

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 13 June 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillor Nicholson (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Carter, Ellis, Hollis, Oliver, Rafferty, Sanders, Walters & White

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Nicholson welcomed Lorraine White who has been co-opted to Cowes Medina Ward.

8943 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barney, Brown, Dodwell, Fuller, Peacey Wilcox & Wardrop.

8944 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nicholson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 8953 as he is a Trustee of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillors Carter, Hollis and Sanders declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 8953 as they are members of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Oliver declared a pecuniary interest and abstained from voting in regard to Minute No 8949a5 as his wife will be involved in the Family Creative Zone.

8945 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

There was a report from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer focussing on Cowes Police Station, cycling in the pedestrian zone, ASB 'Youth' and 'Let's talk app'.

Councillor Sanders is currently in dialogue with Cowes Police in regard to no action being taken against cyclists cycling through the pedestrianised High Street. The current signage says no vehicles so this should be sufficient to take action against offenders. The telephone outside the Police Station is being regularly monitored to ensure that it is working.

The Town Clerk has circulated a Police survey to all Town Councillors who are urged to complete this.

8946 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 9 May 2024, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8947 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

8948 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.

ACTIONS

1. In the absence of Councillor Fuller, Councillor Walters agreed to email and ask him why the payments for the disposal of IW Council land is regarded as commercially sensitive, even to the IW Council's Scrutiny Committee.
2. In the absence of Councillor Peacey Wilcox, the Town Clerk will ask if she will be attending Cowes Library's Biosphere event on 29 June 2024.

8949 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cowes Town Council appoints A1 Garage Door Specialists Ltd to supply and install a safety barrier and signage at the Changing Places Facility in The Cut, for the cost of £875 plus VAT, with the cost to be met from the money already approved for this project.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council appoints Crown Park Builders to paint yellow hatching outside the entrance to the Changing Places Pod at The Cut, and outside the entrance to the Disabled facility at Medina Road (subject to IW Council permission), for the cost of £725 plus VAT, with the cost to be met from the money already approved for both projects.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council appoints A1 Garage Door Specialists Ltd to supply and install a safety barrier and signage at the Disabled Facility at Medina Road, for the cost of £945 plus VAT, with the cost to be met from the money already approved for this project.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council approves the terms of the Attachment Licence for the Wishing Well at Shooters Hill and authorises the Town Mayor and Town Clerk to sign the same.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council sponsor the proposed activities for a Family Creative Zone, during Cowes Week 2024, for the cost of £2,550 with the cost to be met from the 'Cowes and Northwood Place Plan Promotion' budget heading.**
- 6. That the tickets for the Family Creative Zone are shared between Cowes Primary and Lanesend Primary Schools.**
- 7. That Cowes Town Council approves the amended Community Emergency Plan.**

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 15 May 2024 and 5 June 2024 were received and noted. It was agreed:

ACTION

Cowes Town Council will write to the IW Council's Planning Department to express their concerns about the delay in making a decision about Planning Application 24/00176/FUL – Clare Lallow Ltd. This company is important to Cowes and a considerable local employer.

c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

1. That a grant be made to Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £600. Councillors have requested that the Town Council are regarded as sponsors and recognised in any promotional material for the event. Cowes Town Council will help the Tournament to seek other ways of funding in future years.

2. That a grant be made to Independent Arts in the sum of £1,500.

3. That a grant be made to the Supporters of Cowes Library in the sum of £1,000.

4. That Cowes Town Council sets aside £500 from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading for works at Arctic Park.

5. That Cowes Town Council donates £500 from the ear-marked D-Day funds to Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day 2024 for the provision of the Marching Bands on 30 June 2024 recognised as a sponsor.

d) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 13 May 2024 were received and noted. Councillors were advised that the Supporters of Cowes Library are very grateful for the support shown by Cowes Town Council.

e) IWALC / IW Council Cabinet Meeting

The Notes of the meeting between IWALC and the IW Council's Cabinet held on 9 May 2024 were received and noted.

