



Minutes of the Cowes Town Council **Town Council Meeting** held in the Dining Room, Northwood House, Cowes on **Thursday 03 September 2026** at 7pm.

Present

Councillor Ellis (Town Mayor) (Chair).

Councillors Barney, Fuller, Hollis (8:47pm), Marriott, Moore, Paler, Peacey-Wilcox, Southwell, Walters, Wardrop and White.

In Attendance

Patrick Jolin (Town Clerk), Tracy Jones (Deputy Town Clerk), Richard Shaul (Responsible Financial Officer) and Charles Egerton-Warburton (Experience Cowes).

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation was received from the Chair of Experience Cowes (EC) on their Cowes 200 Week activities and events.

Details given included:

- The CTC sponsored Youth Education and Interaction Zone being very well attended with over 3,400 people recorded as visiting the Youth Zone marquee and participating in the various activities.
- This included over 300 young people participating in UKSA organised sailing activities (241 of which were under the age of 18).
- That North Sails have committed to a 3-year sponsorship of Cowes Week.
- That BAE Systems as a Headline Partner have expressed intent to involve EC with their Community Investment Fund scheme.
- That many local companies have also expressed interest in sponsorship of content on the EC website.
- There is predicted to be an approximate £7,000 surplus of the remaining CTC EC grant due to website and social media development costs being lower than expected.

The Mayor thanked EC for the update and success of all involved in Cowes 200.

9432 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicholson, Rafferty and Reen.

9433 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

9434 REPORT FROM THE LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER

A written report from PC Manning was received.

Councillor Walters raised a complaint reported to him by a member of the public regarding a large group of cyclists on the High Street travelling in the wrong direction. The resident will be asked to make a full report to the Town Clerk who will then pass it on to the police for review.



Councillor Fuller reported that the issue of scooters being ridden along The Parade by individuals in balaclavas has now been resolved.

Councillor Hollis stated that he attempted to make a complaint about excessive noise to the police and was told that they were unable to deal with it. To address this point, the following was agreed:

ACTION

Town Clerk to speak to PC Manning to establish the correct reporting procedure in this instance.

9435 MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the 16 July 2026 Town Council meeting were taken as read and approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9436 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

9437 REPORTS FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

Written reports focussing on local matters and Isle of Wight Council activities were received from Councillors Adam, Fuller and Peacey Wilcox.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox updated that Ruth Simpson a long-term resident of Cowes had passed. Councillor Walters updated that Reverend Diana Netherway had also passed. The Chamber expressed condolences and acknowledged both lady's contributions and their respected places in the wider Cowes community.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox confirmed that she will continue to endeavour to contact Lee Matthews regarding the status of Cowes Library building and repair works.

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox updated that she has suggested to the Isle of Wight Council that the Floating Bridge maintenance schedule is suspended while the upcoming work is being carried out on Coppins Bridge in Newport and as the traffic on the Floating Bridge is likely to increase. Councillor Peacey-Wilcox has also suggested that during peak business commuting times, only cars and vans are able to use the Floating Bridge and that additional foot passenger only ferry services are provided to go from East to West Cowes and vice versa during those times.

Councillor Fuller updated the Chamber that the Cowes to Thorness coastal path is now fully accessible and that it would be officially opened on 09-Sep-2026.

The Chamber discussed recent reports of an immigration facility being set up on the Isle of Wight and subsequent reports being received from residents. Councillor Rafferty's recent social media post confirming that there are no IWC plans to do so was discussed.



