

East Cowes Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of East Cowes Town Council held on Thursday 4th December 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes.

Present:

Mayor: Cllr M. Lloyd
Cllrs: Hooper, P. Lloyd, Rann and Webster
Town Clerk: Tina Bailey
Members of the public and press: Nine

Public Forum:

Questions asked regarding previous Christmas tree lights; progress of the signage project and the recent public exhibition held by Red Funnel and Balfour Beatty. It is noted that the exhibition held in the Town Hall on 28th November was a merely a visual display of the plans and was not a public consultation, as there were no representatives from the relevant organisations present to provide any answers to the many questions being raised by residents.

Police report:

Sergeant Knight presented the report. There were no crimes of note during November that needed to be brought to the attention of the Town Council. The Beat House will be closing at the end of the 12 month trial period due to the small uptake of this service.

4498/14 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Barton, Hendry and Hillard

4499/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- (i) To receive declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests
 - (ii) To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
- None

4500/14 RECORDING AND ACCOUSTICS

(i) RECORDING AT MEETING POLICY

Due to the recent changes in legislation, a policy containing protocol and guidance for the recording, photography and use of social media at Town Council meetings is necessary, to ensure safeguard for the attending public who have the right not to be photographed, filmed or recorded without their consent. The policy would be added to the website and notice advertised with the agenda as required.

RESOLVED

That the Council adopts the Recording at Meetings Policy.

(ii) ACCOUSTICS IN HALL

The problem of poor acoustics in the hall was discussed with a proposal to purchase microphones costing £1200 for use at council meetings. The Clerk suggested professional expertise in this area would be beneficial before making any purchase, to ensure the best outcome could be obtained for all uses of the hall.

RESOLVED

That the Council will obtain professional advice regarding the acoustics in the hall and will consider any reported suggestions for equipment and costs as part of the budget review.

RESOLVED

That until the acoustics are improved the Council will not undertake discussion at tables facing each other as normal practise for Town and Parish Council meetings but will spread the tables angled across the hall width ways, as per the style facilitating a public meeting.

4501/14 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR THE SKATE PARK LIGHTS INDEPENDENT FROM THE PAVILION.

The Clerk reported that if the Council is unable to provide their own contractor for part of the work, the costs to provide an independent source of electricity plus LED light replacements could be in excess of £10000 and recommended that the matter should be deferred for further discussion.

RESOLVED

That this matter will be deferred for further discussion as part of the budget.

4502/14 MAYOR'S REPORT

- Further to an enquiry from Astrid Davies, IWC Strategic Manager for Cultural Services, and following discussion with the library volunteers, the Mayor reported that the library were happy to continue to provide the service in the same set up and location and will be taking over the administration of their own finances. The Mayor has responded to Ms Davis's initial enquiry. As a contingency, a contribution towards future running costs of the library has been added to the Town Council budget discussion as there are no guarantees that IWC funding will continue to support community libraries in the future.
- Cowes Harbour Commission - The Mayor reported on a meeting with the CHC.
- VERA - The matter is ongoing.
- Christmas event – An update on the final arrangements was provided

4503/14 CLERK'S REPORT AND TO NOTE ANY CORRESPONDENCE.

- The Town Clerk's report was noted.
- The reorganisation of the office has been completed.
- The Christmas tree will be in place in time for the Christmas event.
- Correspondence from Astrid Davies was dealt with in the Mayor's report.

4504/14 COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Council's hall hiring policy and lack of contribution towards charities or special events was raised. The Clerk advised that this matter is earmarked for discussion by the Town Hall Working Party and a meeting, which will be open to all Councillors, will be undertaken in 2015 as part of the review.

**4505/14 FINANCES
SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

To approve the schedule of payments.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of payments is agreed

4506/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted regarding staffing it is in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and are instructed to withdraw". (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1 (2))

RESOLVED

That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted regarding staffing, it is in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and are instructed to withdraw". (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1 (2))

