

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Dining Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 3 November 2022 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Assistant Town Clerk;
Rudi Hendon-John, Social Prescriber.

PRESENTATION FROM RUDI HENDON-JOHN, SOCIAL PRESCRIBER IN COWES

Councillors welcomed Mr Rudi Hendon-John to the meeting who started by explaining his role as a Social Prescriber, which is a free service provided through Cowes Medical Centre where he is based. His role is to support patients over the age of 18 with non-medical needs affecting their health and wellbeing i.e. lonely or isolated; bereavement support; lifestyle changes; anxiety and stress; improve confidence; debt / money worries; to support independence; any mobility or equipment needs; how to access support; carer support; getting out and about. Patients are referred by the GP to Rudi who has been given the time to help patients and listen to what is important to them and what their needs are. He liaises closely with Social Services, the Police, the Fire Service and the hospital teams on behalf of the patients. He can also help those patients who are terminally ill by liaising with the Hospice. Patients can make self-referrals to Rudi if they have a need to see him and discuss any problems. Councillors agreed that this is a very important role and of great value to the residents of Cowes.

Councillor Bertie thanked Rudi for his interesting and informative presentation.

8600 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

8601 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Walters declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 8606g as he is the Auditor and Member of the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society.

8602 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer provided a written report which was circulated to all Town Councillors. The report included details about PCSO attendance at Northwood Recreation Ground and parking problems in Bellevue Road. Councillors discussed the possibility of adding signage at Northwood Recreation Ground advising the public to report any incidents of vandalism etc to the Police for logging on their system. The introduction of CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground was also discussed. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will investigate whether the IW Council, as the landowner, will approve any proposed signage at Northwood Recreation Ground.
2. CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground will be added to the Agenda for the next Projects Committee meeting; Councillor Walters to provide a report / costings.

8603 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6 October 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8604 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8605 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 referred to the huge amount of unpaid carers on the Island and particularly a lady who has looked after her husband, following two strokes, for 25 years. There is little opportunity for respite which is very difficult for carers.

Councillor Nicholson also referred to the serious accident in Northwood which happened earlier today. The main Cowes to Newport road being closed both ways highlighted the inadequate alternative route through Pallance Road which is not suitable for a large volume of traffic or larger vehicles like buses etc which were rerouted, especially as there is not a pavement through a large amount of the diverted route.

The Beer and Buses Festival has now stopped but a 'Cowes Fayre' was discussed with a view to being held at the autumnal time of year. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the Highways Authority to request that alternative routes when the main road is closed should be made fit for purpose and safe for all users.
2. 'Cowes Fayre' will be added to the Agenda for discussion at the next Cowes Marketing and Promotion Group meeting.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox's report referred to a proposed meeting with the owners of Diverse Marine who have purchased Medina Yard and Medina Village. Councillors felt that there should be other attendees at the meeting. The poor condition of the 'Jack' tree sculpture was mentioned in Councillor Peacey Wilcox's report. The Town Clerks are in discussion with tree surgeons to consider remedial action. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will ask Councillor Peacey Wilcox to include Councillors Bertie, Paler, Nicholson, Fuller and Quigley in the proposed meeting with Diverse Marine.
2. The Town Clerks will follow up the enquiry with tree surgeons for remedial works on 'Jack'.

Councillor Quigley's report referred to substandard rental properties. Councillors discussed the IW Council's Enforcement Team who can support tenants to ensure that landlords make necessary improvements and repairs when they are required.

8606 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 12 October 2022 and 1 November 2022 were received and noted.

- b) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee
The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 October 2022 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
- 1. That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 September 2022.**
 - 2. That a grant be made to the Isle of Wight Music, Dance and Drama Festival in the sum of £100.**
 - 3. That Cowes Town Council amends Financial Regulation 6.1 to read ‘Apart from petty cash payments, all payments shall be effected by cheque or BACs payment from the Town Council’s bank accounts’.**
 - 4. That no further amendments are required to Cowes Town Council’s Financial Regulations.**
- c) Projects Committee
The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 October 2022 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
- 1. That Cowes Town Council suspends Financial Regulation 10.4 to allow consideration of one quotation for the supply of the Ark and Dove information board.**
 - 2. That Cowes Town Council approves £1,000 for additional costs associated with the Ark and Dove information board, with the cost to be met from the ‘New Projects’ budget heading.**
 - 3. That, subject to the IW Council’s Contract Management Team approval being obtained, Cowes Town Council applies for planning permission (advertisement consent) for the installation of the new Ark and Dove information board on The Parade.**
 - 4. That, subject to planning permission approval being obtained, Cowes Town Council approves the ordering of the Ark and Dove information board and all as yet unpaid associated costs.**
 - 5. That Cowes Town Council accepts Cowes Business Association’s gift of the festive lighting.**
 - 6. That Cowes Town Council suspends Financial Regulation 10.4 to allow consideration of one quotation for the installation, maintenance and subsequent removal of the Festive Lights.**
 - 7. That Cowes Town Council approves up to £16,000 for all costs associated with installing the festive lights for the 2022 festive season, with the cost to be met from the ‘Civic – Xmas trees / festive lights / bunting’ budget heading and any overspend to be met from the ‘Discretionary Services Contingency’ budget heading.**
- d) Place Plan Working Group
The Minutes of the Place Plan Working Group meeting held on 18 October 2022 were received and noted.
- e) IWALC Executive
The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 29 September 2022 were received and noted.

