

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Cowes Town Council held in The Dining Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7pm.

**Present:** Councillor Peacey Wilcox (Deputy Town Mayor) (Chairman).  
Councillors Adams, Dodwell, Marriott, Nicholson, Sanders & White.

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Scragg, Deputy Town Clerk.  
A representative from Community Action IW; one member of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Councillors expressed their sadness at the passing of Mrs Kay Banks. Kay was the rock that supported her husband Geoff, this enabled him the time to carry out his Councillor and Mayoral duties over many years. It was:

### **RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council donates £50 to each of Kay's charities, being the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research.**

Councillors also expressed their sadness at the recent passing of Mrs Win Jones, wife of the late Councillor and Mayor, David Jones. Another wonderful wife that kept everything going at home.

### **9220 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barney, Carter, Ellis, Fuller, Rafferty, Swallow, Walters & Wardrop.

### **9221 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 9226a5 as she is connected to the Cowes Sea Cadets who take part in the ASTO small ships race.

### **9222 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

The local Safer Neighbourhood Officer did not attend the meeting but has advised that individual reports will no longer be sent as their news / crime statistics appear on their website.

### **9223 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17 July 2025, be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **9224 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The member of the public present raised the issue of Union Road and the lack of resurfacing since the PFI contract came into force. The amount of traffic using this road has increased sharply over the years and there are safety concerns where there are raised manhole covers and a poor surface. Could the Town Council highlight this road with Island Roads for resurfacing before April 2026. It was agreed:

#### **ACTION**

Cowes Town Council will write to Island Roads asking them to send a District Steward to inspect Union Road and make this a priority for resurfacing as soon as possible.

## **9225 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. Councillors Nicholson and Peacey Wilcox were available for questions, but none were raised.

## **9226 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS**

### **a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee**

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meetings held on 22 July 2025 and 26 August 2025 were received and noted.

It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2025.**
- 2. That Cowes Town Council makes a grant of £1,000 to the Supporters of Cowes Library.**
- 3. That Cowes Town Council donates £600 to the Royal British Legion, Cowes Branch, for the Remembrance Parade buffet.**
- 4. That Cowes Town Council increase the weekly hours of the Admin Assistant from 20 hours per week to 30.5 hours per week.**
- 5. That Cowes Town Council makes a grant of £1,250 to the Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO) with a request that ASTO promote the financial support that the Town Council has provided in any literature.**
- 6. That Cowes Town Council makes a grant of £1,500 to Angel Radio Isle of Wight with a request that their website recognises the support that the Town Council has provided. The Town Council is supportive of this group as they are based in Cowes and therefore happy to support a local radio station.**
- 7. That Cowes Town Council makes a grant of £1,500 to Cowes Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.**
- 8. That Cowes Town Council amends the Lloyds Bank mandate to allow one authorised user to make payments on behalf of Cowes Town Council.**
- 9. As point 8, has been approved, Financial Regulations will be amended accordingly.**
- 10. That the Town Clerk can authorise emergency / health and safety expenses up to a value of £1,000.**
- 11. That the Town Mayor or Committee Chair can authorise emergency / health and safety expenses up to a value of £3,000.**
- 12. As points 10 and 11 have been approved, Financial Regulations will be amended accordingly.**
- 13. That Cowes Town Council adopts the 'Handling of Councillor Enquiries and Internal Communication Procedure'.**

### **b) Planning & Licensing Committee**

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 19 August 2025 were received and noted.

c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 12 August 2025 were received and noted. It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That Cowes Town Council agrees a budget of £5,000 for the provision of a GSM system in our public conveniences, with the cost to be met from the 'Public Toilet Refurbishment' budget heading.
2. That Cowes Town Council agrees a budget of £1,800 per annum for maintenance and monitoring of the GSM systems, with the cost to be met from the 'Public Toilet Refurbishment' budget heading.
3. That, subject to a satisfactory structural survey, Cowes Town Council agree to look into purchasing the former Methodist Church.
4. That Cowes Town Council considers approving up to £16,000 for all costs associated with installing the festive lights for the 2025 festive season, with the cost to be met from the 'Festive lights/Xmas tree' budget heading.
5. That Cowes Town Council considers 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.

d) Cowes200

The Minutes of the Cowes200 meeting held on 25 July 2025 were received and noted. Councillors have been asked to consider a name change for the group, offering several options for the new name with the decision to be made at the next Cowes200 meeting on 5 September 2025. In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Adams has agreed to attend the meeting. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council does not support a change of name for Cowes200.**

e) IW Council Public Realm and Coastal Meeting – West Wight

The Minutes of the IW Council Public Realm and Coastal Meeting – West Wight held on 5 August 2025 were received and noted.

f) IWALC

The draft Minutes of the IWALC Executive meeting held on 23 July 2025 were received and noted.

**9227 MAYOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Ellis provided a written report regarding his attendance at various civic receptions during Cowes Week. He thanked Councillors for attending his Mayor's Reception and for all the help from staff. He has met with various people regarding Cowes Week 2026.

