

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 13 July 2023 at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Nicholson (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Brown, Carter, Ellis, Oliver, Peacey Wilcox, Rafferty, Sanders, Walters and Wardrop.

In attendance: Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk, two representatives from the Be More Green Festival; PCSO's Agrotis and Morris.

PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE RECENT BE MORE GREEN FESTIVAL

The Town Council were thanked for their financial support of £2,500 for the event, which was spent on artists' materials for those attending to be creative, and licence fees. It was estimated that £7,500 worth of In Kind contributions were received.

Volunteers, including from Cowes Baptist Church, Moorgreen Road Allotment Society and local traders provided a range of activities and refreshments for those attending to enjoy. Regular headcounts throughout the day provided an estimate of 500-600 people through the gates during the event.

Music in the woodland area had been well received.

The trading licence for the site had proven difficult to obtain; Ross Edmunds was thanked for his assistance with this.

The event was well received by those who attended. It was felt to have been beneficial for the event being held at the same time as Cowes Fringe as a number of people dropped in on their way to Fringe events.

Considerations for future events include an increase in music; hay bales for sitting on and more shaded areas.

The Mayor thanked the representatives of the Be More Green Festival for their presentation.

8745 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bertie, Dodwell, Fuller, Hollis and Paler.

8746 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ellis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 8751c1. as his nephew attends the 2nd Cowes (St. Mary's) Sea Scouts.

8747 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

No written report had been provided, however, PCSO Agrotis and student PCSO Morris were in attendance.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Agrotis for his fantastic work locally; he reiterated the difficulties the public face when trying to report non-urgent incidents. PCSO Agrotis advised that the Police call centre handlers answer both 999 and 101 calls, having to give priority to answering 999 calls.

Antisocial behaviour in a number of shops and cyclists in the High Street were raised. PCSO Agrotis advised that he had provided the shop managers with a proforma statement for reporting antisocial behaviour. The Police were requested to increase

patrols in these areas when on duty. There was felt to be an opportunity to work with the schools to tackle these issues.

Inspector Gooding provided an update on their proposed office in Cowes High Street. The facility will provide a yellow telephone outside. The Cowes Neighbourhood Team will be stationed and working from there when they are on duty. It will have an interview room and facilities for the Police to use.

Councillor Oliver asked if there was scope for the Town Council to share an office space with the Police. The Mayor advised this could be considered under the development of the Place Plan.

8748 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 June 2023, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8749 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8750 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 Nicholson advised there may be an opportunity to work with Southampton University PHD students to develop a planning strategy under the Place Plan; the Department for Trade and Industry may consider using Cowes area Place Plan as a pilot.

8751 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meetings held on 13 June 2023 and 11 July 2023 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council endorse the 2024 edition of Cowes Port Handbook and agrees to the use of its logo in the publication.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council adopts the draft Terms of Reference for the Place Plan Steering and Working Groups.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council pays £845 to the IW Council for refurbishment of the ornamental fountain, with the cost to be met from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council approves up to £16,000 for all costs associated with installing the festive lights for the 2023 festive season, with the cost to be met from the 'Festive lights/Xmas tree' budget heading.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council approves providing one dressed Christmas Tree to be located in Francki Place, at a cost of up to £1,000, with the cost to be met from the 'Festive lights/Xmas tree' budget heading.**

Councillor Adams left the meeting at 7.50pm.

- b) Planning & Licensing Committee
The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 31 May 2023 and 21 June 2023 were received and noted.
A question was raised about the allocation of S.106 monies. The Mayor confirmed funds are spent in that area only.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox left the meeting at 7.54pm.

- c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee
The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 27 June 2023 were received and noted. It was:
RESOLVED
1. That a grant be made to 2nd Cowes (St Mary's) Sea Scouts in the sum of £3,000.
2. That a grant be made to The Apex Church in the sum of £1,363.
3. That a grant be made to Association of Sail Training Organisations in the sum of £1,000.
4. That a grant be made to Victim Support in the sum of £100.
- d) Supporters of Cowes Library
The Minutes of the meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 5 June 2023 were received and noted.
- e) IWALC Meeting with IW Council's Cabinet
The Report of the IWALC meeting with the IW Council's Cabinet held on 8 June 2023 was received and noted.
- f) IW Council's Environment & Sustainability Forum
The Minutes of the IW Council's Environment & Sustainability Forum held on 16 May 2023 were received and noted.

8752 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a report outlining his recent mayoral duties and encouraged Councillors to do the same to provide an update on their Councillor duties during the month. He praised the Deputy Mayor for his support with civic engagements and for being a great asset.

8753 COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Paler provided a written report including his attendance at the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society meeting and the IWALC AGM, an update on the Living Well and Early Help hub and UKSA's Test the Water program.

8754 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2023. Cheque payments totalled £25,024.30; petty cash payments totalled £77.20. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £25,024.30 and petty cash payments of £77.20 be received, noted and approved.

8755 TO CONSIDER IF COWES TOWN COUNCIL HAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR BDO LLP

The External Auditor has requested that Cowes Town Council consider whether there is a conflict of interest with BDO LLP. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council does not have a conflict of interest with BDO LLP.

8756 DISCRIMINATION CASE AND REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Following a discrimination claim against the Town Council in relation to the disabled toilet at The Cut, the self-door closer has been removed. The Claimant was awarded damages of £5,000 and costs of £801. The Town Council is looking into the costs and suitability of an automatic door at the facility.

The Town Council's Equality & Diversity Policy was reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting on 11 May 2023 and Councillors are asked to further review this in light of this matter. The Mayor suggested that Councillors consider adopting the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Equality & Diversity Policy. It was agreed:

ACTION

NALC's Equality & Diversity Policy will be circulated to all Town Councillors and considered at the next meeting of the Town Council.

8757 CORRESPONDENCE FROM COWES TOWN WATERFRONT TRUST

Cowes Town Waterfront Trust (CTWT) provided a response to the Town Council's request for a Town Councillor to sit on the Board of Trustees. CTWT will notify the Town Council of any future vacancies for trustees. If a Town Councillor wishes to put themselves forward for consideration, CTWT will put them in touch with Nurole who organises the initial interviews.

8758 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS

The Town Council's Standing Orders were reviewed at the Annual Town Council meeting on 11 May 2023 and Councillors are asked to further review Standing Order No. 26, Dress Code, in light of recent comments made by Councillors about the wording being out-dated. Following discussion, Councillors felt that there was no need for the words "*(Unsuitable attire is considered to be: T-shirts, shorts, denim jeans, casual hats etc.)*" and this wording should be removed. It was:

RESOLVED

That the words "*(Unsuitable attire is considered to be: T-shirts, shorts, denim jeans, casual hats etc.)*" be removed from Standing Order 26.1.

8759 DESIGNS FOR ADDING AN OAK PLAQUE TO THE COVID MEMORIAL

Councillors were presented with three designs for an oak plaque to be placed near the granite Covid memorial in the Park Road Rosebed, advising that the Town Council provided the memorial. A simple border and wording, accompanied by two small doves, was preferred. It was suggested that the plaque could be fixed to the railings, subject to the IW Council's approval, to avoid it becoming obscured by the roses. Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council agrees the amended design and wording for the oak plaque.

It was agreed:

ACTION

That the Deputy Town Clerk seeks permission from the IW Council to install the oak plaque on the Rosebed railings.

8760 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken routinely include dogs, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and public toilets.

Councillors Brown and Wardrop left the meeting at 8.50pm.

8761 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8762 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- To follow up a response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The proceedings terminated at 8.51pm.

CHAIRMAN