- f) IWALC Meeting with the IW Council's Cabinet
The Report of the IWALC Meeting with the IW Council's Cabinet held on 13 October 2022 was received and noted.
- g) Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society Executive Committee
The Report of the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society Executive Committee meeting held on 19 October 2022 was received and noted.
- h) East Cowes Town Council
The Report of the East Cowes Town Council meeting held on 20 October 2022 was received and noted.
- i) Cowes Week Shoreside Wash Up Meeting
The Report of the Cowes Week Shoreside Wash Up meeting held on 13 October 2022 was received and noted.

8607 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2022

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of October 2022. Cheque payments totalled £8,349.94; petty cash payments totalled £87.98. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £8,349.94 and the petty cash payments of £87.98 be received, noted and approved.

8608 DONATION TO MOUNTBATTEN ISLE OF WIGHT

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to consider whether they wish to make a donation to Mountbatten Isle of Wight which in the past had been presented at the Light Up a Life Carol Concert in Cowes. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes a donation of £200 to Mountbatten Isle of Wight.

8609 CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF MEDINA YARD AND MEDINA VILLAGE (MIN NO 8575 REFERS)

The Town Clerk had circulated details of the change of ownership at Medina Yard and Medina Village from the Peter Harrison Trust to Diverse Marine Ltd. They look forward to engaging with all stakeholders to consider how to collectively and collaboratively improve the site to meet the needs of all tenants and stakeholders and look to development plans and opportunities on the site for the greater good of Cowes and the Isle of Wight.

8610 THE ISLAND PLAN (MIN NO 8575 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2022 the Island Plan was discussed regarding the recent rejection of the Plan by the IW Council. Councillor Fuller was asked why the Island Plan had been rejected. Councillor Fuller advised by email that many IW Councillors were unhappy with the outdated data which Planning Authorities are obliged by Government to use when assessing annual housing figures. With the release of the 2021 census data, IW Councillors believed that this was unacceptable. Councillor Fuller continues to work with IW Councillors to find solutions.

8611 RESPONSE FROM ISLAND ROADS REGARDING THE SCHEDULE OF WORKS FOR COWES IN 2022 (MIN NOS 8569 AND 8589 REFER)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2022, Councillors discussed two areas in Cowes in urgent need of resurfacing i.e. the junction of Baring Road and Castle Hill and York Street near to the junction with Bridge Road. The Wight Carriageway Conditioning Index scores (WCCI) are 10.32 for Baring Road and 10.56 for York Street. The scores are above the contract minimum threshold of 5.00 and therefore meet the required standard. There is no 'Forward Plan' beyond works programmed for 2022. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads to ask for the 2023 Schedule of Works for Cowes as soon as it becomes available.

8612 RESPONSE FROM PCSO PAUL IN RELATION TO UPDATING OF ONLINE CRIME STATISTICS (MIN NO 8572 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 6 October 2022 PCSO Paul agreed to ask for the online crime statistics to be updated. Those responsible for updating the statistics have been contacted and will look into getting it updated. However as the statistics have to be updated at the end of each month they will always be a month out of date for each Town Council meeting.

8613 FOOTPRINT TRUST QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT AND WARMER COWES SUMMARY FOR APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2022

Councillors received the Footprint Trust's quarterly impact report and a summary of the Warmer Cowes Service. The summary showed that 30 people had been helped during this six-month period and total savings identified was £4,098.

8614 COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S GDPR PRIVACY POLICY

A review of Cowes Town Council's GDPR Privacy Notice was carried out and no amendments were required. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approves the GDPR Privacy Notice.

8615 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officers in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Areas covered included playground inspections; Esplanade and beach inspections; dogs on beaches and dog fouling; toilet inspections; litter; graffiti; tree problems; homeless persons and outreach matters.

8616 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8617 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 8.26pm.

CHAIRMAN