

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in the Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 18 July 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillor Nicholson (Town Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Brown, Carter, Dodwell (7.01pm), Ellis, Fuller (7.01pm), Hollis, Peacey Wilcox (7.59pm), Rafferty, Sanders, Walters, Wardrop & White

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Locum Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk; PC Crews, Cowes Police; one member of the public.

8962 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barney & Oliver.

8963 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

8964 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A report was received from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Officer focussing on Cowes Police Station, cycling in the pedestrian zone, 'Let's talk app' and Isle of Wight Alert Community Messaging System. PC Crews was in attendance to address any concerns. He advised that he spends 50% of his time addressing local issues and being out and about in Cowes. Concerns were raised about a lone Police Officer working during a very busy Round the Island weekend. PC Crews assured Councillors that assistance is available to all lone Police Officers if help is summoned.

8965 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 June 2024 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8966 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The member of the public present asked Councillors if they can have any influence over the Northwood House Trustees to install a handrail in the middle of the steps leading from the Rotunda to the Park. It was reported that there have been falls on these steps due to the lack of a handrail. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Northwood House charitable Trust Co. Ltd to ask if a handrail can be installed on the steps between the Rotunda car park and Northwood Park.

8967 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 reminded Councillors that the Island Planning Strategy Consultation is active with a deadline for responses by midnight on 19 August 2024. Councillor Nicholson was available for questions but none were raised.

8968 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Projects Committee

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

RESOLVED

1. That Cowes Town Council approves up to £16,000 for all costs associated with installing the festive lights for the 2024 festive season, with the cost to be met from the 'Festive lights/Xmas tree' budget heading.

2. That Cowes Town Council provides 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.

3. That Cowes Town Council appoints John Groves (IW) Ltd to remove the guttering system and make good any fixing holes on the Watch House Shelter, at a cost of £270, with the cost to be met from the money set aside for the Watch House Shelter.

4. That Cowes Town Council appoints FreshAir Fitness to undertake a service on the mobile gym equipment, at a cost of £659.80, with the cost to be met from the 'Northwood Rec – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance' budget heading.

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meetings held on 26 June 2024 and 17 July 2024 were received and noted.

c) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 June 2024 were received and noted. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council extends the arrangement with the Locum Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer until 31 October 2024.

d) Cowes Week Bicentenary Working Group

The Minutes of the Cowes Week Bicentenary Working Group meeting held on 11 July 2024 were received and noted.

e) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the meeting of the Supporters of Cowes Library held on 10 June 2024 were received and noted.

8969 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor reported on the current review of staffing which has shown that there is an immediate requirement for more Town Council staff. All options are currently being considered. The Mayor also reported on the progress being made with the Place Plan which is entering a new phase, developing objectives and working with interested local stakeholders to deliver on accredited projects.

8970 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024

The Town Clerk had circulated details of cheque and petty cash payments for the month of June 2024. Cheque payments totalled £44,810.03; petty cash payments totalled £25.61. It was:

RESOLVED

That the cheque payments of £44,810.03 and the petty cash payments of £25.61 be received, noted and approved.

8971 TO CONSIDER HOLDING THE FUNDS OF £5,000 RAISED FOR COWES TRADERS AFTER THE RECENT FLOODS

Following the recent floods in Cowes, funds of £5,000 had been raised to help businesses recover. The Town Council has been asked to hold these funds while their allocation is being considered by the fundraisers. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council hold the funds of £5,000 until the fundraisers agree the allocation of the funds.

8972 UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

At the Town Council meeting on 13 June 2024 it was resolved to support the Armed Forces Day 2024 by sponsoring the Marching Bands. When the Town Clerk contacted the organisers to advise of this sponsorship the Marching Bands had already received sponsorship. The Town Council were asked to consider sponsoring the Fort Cumberland Guard and a majority of Councillors agreed to this change in sponsorship.

8973 TO CONSIDER WHICH CHARITY / CHARITIES SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE FUNDS OF £453 RAISED FROM THE PICNIC IN THE PARK DOG SHOW

At the Picnic in the Park Dog Show funds of £453 were raised from participants and traditionally this money has been donated to one or more charities. Councillors were asked to consider which charity or charities to support. It was:

RESOLVED

That 50 % of the funds i.e. £226.50 each be donated to the Alzheimer Cafe and the Foodbank.

8974 APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE

There remains one vacancy on the Planning & Licensing Committee and Councillors were asked for a nomination. It was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor White be appointed to the Planning & Licensing Committee.

8975 TO CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO 1ST NEWCHURCH SCOUT GROUP'S SUMMER EXPEDITION

Councillors were asked to consider making a donation to 1st Newchurch Scout Group's Summer Expedition in Stockholm from the 1st to 10th August 2024. The Group is made up of 12 young people, the majority of whom have additional needs. The Town Clerk asked the organisers how many Cowes young people were attending, but did not receive a response. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council does not make a donation to 1st Newchurch Scout Group's Summer Expedition.

8976 TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF LITHIUM BATTERIES USED IN E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS AND THEIR DISPOSAL

Councillors received a request to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters and their disposal. The Bill had its first reading on 5 June 2024, other stages will follow. It was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council supports the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters and their disposal.

8977 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Due to a change in staff and current pressures, a report had not been received from the Environment Officer in Cowes.

8978 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

8979 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- To request a debrief / feedback from the Cowes Fringe Festival 2024 in person or via a written report.

The proceedings terminated at 8.12pm.

CHAIRMAN