

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 1 February 2024 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Claudine Russell, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk;
Ross Edmunds, IOW Council Regeneration; A representative from the Mobile Food Pantry

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor welcomed the new Town Clerk, Claudine Russell.

PRESENTATION FROM ABBI LEVERTON REGARDING THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY COWES

The presentation included an overview of how the mobile food pantry works and its locations. The mobile food pantry is at Northwood Cemetery every Monday between 10:30am and 12:30pm and can serve 30 people per location.

8860 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hollis & Oliver.

8861 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Number 8866.c.6 as he is a member of the Isle of Wight Council's Pension Fund Committee.
- b) No written dispensations were received.

8862 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

There was no report received from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer. PC Luke Agrotis emailed to explain they are still settling in to the new police station in Cowes and would welcome Councillors at their weekly surgeries. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Mayor will pass on Councillors' comments to the Police.

8863 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 December 2023, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8864 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8865 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

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

Councillor Fuller provided an update on 'cold calling'.

Councillor Nicholson provided an update on the Place Plan; the first PHD student has started working on the Place Plan and stakeholder numbers are increasing. There were 40 attendees at the first Place Plan Working Group Meeting.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox provided an update on the Sea Cadets.

It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will request a supply of 'cold calling' stickers from Trading Standards.

8866 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 9 January 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council enter into a grant agreement with the IW Council to receive £24,000 grant funding towards the installation of a Changing Places Toilet Facility at The Cut, Cowes.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council enter into an Attachment Licence with the IW Council to take responsibility for the Wishing Well.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council suspend Financial Regulation 10.4 to allow consideration of one quotation for the works described below at the Wishing Well and pump.**
- 4. That, subject to the Attachment Licence being agreed, Cowes Town Council appoint Crown Park to cover the Wishing Well with a steel structure, creating a new flowerbed; and removal of the pump, for the cost of £1,960, with the cost to be met from the 'New Projects' budget heading.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council engage Care in the Garden to remove the existing planting in the Bath Road flowerbed and replace with plants with spikey foliage, at a cost of £1,350, with the cost to be met from the 'Cowes in Bloom' budget heading.**
- 6. That Cowes Town Council engage Care in the Garden to supply and install in the Bandstand flowerbed, two new spikey plants, at a cost of £190, with the cost to be met from the 'Cowes in Bloom' budget heading.**

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 11 January 2024 and 25 January 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council agree for the Planning and Licensing Committee to submit a response to the Isle of Wight Council's Street Furniture Licensing Policy on behalf of the Town Council.

c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 23 January 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2023.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council approve the Ringfenced and Earmarked budget balances as at 31 March 2024.**

3. That Cowes Town Council approve Councillors Carter, Ellis and Walters to become account signatories for the Lloyds Bank Accounts and Nationwide Savings Account.

4. That Cowes Town Council agree the updated grant application form and scoring matrix.

5. That Cowes Town Council receive and approve the amended contract of employment for the Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to be signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

6. That Cowes Town Council receive and note the Isle of Wight Council Pension Fund employer consultation: Complaints and Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

8867 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor updated Councillors on recent activities including an update on the informal governance committee.

8868 COWES HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Wardrop provided a written report on Cowes Heritage and Community Centre. Councillors would like to see the Centre utilised more by the community. Ross Edmunds suggested LWEH (Living Well Early Help) may be interested in using the Centre. It was agreed:

ACTION

Councillor Wardrop will keep Councillors updated.

8869 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

The Town Clerk had circulated details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of December 2023 and January 2024. Cheque payments in December 2023 totalled £64,258.56; petty cash payments totalled £63.55. Cheque payments in January 2024 totalled £91,319.74; petty cash payments totalled £102.97 It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £64,258.56 and £91,319.74 and the petty cash payments of £63.55 and £102.97 be received, noted and approved.

8870 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken included: dealing with issues around dogs in the park, cycling in the town centre and funding of a youth provision. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will pass on Councillors sincere thanks to the Environment Officer for the hard work she does.

8871 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8872 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 8:30pm.

CHAIRMAN