

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 1 June 2023 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Nicholson (Town Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillors Carter, Dodwell, Fuller, Hollis, Oliver, Paler, Sanders, Walters & Wardrop.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk.

### **8728 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Bertie, Brown, Ellis, Peacey Wilcox & Rafferty.

### **8729 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **8730 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not attend the meeting and did not provide a report. Councillors expressed their concerns about the lack of police response and activity in Cowes. It was agreed:

#### ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will write to the IW Chief Constable (c.c. Police & Crime Commissioner) to advise of the lack of engagement and reports from local police officers; especially in regard to the new local Police hub which Councillors heard from the County Press rather than the local Police.
2. The Town Clerk will write to Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, to invite her to attend a future Town Council meeting.

### **8731 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 11 May 2023, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **8732 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

### **8733 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports focussing on local matters were received from Councillors Fuller, Nicholson and Peacey Wilcox and were circulated to all Town Councillors.

Councillor Fuller referred to the consultation to close four primary schools on the Island, Cowes Primary School being one. He said that robust representations must be made regarding this important issue.

Reference was also made to parents stopping on the zigzag lines of the crossing at Cowes Enterprise College to drop students off to the school. It was agreed:

#### ACTION

Councillor Fuller will report this issue to the IW Council's Parking Services for monitoring these motoring offences.

In Councillor Peacey Wilcox's absence, Councillor Fuller was asked about Island Roads' Schedule of Works for 2023. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Fuller will write to the IW Council's Cabinet Member Phil Jordan to ask for Island Roads' current Schedule of Works.

**8734 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

a) IWALC Meeting with IW Council's Cabinet

The Report of the IWALC meeting with the IW Council's Cabinet held on 13 April 2023 was received and noted.

b) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 24 April 2023 were received and noted.

c) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee

The draft Minutes of the meeting of Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee held on 19 April 2023 were received and noted.

**8735 CENTRAL HIGH STREET EMPTY SHOP**

This matter was discussed under Minute No. 8740.

**8736 COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor Paler provided a written report including his attendance at the Seagrass Symposium at Cowes Yacht Haven and details of UKSA's Test the Water program for year 6 and year 11 students.

**8737 COWES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

The Town Clerk had circulated details of the Cowes Business Association closure and their wish to gift any remaining funds to Cowes Town Council to be used for the benefit of all of Cowes. It was:

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council accepts any remaining funds from Cowes Business Association.**
- 2. Allocation of the funds will be agreed once received.**

**8738 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2023**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of May 2023. Cheque payments totalled £27,368.73; petty cash payments totalled £82.00. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments of £27,368.73 and petty cash payments of £82.00 be received, noted and approved.**

**8739 APPOINTMENTS TO THE FINANCE, ACQUISITIONS & STAFFING COMMITTEE AND THE PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Following the Annual Town Council meeting on 11 May 2023, there remains one vacancy on the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee and one vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That there remains one vacancy on the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee and one vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee.**

**8740 EMPTY HIGH STREET SHOP (FORMERLY WATSON BULL & PORTER)**

The Town Council discussed this empty shop. A planning application has now been submitted to the IW Council for the shop to be turned into a local Police Neighbourhood Office which will be available to the public for pre-arranged appointments.

**8741 THE WISHING WELL, SHOOTERS HILL**

Councillors discussed the Wishing Well on Shooters Hill which has been cordoned off due to vandalism. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Council's Projects Committee will discuss the future of the Wishing Well.

**8742 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken include playground inspections; public toilet inspections; monitoring streets for dog fouling; fly tipping patrols.

Councillors discussed the issues of feeding seagulls. Although signage is in place around the Town to deter this practice, it was felt that larger signs may be a better deterrent. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will ask the Environment Officer if larger signage 'Do not feed the seagulls' is available.

**8743 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**8744 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Review of Standing Orders.

The proceedings terminated at 7.42pm.

**CHAIRMAN**