9438 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

a) Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 July 2026 and 25 August 2026 were received and noted. After discussions, the following outcomes were recorded:

- i. Regarding Minute number **1190** (Financial Statements as at 30 June 2026), it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2026.
- ii. Regarding Minute number **1192** (Financial Support for Royal British Legion Cowes Branch), it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council donates £600 to the Royal British Legion, Cowes Branch, for the Remembrance Parade buffet.
- iii. Regarding Minute number **1193** (Grants Policy), it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council approves the Grants Policy.
- iv. Regarding Minute number **1194** (Sponsorship Policy), it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council approves the Sponsorship Policy.
- v. Regarding Minute number **1195** (Hospitality Policy), it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council approves the Hospitality Policy.
- vi. Regarding Minute number **1205** (Application for Grants), it was:
RESOLVED
That a grant of £500 be awarded to Ability Dogs for Young People.

b) Planning & Licensing Committee

The Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 12 August 2026 were received and noted.

Councillor Hollis reported that the McDonald's planning application had been formally turned down by the Isle of Wight Council.



c) Projects Committee

The Minutes of the Projects Committee meeting held on 11 August 2026 were received and noted.

- i. Regarding minute **752** (Approval of the Proposed Projects Committee Agenda), after discussions it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council approves the proposed Projects Committee agenda.
- ii. Regarding minute **753** (Approval of the Projects Policy), after discussions it was:
RESOLVED
That Cowes Town Council approves the Projects Policy.

d) Events Working Group

An update from the Events Working Group meeting held on 24-Aug-2026 was received and noted.

Following discussions on the Cowes Town Christmas Parade, it was:

RESOLVED

That the date of the Christmas Parade is changed to 05-Dec-2026 with an agreed budget of £5,000.

With a further:

ACTION

- To investigate with IWC the possibility of securing free car parking for the event – **Communications and Funding Manager**.

Following discussions on the Cowes Town Residents Newsletter, it was:

RESOLVED

That the Cowes Town Council newsletter will reduce production frequency to twice yearly maintaining the current printed copy numbers and household delivery as per current arrangements.

With a further:

ACTION

- To review the most cost-effective way for household delivery including discussing with Northwood House a potential collaboration to explore possible cooperative distribution with their promotional material – **Town Clerk**.



e) Northwood House Working Group

An update from Councillor Barney on the Northwood House Working Group activities for August 2026 was received and confirmed a meeting between the Northwood House Trustee Board Chair and CTC had been arranged for 07-Sep-2026 to discuss future collaborative working arrangements that best represent the views and expectations of both Cowes Town residents and the NWH Trust.

f) Public Conveniences Emergency Meeting

The Minutes of the Public Conveniences Emergency meeting held on 26 August 2026 were received and noted. After discussions, it was:

RESOLVED

That Cowes Town Council approve:

- i. **The trial Closure of the CTC Public Conveniences Overnight whereby:**
 - **Facilities would close between 8:00pm and 9:00pm each evening.**
 - **Facilities would reopen between 7:00am and 8:00am each morning.**
 - **Disabled toilet facilities would always remain available.**
 - **The Cut facilities would remain with 24x7x365 availability i.e. remain as is.**
- ii. **A review of the current key-holder and cleaning regime services.**
- iii. **A Public Conveniences Working Group is convened to identify strategy and actions to manage the CTC public convenience facilities.**

g) IWC Public Realm and Coastal

The Minutes of the IWC Public Realm and Coastal meeting held on 07 July 2026 and 04 August 2026 were received and noted.

h) IWC Coastal Adaption Plan

The IWC Coastal Adaption Plan July 2026 report was received and noted.

i) IWALC Executive

The Minutes of the IWALC Executive meeting held on the 28 May 2026 were received and noted.

j) IWALC Treasurers Report

The IWALC Treasurers report of 23 July 2026 was received and noted.

k) IWBRUG

The Minutes of the IWBRUG meetings in June 2026 and July 2026 were received and noted.



l) Supporters of Cowes Library

The Minutes of the SOCL meeting held on 22 August 2026 were received and noted.

9439 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS

a) Mayor's Report

A written report was received and noted from the Mayor.

b) Southern Water CTC Representation

Details of the Southern Water drop-in event in Newport on 10 September 2026 were advised by Councillor White with the suggestion that CTC Councillors attend as Cowes Town representatives along with the potential attendance of Councillor Rafferty as an IWC representative.

