

# East Cowes Town Council



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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

## **Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr Peter Lloyd (Mayor)

**Councillors:** Webster, Paler, Walker, Packham, Love, Rann

**Town Clerk:** S Chilton

**Also present:** Lisa Toyne, Age U.K; Debbie Chambers, Environment Officer; Stephen Hull, PCSO: 3 members of the public

## **AGENDA**

### **36.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who had a work commitment and the representative from Cowes Town Council

### **37.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

2.1 Cllr Walker declared a non - pecuniary interests in Item 4.

Cllr Love declared a nonpecuniary interest in Items as an IW Councillor, member of East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association.

Cllrs Webster and Lloyd declared non-pecuniary interests in item 6 as they live in the vicinity.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received

### **38.19 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**

The Environment Officer, Debbie Chambers, read her report which dealt with dog services and the actions taken in respect of dog fouling, stray dogs and dogs on leads. She also spoke about Business and Domestic waste in terms of fly tipping and Cemeteries in respect of dog fouling and other health and safety issues. The report was noted and the Mayor thanked her for attending.

### **39.19 AGE UK AGE FRIENDLY ISLAND,**

Lisa Toyne reported on the Age Friendly Island Project and how it is funded through the Big Lottery Fund. Age UK IW are looking for ways to sustain the project after March next year when the lottery grant ends. Her talk included information about Age Friendly doctor's surgeries, Dementia café's, Digital Inclusion and Men in Sheds. She encouraged Councillors to become an Age Friendly Champion and this will be discussed at a future meeting. She also asked if the scam information from Trading Standards could be placed on the Council's website. The Mayor thanked her for attending.

### **40.19 POLICE REPORT**

Stephen Hull, PCSO reported to the Council on some thefts that had occurred and a few assaults, some of which were domestic. There had been a burglary reported at the caravan park and a road traffic collision incident involving a scooter in the Gordon Lodge area. But in general, the police feel that East Cowes is a safe place to live. He thanks the Clerk and the Facilities Officer for keeping the police up to date with any issues in the town which they found very helpful. The PCSO's role was changing toward more engagement and education and this has taken them into schools to try to educate them on the dangers of knife crime. He told the meeting that there were plans to bring more police officers to the island and that PCSO's would revert to their original role. Cllr Webster asked if the Police Commissioner had any plans to visit the island which PCSO Hull was unable to answer. Cllr Walker asked about Neighbourhood Watch and was told that Age UK had funded this initiative, but he believed that funding had ceased. He would investigate this and report back. The Mayor thanked her for attending.

### **41.19 PLANNING APPLICATION**

Application No: P/00348/19 Alt Ref: TCP/33777 Location: Land adjacent 1, St. James Close, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 Proposal: Proposed pair of Semi-Detached houses; formation of vehicular access

**Resolved:** Council objected to this application on the grounds of over-development of the site, not in keeping with the street scene, building in front of the building line and safety issues entering and exiting the highway and that garden development was discouraged by the local Planning Authority.

#### **42.19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Mayor

#### **43.19 FINANCES**

7.1 To approve and agree payments as presented

7.2 To ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS

**Resolved:** All payments by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified

#### **44.19 GRANT REQUESTS**

8.1 The Council considered a request for a grant from the Ellen MacArthur cancer trust to fund a young person for a 5-day sailing trip at a cost of £536. Councillors were unanimous in their agreement that this was a very worthwhile project for island children and should be supported.

**Resolved:** To fund 2 places at a cost of £1072.00

8.2 The Council considered a request for funding from the East Cowes Women's Institute for a total of £250.00. £100 for the "Great tea cake bake" celebrating 200 years of Victoria & Albert, £75.00 for bunting for the event and £75.00 for materials to decorate the chain arch for Remembrance Day. Councillors agreed that this grant request should be supported.

**Resolved:** To grant £250.00 to the W.I

#### **45.19 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TIMES**

Councillors considered changing the starting time for Full Council meetings to a later time to enable Councillors with work commitments to attend.

**Resolved:** To start Full Council meeting at 7 p.m. unless there were planning applications on the agenda in which case, they would start at 6.30 p.m.

#### **46.19 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE**

The Council received a letter from the IW Council in respect of the statistics for the Floating Bridge received in March. Councillors were not happy with the tone of the letter or the response. Cllr Love stated that he had made a formal complaint to the Health & Safety Executive regarding various safety issues he felt were prevalent. He encouraged the Town Council to do the same. A member of the public asked if comments from the Stakeholders Group could be included and this was agreed.

