

EAST COWES ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2016

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at East Cowes Town Hall on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 6.30m

Present

Town Mayor: Cllr Margaret Lloyd

Town Clerk: Tina Bailey

Cllrs: Hendry, Barton O.B.E and P. Lloyd

1. The Mayor welcomed those present
2. **To accept the minutes of the 2015 meeting.**
The minutes were accepted.
3. **To receive the annual report of the Town Council from the Mayor**

Last May 2015, I was elected Mayor and Cllr Stephen Hendry was elected Deputy Mayor, also at this meeting Cllr Maurice Barton was elected to remain our representative on the Cowes Harbour Commission Board.

At this meeting we also adopted the 'General Power of Competence'. We were able to do this, as our Clerk Tina Bailey had qualified to the required status and we had sufficient Councillors elected to the Town Council, all of us in fact.

With the increasing responsibilities, the Town Hall and Facilities Committees have also met many times over the past year.

RED FUNNEL.

Throughout this year as you are all well aware, Red Funnel and their regeneration plans have taken up a great deal of our thoughts and meetings with questions both answered and unanswered. The Town Council took the decision and resolved to employ relevant Planning Consultant who could advise us on the application when submitted. We also needed someone who was experienced with traffic procedures.

We duly employed Glen Hepburn who knows the area well. He attended two public meetings here at the Town Hall and gave his advice and response to the application for the Town Council to consider. As time proceeded and the application submitted to the planning authority we were able using his advice to submit our own comments and at the actual IWC meeting, he represented the Town Council with his professional expertise.

We are all well aware of the outcome of this meeting and Red Funnel's response.

I would like to inform you all at this point that representatives of the Town Council have in fact recently met with Kevin George, CEO and Murray Carter, Customer Service Director of Red Funnel. This meeting was informative as well as productive and we have agreed to continue to work with Red Funnel to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of East Cowes residents, local businesses and the Isle of Wight as a whole for future generations.

TOWN PLAN.

Further actions the Town Council have taken include The Town Plan which was formally adopted with an addenda.

GRANTS

£4175 has been donated this year to worthy organisations around East Cowes.

MAYORS ALLOWANCE

At the end of March I decided to divide the Mayors Allowance for 2015 between both Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and Queensgate Foundation Primary School so that their respective Head Teachers can put the monies towards the children celebrating the Celebrations for 90th Birthday

ESPLANADE

Fencing around the Esplanade Playpark was installed as required for Health and safety reasons, helping to ensure we maintain the highest health and safety standards for our children. The paddling pool has had its seasonal spruce up and is now functional. The Esplanade toilets have been freshly painted, thanks to our Caretaker for undertaking this job during the evenings once the toilets were closed.

WAR MEMORIAL

It has been agreed to support the Clean Up of the War memorial here in East Cowes, which will be undertaken when the weather improves.

ENVIROMENTAL OFFICER

It was agreed to employ a part-time IW Environmental Officer. I am pleased to say that she has already started her employment, working with the Clerk, we are looking forward to seeing some improvements around the Town. Priority has been dog fouling issues and ensuring the Portaloos are supplied and in place for the Festival and Bestival.

TOWN HALL.

In the Town Hall, as part of a continuing programme of improvements, a disabled Toilet and Baby Changing room is to be installed here in the Town hall, and is to be installed shortly.

The Roof has been replaced and various repairs undertaken, the outside is currently being painted. We thank our regular hirer's for their patience whilst the scaffolding has been in place.

New Lighting facilities for the Town hall and theatre have been installed and a new audio system is now in operation. Thanks to the Supporters of the Amy White theatre who gave £3000 towards these installations, monies they have raised through the functions arranged throughout the year for the benefit of the Town Hall and Theatre.

CHRISTMAS EVENT

The Town Councils Christmas event proved successful, many Charities achieving funds for their organisations, along with the Variety Show in the evening.

Due to this success the Town Council were able to donate the funds raised, equally between IW Heart Club, so many of our residents use this facility, and also to Earl Mountbatten Hospital, another worthy cause. We are planning another of these events this December. I would personally thank all the local people who took part at this event for giving their time freely. We are well blessed with talent both young and old amongst our residents as witnessed at the evening variety show.

OSBORNE ROAD TOILETS

We to take responsibility and costs of running The Osborne Road Toilets from 1st April, as if we hadn't we would have seen them closed by the IW Council.

RECREATION AREAS.

A new Muga (Multi use games area) and outdoor gym equipment is to be installed at Victoria Recreation Park funded from s106 money and the Town Council has been asked to take responsibility for it from installation.

ESPLANADE

At the Esplanade, fencing around the playpark was installed to ensure we maintain the highest health and safety standards for our children.

The paddling pool has had its yearly spruce and is now functional. The Esplanade toilets have been freshly painted, thanks to our Caretaker for undertaking this job during evenings once the toilets were closed.

FINALLY

I conclude by thanking you all for supporting the Town Council throughout this year, I am sure you all realise that this coming year will no doubt be even more challenging as we move forward and take on more of the IW responsibilities to ensure our Town continues to function.

I finally thank my Town Clerk for her hard work, I don't think any of us realise the weight that remains on her shoulders, more every day as decisions are taken, and I thank my councillors for their hard work and support during the year

- 4. The Financial Summary was presented.

The Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed:

Date