**9228 COWES WEEK / COWES200**

Councillors discussed the lack of shoreside activity during Cowes Week 2025. There was also no information / announcements for those on shore to know which boats were racing, starting etc. It was agreed that it would not take too much to bring more children's activities to The Parade. It was agreed:

### ACTION

The Cowes Week Bicentenary Working Group will investigate activities for children for Cowes Week 2026.

#### **9229 FIT-FOR-PURPOSE ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

Councillors discussed whether the Town Council would benefit from a Fit-For-Purpose Economic Strategy which would serve the diversity of our area. It would give confidence to anyone looking to invest in Cowes and could feed into the IW Council's Island Strategy. It could be achieved through the Place Plan with the help of Southampton University. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That a Fit-For-Purpose Economic Strategy be taken forward to the Place Plan Working Group.**

#### **9230 CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PETTY CASH PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY 2025 AND AUGUST 2025**

The Town Clerk presented Councillors with details of cheque and petty cash payments for the months of July 2025 and August 2025. Cheque payments for July totalled £54,491.19; petty cash payments for July totalled £171.59. Cheque payments for August totalled £26,605.96; petty cash payments for August totalled £310.65. It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the cheque payments for July of £54,491.19 and the petty cash payments for July of £171.59; the cheque payments for August of £26,605.96 and the petty cash payments for August of £310.65 are received, noted and approved.**

#### **9231 RESPONSE FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND ISLE OF WIGHT AREA COMMANDER (MIN NO 9195 REFERS)**

Following the Town Council meeting on 17 July 2025, the Town Clerk was asked to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the new Chief Constable regarding the non-attendance of the police at our meeting and the lack of reports. The Town Council has been assured that our new neighbourhood Sergeant will plan to attend our meetings where possible and has already confirmed his attendance at the October Town Council meeting.

#### **9232 RESPONSE FROM ISLAND ROADS REGARDING CCTV IN COWES HIGH STREET (MIN NO 9199b REFERS)**

At the Town Council meeting on 17 July 2025, the Town Clerk was asked to write to Island Roads regarding CCTV in Cowes High Street. Councillors wanted to know if the cameras were working, being maintained and monitored. Island Roads responded by saying that all 10 CCTV cameras in the High Street are operational, maintained and monitored. It was agreed:

### ACTION

1. Given this information the Town Clerk will advise the local Police should they need to access any CCTV footage.
2. Councillors will raise CCTV in Cowes High Street with the attending Police Officer at the October Town Council meeting.

**9233 RESPONSE FROM THE IW COUNCIL REGARDING PARK AND RIDE COWES  
(MIN NO 9202 REFERS)**

At the Town Council meeting on 17 July 2025, Councillors discussed the lack of users parking in the 'Park and Ride' car park at Somerton following the introduction of parking charges; the cost of parking and using the bus is proving prohibitive. The Town Clerk

wrote to the IW Council to enquire whether those parking and using the bus could use their parking ticket to allow free travel on the bus. The IW Council have responded that this proposal is not something that they would be prepared to pursue at the moment. We have been advised that the concession to use the Park and Ride is a heavily discounted parking charge. It would cost a motorist £12.50 to park in Brunswick Road for a day, or £11.40 to park at Cowes Parade for a day. At Somerton Park and Ride, the cost is £2.00 for a day. Perhaps this could be better promoted? Furthermore, if a parking ticket could be used as a bus ticket, they would imagine the bus company would seek recompense as the bus company is a commercial organisation and the Isle of Wight Council are not able to fund any recompense to the bus company. It was agreed:

**ACTION**

Cowes Town Council will promote the use of the Park and Ride, highlighting the significant reduction in parking charges at this location.

**9234 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S CCTV POLICY**

A review of Cowes Town Council's CCTV Policy was undertaken by the Facilities and Town Manager. He advised that the Policy is fit for purpose but he will make some minor amendments in due course for a further review in approximately six months. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the CCTV Policy.**

**9235 REVIEW OF THE POLICY – LOGGING OF COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS – FIXED ASSETS AND BUILDINGS**

A review of Cowes Town Council's Policy of logging complaints and concerns – fixed assets and buildings was undertaken by the Facilities and Town Manager. He advised that the Policy is fit for purpose but he will make some minor amendments in due course for a further review in approximately six months. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council approves the Policy of logging complaints and concerns – fixed assets and buildings.**

**9236 UPDATE FROM THE FACILITIES AND TOWN MANAGER**

The Facilities and Town Manager gave a report of his activities during July 2025. He has attended various meetings; the Living Wall is ongoing along with the relocation of a bin in the High Street. He has carried out monthly toilet inspections and has arranged another meeting with the cleaning supervisor to address several issues that he has found. Councillors thanked the Facilities and Town Manager for his report. Councillors agreed to fund the cost of a building survey of Cowes Methodist Church in Birmingham Road; three quotes were received and discussed. It was:

**RESOLVED**

**That Cowes Town Council engage JMD Building Consultancy for the building survey of Cowes Methodist Church for the sum of £1,880.00 plus VAT.**

**9237 UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

The Environment Officer had been on annual leave therefore, on this occasion, a report was not available.

**9238 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**9239 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

No items were raised for inclusion on a future agenda.

The proceedings terminated at 7.54pm.

**CHAIRMAN**