Councillor Moore advised that reporting on environmental health and water matters relating to Southern water can be made via social media and Southern Waters website. After discussion, it was agreed on a further:

ACTION

- To confirm the official process to report environmental health and water matters related to Southern Water – **Communications and Funding Manager**.

c) Proposed Local Area Transport Plan

Councillor Nicholson's report was received and noted. As Councillor Nicholson had given apologies for the meeting it was agreed to defer presentation of the Transport Plan to the October 2026 Town Council meeting for discussion.

d) Connecting Cowes and Councillor Skills

Councillor Nicholson's reports were received and noted. As Councillor Nicholson had given apologies for the meeting, it was agreed to defer presentation of the Connecting Cowes report to the October 2026 Town Council meeting for discussion.

Councillor Nicholson's Councillor Skills report was discussed.

Councillor White made note about Councillor Barney's recent email comments to all Councillors regarding CTC activities during the consideration to purchase premises in Cowes and implying a lack of expected skills or knowledge of Councillors involved as being inaccurate and offensive.



Councillor Moore proposed a review of this item considering current IWC guidelines. After discussion, it was agreed on a further:

ACTION

- For the Town Clerk to request and record individual Councillor skills and knowledge on an optional basis and for Councillors who wish for this information to be recorded to complete the information request when received – **Town Clerk**.

e) Councillor Co-Option Interview Process and Councillor Master Diary

Councillor Barney updated on concerns that Councillors had not been given enough time to participate in the recent Councillor co-option interview process. After discussions, it was agreed:

ACTION

- For the Town Office to manually publish to Councillors the current Office diary detailing all Town Council meetings and events and which will be updated to now include expected named Councillor attendance and noting that an enhanced central electronic Master diary and attendance tracker is planned to be made available to all Councillors as part of the current Office IT systems improvement program and once available will replace the manual publication of the Councillor diary – **Town Clerk**.

9440 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE RFO

The Responsible Financial Officer's cheque, debit card and petty cash report for July 2026 and August 2026 was received and noted. Following discussions, it was:

RESOLVED

1. That the payments for July 2026 by cheque of £54,136.27 and debit card of £6,848.74 and bank transfers of £58,869.20 and petty cash of £342.26 were received, noted and approved.
2. That the payments for August 2026 by cheque of £29,142.58 and debit card of £4,362.79 and bank transfers of £42,258.24 and petty cash of £260.69 were received, noted and approved.

9441 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN CLERK

a) IWALC Executive CTC Representative

The Town Clerk updated that due to other Council commitments Councillor White was standing down as the CTC IWALC Executive representative. After discussions, it was:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Fuller would replace Councillor White as the CTC IWALC Executive representative.



b) Cowes Week Review Working Group

The Town Clerk requested a Working Group be established to review recent and recommend future CTC activities and involvement in Cowes Week. After discussions, it was:

RESOLVED

That the Cowes Week Review Working group be established with Councillors Barney, Ellis, Moore, Paler, Peacey-Wilcox, Southwell and White being appointed to serve until the Annual town Council meeting in 2027.

c) Council, Councillor and Town Officer Roles and Responsibilities

A written report on Council, Councillor and Town Officer Roles and Responsibilities was received from the Town Clerk and noted.

d) The Parade Public Conveniences Renovation

A written project completion report on The Parade Public Conveniences Renovation was received from the Town Clerk and noted.

e) Town Office Activities and Achievements

A written report on the CTC Town Office achievements and operational projects for July 2026 and August 2026 was received from the Town Clerk and noted.

f) Public Realm Officer Activities

A report of the Public Realm Officer activities for August 2026 was received and noted.

g) Miscellaneous Publications and Correspondence

No Miscellaneous Publications and Correspondence were received or noted for July 2026 and August 2026.

9442 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No items were received.

Councillor Hollis left the meeting at 8.47pm.

The proceedings terminated at 8.52pm.

CHAIR