

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 2 March 2023 at 7pm.

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

**In attendance:** One member of the public; one representative from the Island Food Festival Ltd; Ross Edmunds, IW Council's Area Regeneration Manager (7.11pm); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Assistant Town Clerk.

### **8657 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams & Carter.

### **8658 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **8659 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 anti-social behaviour issues and some drug related offences. A person had been reported as sleeping in the Cut toilets, the Police have removed a suitcase from the area and placed it in their property store. Police are investigating dog poisoning at Parkhurst Forest and holding beat surgeries in Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard.

### **8660 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 February 2023 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **8661 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The member of the public present raised the issue of planning permission being given to a development at 1 Ward Cottages, Market Hill which was approved by an IW Council Officer decision rather than the IW Council's Planning Committee. The Town Council advised that there is nothing further that can be done about the planning permission but we can continue to monitor the site which still has an enforcement case pending to tidy the site. Councillors suggested that residents neighbouring the site should engage a good surveyor to investigate the stability of the land in this area prior to development.

### **8662 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson & Peacey Wilcox and were circulated to all Town Councillors. Councillor Fuller advised that he continues to discuss the IW Council's shares in the Cowes Town Waterfront Trust, who have agreed that there should be greater community involvement and greater working with Cowes Town Council. Councillors raised concerns that there is reduced berthing space at Cowes Yacht Haven for regattas and events. It was agreed:

## ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the Chief Executive of the IW Council to request sight of the original Articles of Association for the Cowes Town Waterfront Trust.
2. The Town Clerk will make Cowes Town Waterfront Trust an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting.

Councillors Nicholson and Peacey Wilcox were available for questions but none were raised. Councillor Nicholson took the opportunity to introduce Ross Edmunds, IW Council's Area Regeneration Manager to the Town Council.

Mr Edmunds introduced himself as the IW Council's Area Regeneration Manager for Cowes and East Cowes; Ross is happy to meet with any Councillors. Chris Ashman, Director of Regeneration, is keen on using the Place Plan to enable things to happen. Ross' role is action-focussed to include business associations and other stakeholders. It was agreed:

### ACTION

Mr Edmunds will be invited to the next meeting of the Place Plan Working Group.

## **8663 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 February 2023 were received and noted. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council ear marks and adds the funds of £4,602.56 received from Visit Isle of Wight, to the budget heading 'Cowes and Northwood Place Plan Promotion' for 2023 / 2024.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council does not make a grant to Dragon Class, Solent Division.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council does not make a grant to Island Food Festival Ltd.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council makes a grant of £1,000 to Cowes Sailability Club, ensuring that they have adequate public liability insurance.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council does not set a cap on the amount of grant that can be applied for.**
- 6. That Cowes Town Council suspends Financial Regulation 10.4 as only one quotation has been received for the watering contract from the Contractor, J.W. Autoshine.**
- 7. That Cowes Town Council engages J.W. Autoshine for the watering contract in Cowes for 2023 for the sum of £5,920.**
- 8. That no amendments are required to the Cowes Town Council's Summary of Procedures for dealing with Complaints against Members.**
- 9. That Cowes Town Councillors and staff are offered the opportunity to take part in these learning opportunities at the cost of £25 per person and any costs are taken from the budget heading 'Training'.**

### b) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 14 February 2023 were received and noted. It was:

## RESOLVED

1. The Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee have identified the balance of the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading for the cost of installation and running of a CCTV system at Northwood Recreation Ground with any outstanding balance to come from the Public Toilet Refurbishment & Capital Projects budget heading, subject to any possible Police & Crime Commissioner grant that may be available.
2. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of £4,575 plus VAT for Lifeline Alarm Systems Ltd to supply and install a CCTV system at Northwood Recreation Ground.
3. That Cowes Town Council approves the ongoing monthly cost of £25 for 4G 2GB Data.
4. That Cowes Town Council approves the ongoing annual cost of £180 for monitoring, support and maintenance of the CCTV system.
5. That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of up to £400 to purchase an iPad (or similar device) for office use.

c) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 16 February 2023 were received and noted. Councillor Fuller advised that the IW Council are considering asking Town & Parish Councils to buy into the IW Council's Planning Enforcement service.

d) Place Plan Working Group

The Minutes of the Place Plan Working Group meetings held on 9 February 2023 and 21 February 2023 were received and noted. It was:

### RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council does not support the request for £1,000 for a new mural at The Cut.
2. That Cowes Town Council, subject to the event taking place in Cowes, supports the Pro Sailing Tour in the sum of up to £1,000 to promote the event, with the cost to be met from the 'Cowes and Northwood Place Plan Promotion' budget heading.

e) IWALC Executive Committee

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive Committee meeting held on 26 January 2023 was received and noted.

f) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library meeting held on 30 January 2023 were received and noted. Councillor Wardrop, as the Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library has been asked to pass on the Town Council's thanks to the Supporters.

## 8664 PORT SECURITY

Councillors discussed port security in relation to all of the Island's entry points for boats. Currently boats can arrive at Cowes Marina and we believe other Isle of Wight Marinas without checks on the following: last port of call; number of people on board; nationality of people on board; passport details and destination. Other islands

including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have checks in place to establish the authenticity of the boat / yacht and crew. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillors will continue to investigate and report back any further findings to a future Town Council meeting.

**8665 CYCLISTS v PEDESTRIAN AREA**

Councillors discussed the problems of cyclists and pedestrians in the pedestrianised area during the time of pedestrianisation. Cyclists say that the signage does not make them aware that they should dismount and walk through the pedestrian area. The Police are also concerned that the signage is insufficient to advise cyclists of the restrictions. Councillor Fuller has been liaising with Island Roads to try and get some signage written on the roads where cyclists will be able to clearly see the restriction. It was agreed:

ACTION

1. The Town Clerk will write to Island Roads asking for additional signage to be painted onto the road at the top of Shooters Hill and other access points on the High Street to advise cyclist of no cycling during the time of pedestrianisation. Copies to be sent to Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox, Leader of the IW Council; Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport; and Stewart Chandler, Highways and Transport Client Manager, IW Council.
2. The Town Clerk will ask Island Roads if the advisory bollard covers 'Cyclists Dismount' can be put in place throughout the High Street.

**8666 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of February 2023. Cheque payments totalled £10,202.21; petty cash payments totalled £35.84. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £10,202.21 and the petty cash payments of £35.84; be received, noted and approved.**

**8667 UPDATE REGARDING TWO CASUAL VACANCIES IN COWES MEDINA WARD**

The close date for the call of an election to fill these vacancies has passed and an election has not been called. The vacancies will be filled by co-option. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 29 March 2023 from 6pm onwards. Should there be successful candidates, the co-options will be ratified at the Town Council meeting on Thursday 6 April 2023.

**8668 APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUP**

There are vacancies on the following Committees / Working Groups: Planning & Licensing Committee x 2; Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee x 1; Projects Committee x 1; Place Plan Working Group x 2. It was agreed:

ACTION

These vacancies will be held over until all positions become vacant at the Annual Town Council meeting on Thursday 4 May 2023.

**8669 COWES CORONATION PICNIC EVENT, SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023**

Councillors discussed the Cowes Coronation Picnic Event on Sunday 7 May 2023 at Northwood Park. The Town Council is holding £500 from the 2022 event and has set aside £2,000 from the Town Council's 2023 / 2024 budget. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will administer the fund of the Cowes Coronation Picnic Event 2023.

**8670 MEMBERSHIP OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (IWALC)**

Councillors were asked to consider whether to renew Cowes Town Council's membership of IWALC for the annual sum of £1,728.96. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council renews its membership of The Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) for the sum of £1,728.96.**

**8671 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

A verbal update regarding the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was relayed to all Town Councillors. The activities included toilet inspections; playpark inspections; slipway inspections and beach inspections.

**8672 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8673 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

- Cowes Town Waterfront Trust

The proceedings terminated at 8.42pm.

**CHAIRMAN**