

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Nicholson (Chair), Adams, Bertie, Brown, Paler and Wardrop

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Assistant Town Clerk; ; Martin Hayles (Architect for The Cut and Medina Road public conveniences projects); a representative from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society

490. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rafferty and Sanders.

491. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

492. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 October 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

493. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles has requested an urgent update on the timetabling for the enhancement works, expected to be carried out in early 2023 by Island Roads.

b) **Public Conveniences Refurbishment - Medina Road**

Following consultation with Isle Access and the issue of the Building Regulation Approval Notice for the plans for the proposed refurbishment of Medina Road toilets, Martin Hayles (Architect for the project) has prepared the Schedule of Works and final drawings. Southern Water have been asked for permission to carry out the refurbishment works to the ground floor of their building. Martin will prepare draft tender documents. The preferred time to close the toilets for the works will be January – Easter 2023, ahead of the next tourist season. It was agreed:

ACTION

Martin Hayles will prepare draft tender documents.

c) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

At the Town Council meeting on 3 November 2022, £1,000 additional budget was set aside for costs associated with the new Ark and Dove information board. Island Roads have sent the Town Council's proposal to the IW Council for their consideration and approval, as the board will be located on land owned by them. Planning permission (advertisement consent) will be sought once the IW Council have given approval.

d) **Community Orchard**

The Town Council has entered into a Licence for Access with the IW Council which provides permission to install a wooden plaque at the Community Orchard in Northwood Recreation Ground. The plaque will be installed in due course.

e) **Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and Woodland**

A representative from Moorgreen Road Allotment Society was in attendance and provided an update. The woodland walk has been open to the public since the end of the summer and positive feedback has been received from users. The area requires regular litter picking. The opening of the new entrance to the woodland from the Baptist Church's land is likely to be delayed until the spring and may coincide with an event at the Church. The area will look more visibly attractive when the trees are in bud with springtime foliage. The Allotment Society hope to hold a craft fayre in the former reservoir area in the spring. They will also monitor Ash die back in the woodland area.

f) **Secrets of the Solent**

The mural section is with Southern Water for installation. The Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) are going to provide an information panel to be placed next to the mural. Southern Water have suggested the panel is A3 sized. The panel is expected to include a photo of all six murals illustrating a map of the Solent, brief sections about the mural project and the artist, and a link to the HIWWT website. A date for an official unveiling is awaited.

g) **Northwood Recreation Ground Plaque**

The IW Council have given permission for the plaque to be installed on one of the pillars at the Recreation Ground's Park Road entrance. The plaque is on order and fitting will be arranged once received.

h) **Grass Verges – Upper Moorgreen Road**

Following discussions with Island Roads about what is likely to be permissible to deter parking on the grass verges in Upper Moorgreen Road, the Town Council undertook a survey of all residents in the road. The survey results have been circulated to Councillors; the comments received will require further consideration. Island Roads will also be provided with the results. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Chairman will share the results with Island Roads for their comments.

i) **Area outside Sainsbury's**

There has been no update from British Telecom (BT) on the removal of the telephone box, which is still on hold pending a decision to remove it. Councillors felt that the Town Clerk should write a formal letter to BT to request their future plans for the telephone box. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to BT to ask their future plans for the telephone box.

494. NEW PROJECTS

a) **The Bandstand**

An initial enquiry with the IW Council regarding the possible refurbishment of the Bandstand area, which has village green status, has met with a positive response, provided that the works either are done 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. The area was felt to be under-utilised for much of the year. A refurbishment of the adjoining public toilets could look to improve both areas. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Chairman will speak to the Head of Planning at the IW Council to discuss what refurbishment may be permissible to the Bandstand.

b) **Coronation Weekend**

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023. Councillor Paler outlined plans for an evening of celebration on the Parade and Bandstand similar to the Platinum Jubilee celebration, concluding with the lighting of the beacon. The Big Lunch community event will be held at Northwood House/Park on Sunday 7 May 2023, followed by an additional bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023. Union Jack flags and bunting will be displayed throughout the High Street. Permission will need to be obtained from the IW Council to use the Parade and Bandstand area. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Paler will provide costings for the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

c) **Cowes Week**

Councillor Paler met with Cowes Week Limited to discuss Cowes Week 2022; discussions included the organisation of a family day during the Cowes Week 2023 event. Ideas are being developed to include camel racing, where groups from across the Island can make their own cardboard camels for racing. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Paler will provide costings for the family day activities for the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

495. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The Assistant Town Clerk will conclude the annual inspection of all the Town Council's assets to identify any maintenance requirements.

b) **Public Conveniences**

The disabled toilet at Northwood Recreation Ground has been vandalised and is currently locked off pending repair.

The public toilets in Northwood Park were closed from 1 November for the winter season. Electrical condition inspection tests have been carried out on all the town's public conveniences; reports are awaited.

The Environment Officer requested a deep clean of the public conveniences. This has been passed to the cleaner to action. Further deep cleans will be scheduled prior to the Easter weekend and Cowes Week. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will report the vandalism of the public toilets at Northwood Recreation Ground to the Police.

496. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground. Councillor Walters to provide a report/costings (Town Council Minute No. 8602 refers)

The proceedings terminated at 7.09pm

CHAIRMAN