

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 4 April 2024 at 7pm.

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

In attendance: Claudine Russell, Town Clerk and Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk.

8892 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rafferty and Wardrop.

8893 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Oliver declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Minute Number 8898c2 as he knows the applicant.

8894 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A report was received from PC Rowlands. Councillors are happy that the local police are engaging more and praised their quick action and responses to local issues. The Police have a new app which links street names and house numbers to crime matters which helps build a database. This Safer Streets initiative as well as the Healthy Streets initiative is working with the Place Plan. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk to reply to PC Rowlands to thank him for his report and Councillors acknowledge their timely responses to intelligence.

8895 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 March 2024, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8896 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

8897 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 the Island Plan, which has been delayed again, the reason being the narrative used on paragraph 16.15 and the G2 Policy on growth. Councillor Fuller has been liaising with Officers to try and make steps to compromise. This has been in consultation for 7 years and most members want this looked in to. This matter was also discussed at the IWALC Cabinet Meeting who also do not want any further delay. The Island Plan will come back to the Isle of Wight Council in a matter of weeks. Councillor Fuller has been speaking with residents regarding the Street Trading Licence application down by Egypt Point which has been approved by the Isle of Wight Council Licensing Committee. There were some concerns raised both from residents and Councillors regarding the combustion

engine generator. Environmental Health considered this but felt it was unlikely to be an issue. Councillor Fuller has advised residents to log any concerns to Environmental Health. The Boots chemist has now closed which has resulted in some residents waiting long periods of time for their prescriptions and has put more pressure on the pharmacy in town. Councillor Nicholson has written to the Commissioners asking them to review.

Councillor Nicholson provided an update on where we are with the Place Plan.

Councillor Peacey Wilcox provided an update on the parking issues on Bellevue Road which the Police have been involved with and undertaken a leaflet drop around that area asking car owners to be more considerate with their parking. Councillor Peacey Wilcox and Councillor Hollis are meeting with the Architect regarding the Clare Lallow Planning Application, as this was refused by the Isle of Wight Council. There are issues with the administration of the application made by the Environment Agency as well as the applicant being asked to supply an archaeological survey when the pre-planning advice for this application started back in February 2023. Councillors Peacey Wilcox and Hollis would like this application brought back to the IW Council's Planning Committee and will attend this meeting to make a supportive representation. Artic Park is still ongoing, litter picks have been carried out and new planting but we need to find a purpose for this piece of land.

8898 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 March 2024 were received and noted.

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 6 March 2024 were received and noted. After some discussion, it was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to the Marine Management Organisation and Mark Spencer MP, cc in Paul Fuller, to express Councillor's concerns with the failure of the operation of the MMO, who have insufficient people to complete the roles resulting in licenses not being co-ordinated in a timely manner. Dredging is a vital operation in the Harbour and the Medina which needs to be kept viable.

c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council refer the request for £2,000 by IOW Pantries to the Plan Plan Advisory Group for consideration from the Place Plan Promotion budget heading.

Councillor Oliver left the meeting.

2. That Cowes Town Council refer the request for £1,400 by IW Story Festival £1,400 to the Place Plan Advisory Group for considerations from the Place Plan Promotion budget heading.

Councillor Oliver returned to the meeting.

- 3. That Councillors suspend Financial Regulation 10.4 as only one quotation from Care in the Garden has been received with regards to the planting of troughs and hanging baskets.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the summer planting of the troughs and planters in Cowes for the sum of £1,110.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the filling and installation of hanging baskets in Cowes for the sum of £1,700.**
- 6. That Cowes Town Council engages Care in the Garden for the maintenance, weeding, dead heading and removal of the plants at the end of the season in Cowes for £800.**
- 7. That Cowes Town Council agree in principle to the banners and flags pricing structure.**

d) Supporters of Cowes Library Group

The Minutes of the Supporters of Cowes Library Group's Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting held on 26 February 2024 were received and noted. The Councillors congratulated the Library on winning funding for library capital improvements.

e) Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 January 2024 were received and noted.

f) IWALC Cabinet Meeting

The Minutes from the IWALC Cabinet Meeting held on 14 March 2024 were not available prior to this meeting. Councillor Fuller attended the meeting and gave some verbal feedback as there have been some concerns that people are not getting the legal advice requested, which resonates across the country. IWALC have contacted the Executives at NALC and would like to see improvements to ensure they are able to access legal advice and support amongst other things. Councillor Fuller encourages Councillors to attend these cabinet meetings to represent the Cowes area.

8899 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor submitted a written report on his recent activities and encouraged Councillors to do the same, to ensure we are offering value for money on how we operate as a Town Council. The Town Council will be looking at undertaking an administrative review as the Clerks are under increased pressure and a growing workload.

When making nominations for positions in the Council, Councillors need to ensure they are making the right decisions based on qualifications, experience and personal interests. There is a form that has been sent to all Councillors to complete detailing this. It was agreed:

ACTION

All Councillors to ensure they have completed the Qualification, Skills and Interests Form and returned this to the Clerks.

8900 COUNCILLOR OLIVER'S REPORT

Councillor Oliver submitted a written report prior to this meeting and updated Councillors on his recent activities including his interest in the Biosphere Festival and an update on the ramps at Northwood Recreation Ground.

8901 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of March 2024. Cheque payments totalled £67,524.53; petty cash payments totalled £128.11. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £67,524.53 and the petty cash payments of £128.11 be received, noted and approved.

8902 FUNDING FOR TWO PLACE PLAN RELATED PROJECTS

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the Isle of Wight Council have made a contribution of £6,000 for two Place Plan Projects; £5,000 towards Cowes High Street furniture and planters and £1,000 towards the wildflower project in and around Cowes. The Town Clerk suggested that this amount is earmarked for these two projects and carried forward to the 2024-2025 financial year. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council earmark the £6,000 received from the Isle of Wight Council to be used against the Place Plan projects detailed above.

8903 REVISED DRAWINGS AND PLANNING APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CUT REGENERATION

The Planning Permission for this project is due to expire in May 2024. Therefore, a new planning application needs to be submitted by the 7 May 2024, along with revised drawings and an updated Heritage Statement. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approve the revised drawings and give permission for a new planning application to be submitted.

8904 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was circulated to all Town Councillors. Actions taken recently include securing funding for a Monday evening Youth Club that will take place from Cowes Combined Services Club. Further funding is being considered and Cowes Town Council may need to help facilitate this funding. The PCSO has also applied for a grant for this youth project to help prevent youth anti-social behaviour.

ACTION

The Town Clerk to contact Accountants to make enquiries regarding reclaiming VAT.

8905 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

There were no miscellaneous publications or correspondence.

8906 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 8:15pm

CHAIRMAN