**Resolved:** The Town Council to request an independent enquiry to be undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive

#### **47.19 CIVIC RECEPTION**

12.1 The Council received an update on arrangements thus far. They considered the draft invitations for the Civic Reception and chose their preferred option together with agreeing the buffet menu and drinks. A guest list was agreed. It was suggested that civic mementos be given to principal guests and this was agreed. Councillors also discussed and agreed the programme for the evening.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to arrange the supply and distribution of the invitations, confirm the buffet suppliers and gift suppliers. To draft a programme for the evening to be agreed.

#### **48.19 COMMUNITY HUB DRAFT SCHEME**

The Council considered the employment of an architect to draft a scheme for the Community Hub which was agreed as a priority from the public consultation. Councillors were keen to get the scheme under way as soon as possible and agreed to go to the next stage.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to research local architects and bring options to a future meeting.

#### **49.19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

Town Clerk

1 The Clerk read a response received from Sarah Wilkinson, IW Council Planning Authority, regarding how the Section 106 £100k set aside for a bus service contribution at Saunders Way had been reallocated to other bus schemes. Councillors were concerned that they had no knowledge of this and wanted to know who had given approval for the money to be used in this way.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write to Sarah Wilkinson and ask who had approved this expenditure.

2 The Annual report from Youth Café was read and noted. Councillors agreed that the report was very encouraging and were pleased that so many young people were using this facility.

3 The Clerk read a thank you letter from Michael Douse for lending them the litter picking equipment for the beach clean.

4 An update on Esplanade Boat Park structure was given informing the Council that the enforcement team were investigating.

5 The IW Council had asked for more information regarding the covenants on Bells Green. The Mayor and Clerk would be investigating this further.

14.2 The Mayor reported that he had opened the new library at the Town Hall and thanked everyone concerned for all their hard work. He said that he hoped this was the first step to achieving the community hub for the Town. He had attended the opening of the family centre and Seashells Early Learning centre at Queensgate School by IW Cllr Paul Brading. It is a much-improved facility that will benefit the town. The Big Tidy Up was a great success and thanks went to Waitrose staff who had carried out a litter pick a few days before. 22 residents had joined town councillors on the community litter pick over 3 routes around town. And a great deal of litter was cleared. The beach clean was also a great success with 90 volunteers turning up to help.

14.3 IW Ward Councillors

Cllr Love gave information on the possibility of a digital map supplied by Medtech which could be located in Kings Square so that future plans can be plotted digitally. The Hovercraft Museum are ready to transport the propeller, but we need to have the basis of the loan in writing from them. No formal notification has been received from the IW Council on the arrangement they have entered with the Friends of the Umbrella tree. Street works, of the pavements that have been levelled so far only 26% have been approved by the IW Council. Cllr Love reported that there is a Government consultation regarding the guarantee period provided by the Utility companies proposing that the current 2-year guarantee period be extended to 5 Years. He advised Councillors to look at this. The IW Council are charging the organisers of EC2019 £350 for the event in licence fees etc and Cllr Love thought that as ECTC had spent a large amount of money on the Esplanade this should be free. He asked that the Clerk investigate this.

14.4 Town Councillors

Cllr Rann reported on a Chairmanship Training course she had attended at County Hall. She felt that the training was more biased towards county level and was not particularly good.

Cllr Packham reported that a letter received from Lee Matthews, IW Council stated that he would provide a date for the repair of the Esplanade carpark.

Cllr Walker had attended a waste management meeting about Island Roads reducing waste by recycling road material and reported that the next meeting was on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Cllr Paler issued a report of the Medina Valley launch he attended.

Cllr Webster spoke about the poor quality of the work in respect of the paving in Links Road and that they were a safety hazard. The Clerk was asked to inform Kevin Burton and Richard Baker of Island Roads.

## **50.19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that it is in the public interest that the press and public are excluded. (1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act s1 (2)). The Chair duly moved to exclude the press and public for the following items.

15.1 The Council discussed Staffing matters concerning, retirement vacancies and pay rates

The Council discussed issues around a contract quote that had been accepted but could not now be fulfilled by the date required and agreed remedial action.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.47 p.m