



East Cowes Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of East Cowes Town Council held at the Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on Thursday 21st July 2016 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Mayor: Cllr M. Webster
Cllrs: P.Lloyd, Hendry, and Hillard,
Town Clerk: Tina Bailey
Members of the public 4

Public Forum

Question asked re the Arch – dealt with under minutes **4673/16(3)**; The state of sandbags in Well Rd was raised and will be dealt with by IWC Cllr Hillard; request to promote EU Beach Clean Directive noted a national initiative and not specific Town Council business- notice put on public notice board

4696/16 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Barton on holiday, Cllr Rann on holiday and Cllr Hooper on holiday.

Cllr Lloyd reminded that Councillors were summoned to the monthly meeting, not invited.

4697/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- (i) To receive declarations of pecuniary and non- pecuniary interests
Cllr Hillard declared an interest as an IW Ward Councillor.
Cllr Webster declared an interest as a member of the Amy White Theatre.
- (ii) To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
None

4698/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To sign the minutes of the previous meetings held on 16th June and the extra ordinary meeting on 30th June 2016

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2016 and 30th June 2016 were approved and duly signed.

4699/16 PUBLIC REALM SERVICES

To discuss a proposal from the IWC to formally sign a three year agreement for grounds maintenance, environment officer service and the play builder project.

The agreement proposals are that ECTC will make a financial contribution for the provision of the followings services from 2016 / 2019

1. £3791 Grounds Maintenance incl. annual inflation and set for 3 years.
2. £1500 Play builder project at Esplanade
3. £2080 per year Environment Officer Support

ECTC can end the proposed agreement at any time during this period giving IWC 3 months notice. Any variation to this agreement will be logged and the agreement amended the following year.

The Clerk reported on the Town Council's current position and recommended that

1. Grounds maintenance is agreed.
2. To opt out of the play builder fund permanently and add the money saved to the Environment Officer's budget to negotiate a new agreement with the IWC for all inspections of play equipment in East Cowes – Esplanade,

Jubilee Park, skate park plus the new MUGA and outdoor equipment to be undertaken by the Environment Officer on behalf of the Town Council.

The Clerk noted that the Environment Officer had not reported to the Town Council this month and improvements in communication will be discussed along with the new agreement.

RESOLVED

That the above recommendations are agreed

The Clerk also reported that the pool had been closed as cut grass had entered the water causing contamination and blocking the pumps and filters. IWC had been notified of the cause of the problem, which can be rectified by the use of a mower with a box for grass collection but this will incur additional charge including disposal. It was suggested that a fine mesh barrier could be erected on the fence to stop the cut grass blowing around and this will be investigated further at the end of the season.

RESOLVED

That payment of the additional charge for grass collection is agreed

4670/16

PANTOMIME 2016

To discuss and ratify the terms of agreement for the 2016 pantomime provider.

Cllr Lloyd presented a report with recommendations which had been circulated. The costs of purchasing throat mikes will be looked into as possibly more cost effective than hire. Payment will be made directly to AWT as they have agreed to fund the initial costs to the pantomime providers. The Clerk noted the report stated rehearsals are needed for every Thursday evening (except Town Council meetings dates) from Sept to the Dec performances, but advised that the diary contained a new booking which had been paid and accepted for an activity on 4 consecutive Thursday evenings during Sept /Oct.

The pantomime organisers questioned why this booking had been allowed, as the rehearsals are key to the terms of the agreement as discussed with the Facilities Officer and Cllr Lloyd. the Clerk was instructed to look into this and report back and every effort will be made to arrange alternative rehearsal dates to cover those now booked

RESOLVED

That the terms in the report are agreed for T Lambert and R Savage to provide three performances of the pantomime Aladdin at the Town Hall in Dec 2016. The organisers will only stage the pantomime subject to the hall availability for the number of rehearsals required.

4671/16

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO OF EAST COWES.

The Clerk reported an email from David Thornton offering to assist the Town Council with the production of a promotional video including helping with costs and has offered to meet the team to discuss this further.

As the holiday season is already in progress, it was discussed whether the video should be deferred until next year but the suggestion that the actual shooting should take place in the summer months when the town looked at its best, was agreed as a very valid point.

RESOLVED

That the four Councillors present at the meeting will form a working group. The Mayor will arrange the meeting with David Thornton. The group will report back informally to the Clerk with details of proposed arrangements for presentation to the September Town Council meeting.

4672/16

CONSULTATION

To agree any comments on IW Rights Of Way Improvement Plan

RESOLVED

The Town Council would like to see completion of the shared pathway between East Cowes and Newport

4673/16

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

1) Clerk Report And Correspondence

Public conveniences – transfer of title

IWC has advised that transfer documents are being sent out shortly but some transfers are more complex and may take longer. It was noted that covenants and clauses cannot be altered. A one off grant of £1000 will be provide upon completion to be used in whatever manner the TC considers fit to support the use of the public convenience. ECTC has registered with the Valuation Office as requested, as the Town Hall and toilet rateable values are being reviewed.

