

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Projects Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 6.15pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Walters (Non-Voting); Kate Scragg, Assistant Town Clerk

497. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown and Wardrop.

498. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

499. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 8 November 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

500. UPDATE ON EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **The Cut - Enhancements**

Martin Hayles requested an update from the IW Council on the timetabling for the enhancement works, expected to be carried out in early 2023 by Island Roads. They advised that increased workload following flooding and landslips, caused by the winter storms, has resulted in Island Roads' resources being mobilised to deal with safety issues. Island Roads will start preparations for the enhancement works and will be working up construction drawings. Martin will provide them with his drawings to assist.

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

Southern Water (owners of the building) have requested the Town Council commission an asbestos survey of the public conveniences at Medina Road, before they consider granting permission for the refurbishment works. The survey was undertaken on 7 December 2022, the findings of which were that no asbestos was identified during the survey or in any samples taken for analysis. The report has been shared with Southern Water and their response is awaited. Martin Hayles is preparing the Risk Assessment and documentation to be registered with the Health and Safety Executive and to be added to Southern Water's Asbestos Register.

c) **Ark and Dove Commemorations**

Island Roads have sent the Town Council's proposal to the IW Council for their consideration and approval, as the information board will be located on land owned by them. Island Roads have forwarded the IW Council's concerns regarding the proposed location of the board, which they feel may have an impact on the Cowes Week Village. Councillors confirmed the Town Council are happy to consider a slightly different location. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will write to Island Roads, advising that the Town Council are happy to consider a slightly different location.

d) **Secrets of the Solent**

The mural has not been installed by Southern Water due to workload pressures. The Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) are going to provide an information panel to be

placed next to the mural. Once the mural and information panel have been installed, a date for an official unveiling will be arranged.

e) **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 residential properties in the road, the results of which were shared with Island Roads. The survey results were discussed, however, none of the suggested solutions were supported by a clear majority of residents and Councillors felt unable to progress further at this time. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Assistant Town Clerk will prepare a summary of the survey results to be shared with the residents of Upper Moorgreen Road.
2. The Chairman will contact Island Roads to request estimated costs to install wooden bollards on the grass verges in Upper Moorgreen Road.

f) **Area outside Sainsbury's**

There is no new information from BT regarding the removal of the telephone box at this location. This item will be removed from future agendas until an update is forthcoming.

g) **The Bandstand**

The IW Council are happy to review any refurbishment scheme the Town Council proposes. Councillors will consider incorporating the Bandstand area when the refurbishment of The Parade public conveniences is being considered. This item will be removed from future agendas until the public conveniences refurbishment is being considered.

h) **Coronation Weekend**

The official pageant master has written to local authorities regarding the lighting of beacons for the Coronation. Buckingham Palace do not want beacons to be lit for the Coronation, the reason being they are conscious that the Coronation will take place less than a year after The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons were lit, and they are therefore anxious to ensure that the events planned for May 2023 have a markedly different look to those of June 2022. However, it has been agreed that Beacons should be lit on 6 June 2024, as the principal leading event led by our communities and organisations etc, in the celebration/commemoration/tribute to D-Day 80, the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Councillors discussed how the Town Council should commemorate the Coronation. Ideas focused around the Picnic in the Park community event and the flying of flags and bunting throughout the High Street. The existing red, white and blue bunting can be re-used but new Union Jack flags will be required for displaying throughout the High Street. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council considers earmarking the balance of the current 'New Projects' budget for expenses that relate to celebrating the King's Coronation.

i) **Cowes Events**

Councillor Paler provided an outline of proposed activities for a community/family event which requires a variety of sources of funding to progress. Discussions are underway with the IW Community Club, which has been put forward as a possible venue. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Paler will discuss the event logistics, including insurance, risk assessments and funding, with the IW Community Club.

501. NEW PROJECTS

a) **CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground**

Councillor Walters was present for this item. He updated Councillors on discussions with local CCTV installers. It is hoped that an installation of CCTV cameras will deter vandalism and antisocial behaviour in this area. Quotations will be sought for the installation of CCTV at Northwood Recreation Ground, including options for (1) including the public conveniences external area only, and (2) including the public conveniences and Skate Park areas. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Walters will request quotations for the installation of CCTV cameras at Northwood Recreation Ground.

Councillor Walters left the meeting after this item.

b) **Future Funding for Commercial / Sponsorship Opportunities**

The Chairman introduced this item and explained that Newport and Ryde Councils employ Place Plan Managers, and other town and parish councils on the Island employ Business Managers to look at grant funding and other commercial opportunities. This item will remain on the agenda for further discussion. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Newport and Ryde Councils for information on the role and job descriptions for their commercial managers.

c) **Review of Access Audit Report – Cowes Town Centre**

Councillors considered whether a review of the findings from the Access Audit on Cowes Town Centre should be undertaken. The majority of issues raised were under the remit of the IW Council through the PFI Contract with Island Roads. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Assistant Town Clerk will ask Island Roads what issues from the Access Audit have been resolved, or what plans they have to deliver them.

d) **Review Notes from informal meeting with IW Council – 14 November 2022**

The Notes from the informal meeting were discussed. Councillors raised their concerns regarding the condition of the footpath at the rear of Northwood Cricket Club in Northwood Recreation Ground, and the quality of the 'temporary' repair along Queens Road, opposite the New Holmwood Hotel. These questions will be raised at the next informal meeting with the IW Council on 13 January 2023.

The Chairman suggested building on the Place Plan to create an area planning strategy, including a local 'wish list', to prepare for any future S.106 monies that may be available.

502. MAINTENANCE ISSUES WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

a) **Street Furniture**

The Assistant Town Clerk has undertaken an inspection of all the Town Council's assets and circulated a list of maintenance requirements for Councillors' information. These will be prioritised and quotations obtained for repairs/redecoration.

b) **Public Conveniences**

Electrical condition reports have been completed and no issues were raised. The Assistant Town Clerk has undertaken monthly inspections of our public conveniences. A number of the Wallgate units are struggling, due to their age. A new Radar lock for the accessible toilet at Northwood Recreation Ground is on order, following vandalism to the facility which

caused irreparable damage to the Radar lock. There has been vandalism at The Parade Gents' facility and a number of wall tiles were damaged; they are due to be replaced shortly. The Chairman offered to check the roof void for moisture, following the draining of the water tanks. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Nicholson will inspect the roof void at The Parade public conveniences.

c) **Northwood Recreation Ground**

Quarterly inspections have been undertaken at the Town Council's facilities at Northwood Recreation Ground. Repairs are required to address corrosion under the Skatepark platforms. Graffiti will be removed from the MUGA and Skate Park. The Outdoor Gym mobile equipment requires rust treatment. The new plaques have been fitted to the entrance pillar and Community Orchard.

503. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

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

The proceedings terminated at 7.52pm

CHAIRMAN