

Minutes of the Meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group held in the Town Council Office on Monday, 18th July 2011 at 4.30p.m.

Present: Councillor Wells (Chairman)
Councillors Banks, Brown, McGregor, Sanderson and Walters.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hammond and Matthews.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Northwood House Sub Group held on 9th May 2011 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at this stage.

Northwood House

The Chairman referred the position of the I.W. Council in respect of their current role as Custodian Trustee of Northwood House and also as Beneficiary; following the last meeting of the Town Council a letter had been written to them regarding those points and changes to the Trust and a response had been received.

It stated that 'changes to the Trust is a matter for the current Trustees of Northwood House and the Charity Commission to resolve, as this Council has withdrawn as beneficiary in respect of using the house for offices and has also indicated that it no longer wishes to be Custodian Trustee. I understand that the Trustees will be appointing a new Custodian Trustee shortly. We are not therefore in a position to give an undertaking that the Town Council will be involved in any discussions on the matter, as we do not anticipate being involved. We suggest you make your request to the Trustees and the Charity Commission.'

Councillor Walters reported that the I.W. Council were in the process of compiling the document to divest itself completely from the Custodian Trusteeship and as beneficiaries; any issues they would have to be addressed to the Managing Trustees or the Charities Commission.

Other areas referred to included

- Park Lodge
- Village Green application
- Northwood House consultation document
- Work being undertaken in the Park
- Changes to the Trust document
- Custodian Trusteeship

Councillor Walters questioned how the I.W. Council took the decision to divest itself from Northwood House and grounds without public consultation and reference to the Town Council; he understood it was a Cabinet decision. He also stated that the distinction between Custodian Trustee and beneficiary was not entirely clear; he recommended the Town Council request that I.W.

Councillors who sit on the Town Council investigate how the I.W. Council gave land bequeathed to the residents of Cowes to the Managing Trustees and that they seek clarification regarding the role of Custodian Trustee and beneficiary.

Councillor McGregor stated that the letter from the I.W. Council only referred to them withdrawing as beneficiary in respect of using the house for offices; the Town Council should clarify with them their position as beneficiary in terms of the parkland and should copy in the Charity Commission.

RESOLVED

- 1). That the Town Council writes the I.W. Councillor for the Cowes North Ward requesting he investigates how the I.W. Council took the decision to divest itself of land bequeathed to the residents of Cowes without consultation or reference to the Town Council and for clarification in respect of the Custodian Trustee role and beneficiary role – copies to the two other I.W. Councillors who sit on the Town Council; and
- 2). That the Town Council writes again to the I.W. Council requesting they clarify whether they have withdrawn their beneficial rights in respect of the Parkland as well as the House.

The proceedings terminated at 5.14pm.

Chairman