Clerk is attending a training course about charitable trusts on 26th June.

Library Coordinator closing date for applications is Monday 25th July at noon.

Councillor Vacancy – due to an error the vacancy has been re advertised with a closing date of 11th August. IWC will advise if election to be called.

MUGA – noted that the planning application for the MUGA has not yet been submitted.

A Town Hall Committee meeting was recently held and all projects/ outstanding matters and odds and ends have been listed and discussed. The Clerk advised that that the Town Hall budget allocation will be insufficient for earmarked work and recommended that apart from emergency repairs, the remaining projects are reviewed when next year's budget is considered and any surplus funds can then be apportioned accordingly.

RESOLVED

Agreed that the remaining projects are reviewed when next year's budget is considered and any surplus funds can be apportioned accordingly.

The two larger projects of the outside area and disabled toilet are nearing completion. Quotes for tarmac the path and car park were received. The Town Council were reminded that the resurfacing of York Avenue as part of the regeneration included to the Town Hall car park. Cllr Hillard offered to look into this and also find out if Island Roads could undertake the line painting.

RESOLVED

No further tarmac work will be undertaken and the new planters should be installed on the path to complete the project asap.

The rising cost of the disabled toilet was questioned and the Clerk advised that the age and build of the Town Hall presented problems and additional expense as new work progressed. It was observed that the planning of projects needs improvement with clear decisions made by Councillors. The Clerk advised that policies & procedures and relevant standing orders are being reviewed and will be reported later in the year.

New Premises Licence at Banca, East Cowes

Consultations

- The Rights Of Way Improvement Plan 2016 Consultation and Rights Of Way Survey
- Medina Estuary Coastal Survey

Competition at the www.greatbritishhighstreet.co.uk

2) The Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on her attendance at the launch of the new Red Jet by HM Princess Royal.

3) Councillors Report

Arch - Cllr Lloyd reported that the base rings were sagging and gave details of a quote to fill in the gaps around the arch which was obtained after a risk assessment identified the metal containers as an h & s hazard. The Council were advised that due to the metal of the rings and the container being set in concrete at ground level, plants will not survive long in such an environment. It was also reiterated that from installation, the arch was included on the Town Council insurance and became the Town Council's responsibility under a licence from the IWC, which can be handed back with one month's notice.

RESOLVED

The sagging base rings are a manufacturing fault and Cllr Hillard will chase this.

That the IWC will be asked to pay the costs for filling in the base from s106 money as the project has been left incomplete.

4) IW Councillors Report

Cllr Hillard reported on Red Funnel, abandoned vehicles and the Marina development /Albany Green.

Cllr Hillard advised that the Town Council needs to be prepared to respond to the plans as the proposed amendment of the lease at Albany Green, loses amenity space which was given to the town with the proviso that nothing was built on it.

4674/16

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

To adopt the updated Health and Safety Policy.

The Clerk advised that with increasing responsibilities being handed to the Town Council, keeping the Health and Safety Policy up to date was paramount in today's litigious environment and presented a more comprehensive policy for adoption.

RESOLVED

That the new Health and Safety Policy is adopted and will be reviewed annually

4675/16

AUTOMATIC PENSIONS ENROLEMENT

The Clerk advised that the Town Council is responsible for providing a pensions scheme in accordance with recent government legislation. The Town Council has enrolled, as demanded, and are half way through the process. The next step is for a pensions scheme to be selected and the government's scheme, the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) is becoming the preferred choice, as it is government run with low charges of 1% until 2018 when it rises to 3% for employer contribution. Only one member of staff currently qualifies in salary and age criteria, to enrol once the scheme is operational but will be choosing to opt out. It is a requirement that a person has to opt in, to be able to opt out the day after the staging date, which in ECTC case will be in Jan 2017. Any future member of staff employed by the Town Council will, if they qualify, be entitled to join the pension scheme.

The Clerk asked if the Council wished to form a committee to review all providers and make recommendation to ECTC in Sept or accept NEST?

RESOLVED

That the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) is approved as the Town Council's pension provider.

4676/16 MEETING IN AUGUST

Traditionally, local councils defer meetings in August; the Town Council Committees are all up to date and the Clerk will be on annual leave for 3 weeks from 1st to 22nd August. A locum clerk will be attending the office as needed throughout the period, as ongoing matters have to be dealt with and a planning meeting will have to be arranged for the Marina planning application which closes on 12th August.

RESOLVED

Not to hold a monthly meeting in August

To review the Marina plan application as soon as possible.

4677/16 FINANCES

1. To note the expenditure against budget and bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED

The first quarter expenditure against budget was noted.

2. To agree payments list as presented.

RESOLVED

List of payments as presented are agreed.

Mayor.....

21st September 2016