

East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of East Cowes Town Council that was held at the Town Hall, East Cowes on **Thursday 22nd January 2014** commencing at 7.00 pm for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below:

Public Forum. 2 Members of the Public were present at the beginning of the Public Forum and 2 people arrived part way through the Public Forum.

- A question was raised about the financing of this year's Christmas Event. To which it was responded that there was provision in the draft budget to cover this event and the Town Council's Christmas-Tree.
- A question was raised about the cost of road closure for the Christmas Event. The Locum Clerk responded by saying she knew that the Clerk was trying to have it included on Island Roads B List as other events had dropped off it.
- A question was raised about written answers and it was pointed out that the Council only accepts verbal questions at the meeting according to the Town Council Standing Orders as per the notice on the seats.
- A question was asked about signs asking people not to feed the gulls. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item for discussion at the next Council Meeting.
- A question was raised about funding discretionary services and beach cleaning. The Locum Clerk pointed out that there was a contingency in the proposed budget to cover this and as far as beach cleaning goes beach cleaning is still a statutory service as confirmed by the NALC legal department to a question raised by IWALC.

The Locum Clerk was unable to provide a Police Report.

Members present: Mayor: Cllr M Lloyd
Cllrs: Barton O.B.E, Hillard, Hooper, P. Lloyd, Webster, Rann and Hendy
Locum Clerk: Mrs Valerie Taylor

4507/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Baker-Smith who was at another meeting but hoped to make the meeting later.

45078/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 1 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non -pecuniary interests
Cllr Hillard made a declaration of non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Isle of Wight Council and as an Executive Member
- 2 To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
No requests were received for dispensation

4509/15 MINUTES TO THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2014 was agreed and duly signed.

4510/15. DRAFT BUDGET AND 2015 /16 PRECEPT

The Locum Clerk introduced draft budget for 2015/16 with the addition of £1,500 for the Pantomime to be added to section 8. The draft budget was discussed by the Council.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the draft budget for 2015/16 was accepted. (Copy attached to Minutes)

The precept for 2015/16 was discussed

RESOLVED:-

THAT the precept for 2015 /2016 be set in principle at £140,000 and that this amount is to be ratified at 19th February's meeting.

4511/15 TO AGREE FUTURE ACTION REGARDING VECTIS RD ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr P Lloyd reported on his meeting with Cllr Stephens at Cllr Stephens invitation. (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

At that meeting with Cllr Stephens he raised the question about the allotments being transferred to East Cowes Town Council only to be informed that the Local Member had put a stop to the transfer.

At this point Cllr Hillard read a document from her phone purporting to be from Cllr Stephens that contradicted Cllr P Lloyds report on the allotments. She also read a document that implied the Council was in breach of the lease and was not complying with the law. The Locum Clerk asked if she could borrow the documents that she was reading from so that she could photocopy them at the end of the meeting so that the points raised could be investigated. The Locum Clerks request was refused.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Council take no further action and that the allotments are handed back immediately to the Isle of Wight Council giving them the required 6 months' notice.

4512/15 LIBRARY

1 To make a decision as to whether the Town Council wishes to pursue the possibility of building an extension in the grounds of the Town Hall to accommodate the relocation of the library and if so.

Discussions took place and various suggestions were made as to where a library could be sited. Concerns were raised about the extension could impede the Town Hall and restrict improvements. It was said that the library to stay where it is until other options were available. Councillors agreed that full costs on any proposed site needed to be obtained.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Town Council pursues further possibilities to accommodate the relocation of the library.

The Locum Clerk asked the Council who would do the work to obtain full costs as the Town Clerk would not be able to take on this additional work and there was no money in the budget and full Risk Assessments and Cost Analysis would also need to be produced as part of the evaluation on any proposed site.

The Mayor suggested that if the Council agreed he could look at potential funding for an external consultant. The Council was happy at this suggestion.

4513/15 TO RECEIVE

1 THE CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Council received the quote for the lighting of the skate park.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the quote be accepted.

2 THE MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that the Red Funnel Meeting had been cancelled and a new date would be being set.

3 TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS OR MATTERS RAISED FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

No matters raised.

4514/15 FINANCES

1 To receive the financial report and ratify payments.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the financial report be approved and that the payments were ratified.

2 To agree the 2.2% national pay rise for the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED:-

The national pay rise of 2.2% for the Town Clerk was agreed.

4515/15 SIGNAGE PROJECT UPDATE

It was reported that Simon Craddock was drawing up the plans to get Planning permission so that Licences could be issued by the Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Hillard asked if the Town Clerk could put in the plans so that a reduced fee could be paid. A question was raised as to who would pay East Cowes Town Council for the planning fee for this project to be done on Isle of Wight Council land. Councillors were told by Cllr Hillard that the Isle of Wight Council would pay. The Locum Clerk advised the Council that the Signage Project was not and never had been a Town Council Project and the Council would need to receive confirmation in writing from the Isle of Wight Council that they would pay planning fees.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Locum Clerk writes to Mike Gildersleeve asking for a letter confirming there would be no costs committed to East Cowes Town Council.

4516/15 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON COUNTY RESILIENCE

Cllr M Lloyd reported that he and Cllr Hillard had attended a meeting on County Resilience that was looking at updating the local Emergency Plan. It had been suggested at that meeting the Bembridge Plan could be used as a template. Cllr M Lloyd agreed to circulate the Bembridge Plan to all Councillors and this item was then deferred for discussion at the next Council Meeting.

4517/15 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE IW WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr Hillard gave a verbal report that was noted.

The Clerk requested exclusion of Press and Public for the Clerks Report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council moved Exclusion of Press and Public.

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, relating to staffing matters it is in the public interest that the press and public are excluded.

RESOLVED:- “That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and are instructed to withdraw”. (1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act)

The Locum Clerk reported to the Council the work she had undertaken in November and December.

The Council noted her report and thanked her for what she had done.

Signed

Date