminton Club have been offered the use of their sports hall; they are speaking to their members about a temporary change of venue.

8597 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report from the Environment Officers in Cowes was not received but the Environment Officers have been busy in Cowes and reporting to the Clerks any incidents that they have dealt with. Councillors discussed an issue at Northwood Cemetery where IW Council Officers had pushed and kicked over unsafe gravestones resulting in a large amounts of damage. Not only is the damage of concern but the disrespect shown to the graves of loved ones. The IW Council have apologised for the damage done and will review their methods of dealing with unsafe gravestones in the future.

8598 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8599 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 8.17pm.

CHAIRMAN