8950 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor reported on the Mayor's role, continuity and making rules to serve. He also advised Councillors that it is important to raise the profile of Cowes Town Council in relation to the events and facilities that it supports. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for organising the Town Council's input to the recent Picnic in the Park. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd to express thanks for their organisation of the Picnic in the Park which was very well attended.

8951 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2024

The Town Clerk had circulated details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of May 2024. Cheque payments totalled £82,395.79; petty cash payments totalled £53.02. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £82,395.79 and the petty cash payments of £53.02 be received, noted and approved.

8952 TO CONSIDER WHETHER 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.

8953 FUNDING FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWOOD CEMETERY'S GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORK

The Town Clerk reported that the Application for Grant from the Friends of Northwood Cemetery of £4,000 was considered by the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024 and referred to the Place Plan Advisory Group for scoring and making a recommendation as to whether Cowes Town Council should support this request. The Place Plan Advisory Group scored the application and found that the project meets the Place Plan values to a strong degree. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council makes a payment of £4,000 to the Friends of Northwood Cemetery for grounds maintenance work for 2024 / 2025, with the funds to be met from the 'Cowes and Northwood Place Plan Promotion' budget heading.

Councillor Walters left the meeting for the next item.

8954 APPLICATION FOR GRANT – COWES CLASSICS DAY 2024

Due to a clerical error the Application for Grant of £1,500 from Cowes Classics Day 2024 was not considered at the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024; Councillors discussed this Application for Grant. It was:

RESOLVED

That a grant be made to Cowes Classics Day 2024 in the sum of £1,500. The grant is to support the shoreside community activities and not the sailing regatta.

Recognition of the Town Council's support is required and should be made through any promotional / advertising material for the event.

8955 RESPONSE FROM MARITIME MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (MIN NO 8896b REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 4 April 2024, the Town Clerk was asked to write to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to raise the Town Council's concerns regarding the MMO not having enough staff to complete the task of issuing licenses in a timely manner, resulting in the lack of dredging in Cowes Harbour and the River Medina.

The response stated that the MMO is looking to continuously improve their services and is currently undertaking the Marine Planning and Licensing step-back programme with the intent being to drive improvements in customer and staff experiences and build better integration across marine planning and licensing (MP&L). In the meantime the Licensing team are proactively progressing all licence applications, and undertaking work to forecast licence applications. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will send a copy of the MMO response to the Harbour Master and Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee.

8956 RESPONSE FROM COWES POLICE IN REGARD TO THE LACK OF VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE TOWN AND LACK OF OPENING HOURS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC (MIN NO 8921 REFERS)

At the Town Council meeting on 9 May 2024, Councillors asked the Town Clerk to write to the Police to raise the distinct lack of police presence in the town and asking

for the availability of the Police Station to be readily available for residents and businesses.

The response stated that there was a change of police personnel in Cowes, however the PCSO's regularly patrol the High Street but cannot be there all the time due to other local commitments in Northwood and Gurnard. There is a poster on the door of the Police Station every week with opening dates and times, it is also advertised on Hampshire Police's website.

8957 RESPONSE FROM COWES LIBRARY IN REGARD TO THE GIFT OF THE KING CHARLES III PORTRAIT (MIN NO 8939 REFERS)

The Town Council received a gift of a portrait of King Charles III for display in public buildings. The Town Council offered the portrait to Cowes Library who will be delighted to accept when their remedial works are completed later this year.

8958 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

A report outlining the activities of the Environment Officer in Cowes was not received.

8959 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8960 CO-OPTION TO COWES MEDINA WARD

Following the interview of three candidates on Friday 7 June 2024, Lorraine White has been co-opted to Cowes Medina Ward and has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor White said that she is very pleased to have joined the Town Council.

8961 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

Prior to the close of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stuart Ellis, thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her invaluable help in organising the D-Day commemorations held on The Parade on 6 June 2024. The feedback of the event has been fantastic.

The proceedings terminated at 8.13pm.

CHAIRMAN