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East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the East Cowes Library Committee held on Friday 2nd May 2014 at
in the Goold Room, East Cowes Town Hall at 10.30am

Present: Cllr Barton O.B.E. (Chairman) Cllrs. Rann, Webster, M. Lloyd and Hillard
In attendance: Mr Niall Morrow
Town Clerk: Tina Bailey
Apologies: Perdita Potter

1. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2014 were approved as a true record.

Mrs Taylor had reported that the NHS intend continuing with the sale of Down House at the full asking price. Cllr Barton has asked the view of Savills and Christopher Scott for valuations and both came in excess of 300K.

This expected purchase price greatly exceeds the amount currently available from S106 for purchase – approx £200K plus Bridge House sale without any finances for the internal restructuring and refurbishment.

Options 1 continue with possible Down House

Options 2 reactivate Adam Reditt for the purpose built library

The amount of S106 money available for the library is still not clear and noted that the amount of S106 money seems to be reducing monthly. The committee questioned the S106 money allocated to:

- EC Football Club and whether IWC has looked in to the finances and stability of the club's management.
- The Sea Scouts as they are a National group and should make their own contribution. It was felt that the Pavilion is more important

Proposed: that the Library can be delayed for a month

It was suggested that the need for library should be viewed objectively and if Down House is purchased it will be owned by the Town Council and noted that the Town Hall is held on 125 year lease and was provided for the people of East Cowes.

The Town Clerk cautioned that the prospective purchase of Down House should be weighed against the use of the Town Hall as can the Town Council afford to run two large facilities which could be in competition with each other? The Clerk recommended that the Town Council need to look at an overall plan for the provision of community facilities and not view this proposal in isolation and also reminded the committee that the Town Council has not received any recommendations from the

Committee to pursue Down House – at the moment this is nothing more than fact finding.

Other sources of funds: a PWLB loan could be obtained and other grants may be available in the pipeline.

Suggested that IWC could purchase Down House then lease to the Town Council?

RESOLVED

1. Next library committee meeting will be held on 30th May 2014.
2. That Lee Matthews should be invited to attend to provide an accurate and comprehensive breakdown of SIO6 monies and answer questions.
3. Need to obtain all facts and costing for running both Down House and the Town Hall for the Council to be able to make an informed decision.
4. Need to make recommendations to the Town Council at the June meeting.

LIBRARY UPDATE

- Library activity is slightly down
- Books have been refreshed
- More DVD's on rotation
- Still most computer use is for job search
- Library opening hours are on the door and slips given out to people borrowing books

Library merchandise

- It was agreed that the Town hall should cease providing the dog bags and green garden sacks and that the library will be the source of supply and charge a nominal price for the dog poo bags in future.

If plans A and B fails What is plan C?

Plan C - Option to build as part of Town hall – lower cost option than the other 2

Plan D - Is it possible to put library in Energy Centre – could it be gifted? The only drawback is that this option could be 2 years off.

Library account

Agenda item request for a written report from the RFO for next meeting

The meeting closed at 11.10

Chairman

Date.....