

East Cowes Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of East Cowes Town Council held on Thursday 16th July 2015 at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes.

Present:

Mayor: Cllr M Webster
Cllrs: Hooper, P. Lloyd, Rann, Hendry, Barton. O.B.E.
Town Clerk: Tina Bailey
Members of the public: Three

Public Forum: Questions raised regarding the state of Albany Green and the litter /cleaning of the Esplanade

Reports from IW Councillor J Baker-Smith and L Hillard: None

Police report: None.

4587/15 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hillard, Hendry and M. Lloyd

4588/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non -pecuniary interests
Cllrs Rann, Webster and Hooper declared a personal interest in minute no: 4591/15.

2 To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
None

**4589/15 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2015
RESOLVED**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2015 were approved and duly signed.

**4590/15 CHRISTMAS EVENT – TO RECEIVE A MOTION FROM CLLRS: BARTON, HENDRY,
P. LLOYD, HOOPER and M. LLOYD TO:-**

- 1 To facilitate a meeting with local groups regarding a Christmas event
- 2 To support a Town Council Christmas event.

It was moved that the Town Council should facilitate a meeting to measure interest in holding a Christmas Event and to offer free use of the Town Hall as various organisations had indicated their preference for an inside event. It was noted that the Town Council has allocated £1250 specifically towards a Christmas Event. The Amy White Theatre group has offered to produce the refreshments for the event and any profits made, will go towards the Town Hall refurbishment.

RESOLVED

That Deputy Mayor, Cllr Hendry, leads on behalf of organisations with the named Councillors, to start arranging a Town Council Christmas event in the Town Hall, which will save the costs payable for a road closure and additional events insurance.

**4591/15 HALL HIRE CHARGES – TO RECEIVE A MOTION FROM CLLRS: WEBSTER, RANN
AND HOOPER**

To grant the free hire of East Cowes Town Hall and theatre to organisations who exist solely to benefit the Town Council facilities used by the community.

The Clerk explained that at a recent library meeting, the Library Committee had agreed to allow the library volunteers to use the hall free of charge for any fund raising event as the library operates under the remit of the Town Council as a community facility. As the Amy

White Theatre operates solely to benefit the Town Council, who own and manage the Town Hall, it was suggested that the same should apply to them.

The Amy White Theatre Committee have offered to make their audited accounts available.

RESOLVED

That the free hire of East Cowes Town Hall and theatre is granted to the Amy White Theatre Group for the duration of the remaining term of office of this Council and that the annual accounts are made available for inspection.

4592/15 FENCING AROUND THE ESPLANADE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA- To agree to pay the costs for installing fencing around the play area to provide a safe and healthy environment.

The Clerk confirmed that the IWC had granted permission for the installation and that the final costs, which now include the revised sized gates as required, is £11180. The budget for the fencing had been allocated at £7000. The Clerk recommended the additional funds could be vired from the budget allocation for independent lighting at the Skatepark as this had since been withdrawn.

RESOLVED

That the Council accept the Clerk's recommendation and agree the payment for the fencing, which should be installed as soon as practical.

4593/15 WAR MEMORIAL - To discuss paying for the War Memorial to be cleaned.

The British Legion have asked if the War Memorial in St James Churchyard could be cleaned and add any missing names. The Clerk advised that some grants are currently available but subject to strict criteria.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approve the cleaning of the War Memorial and adding any missing names. That funding for this purpose should be applied for but if a grant submission is unsuccessful, the Town Council agree to pay the costs.

4594/15 VECTIS RD PAVILION - To receive details of the proposal from Community Action IW

Mike Bulpitt, Chief Executive of CAIW met with the Mayor and Clerk and discussed proposals to set up the Pavilion as a community centre and café.

The Town Council welcome the interest in the site but question why S106 money was not being used to provide a new building? It is noted that the issue of how much S106 money is actually still available has not been satisfactorily answered by IWC?

RESOLVED

That the Clerk submits a Freedom of Information request to IWC to obtain details of what money is available, where is it, what specific amounts have been allocated and spent, who is the lead officer and why can't ECTC have any money for their projects?

It was queried if the recent annual Fun Day had been a success and did anyone know which organisation benefited from any profit made, as it was understood that the Pavilion account has been closed?

4595/15 DEFRA CLEAN WATER DESIGNATION

- 1 To discuss correspondence received from IWC
- 2 To discuss and agree to pay associated costs

Discussion took place on the correspondence and information from IWC and Defra and the legal responsibilities and financial implications. It was noted that the Town Council chose not to take over beach cleaning responsibilities when offered last year, under the transfer of discretionary services by the IWC.

RESOLVED

That the Council will provide the group FAECES, in the form of a grant, the fee of £450 to facilitate water sampling by the Environment Agency.

That the Town Council resolutely decline to take on any other responsibility in relation to this matter.

4596/15 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Noted.

4597/15 TO DISCUSS IWC CHANGES TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS.

RESOLVED

The advised changes are noted and planning applications will be reviewed online by the planning committee.

4598/15 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

A recent inspection of the advertising board outside the Town Hall by IWC confirmed it is in a very poor state and the Town Council has been offered options of a very basic repair or for the Town Council to take it over.

RESOLVED

The Town Council will take over the lease to manage and maintain the board. This can be added to the Town Hall lease, which is currently being amended to transfer the grass area to the Town Council's responsibility.

This offer is subject to confirmation that the IWC have no objection to the board being moved closer to the pavement to improve visibility.

Report

The Clerk advised that the public/community toilets consultation will be dealt with by the IWC in August and could result in the closure of Osborne Rd toilets. The Town Council allocated sufficient funds in the budget, under discretionary services, to allow the Town Council to take over and run this facility if required.

RESOLVED

That the Town Council would agree to take over Osborne Rd toilets, if the IWC decided to close them.

Town Council meeting in August?

RESOLVED

That the meeting in August is cancelled and the next meeting of the full Town Council is 17th September 2015.

4599/15 TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing of interest to report

4600/15 TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS OR MATTERS RAISED FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

- Report from Cllr Barton O.B.E re Area Action Plan Meeting (appended)
Noted
- Report from Cllr Barton O.B.E re Cowes Harbour Commission Meeting (appended)
Noted

4601/15

FINANCES

- 1 To receive and note the financial report

RESOLVED

The quarterly expenditure against budget and bank reconciliation were noted.

- 2 To agree payments as presented

RESOLVED

That the payments list as presented is approved.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 20:05

Mayor.....
17th September 2015

Report back on Cowes Harbour Commission

The meetings have been taken up with the issues surrounding the Outer Harbour Breakwater. There is an admitted design fault which has caused changes in the Inner Harbour tidal flow and increased sediment in the harbour. APBmer the consultants for the project and Atkins the project managers were forced to admit that there were problems in the design and are commissioned to rectify it by building up the rocks on the existing breakwater and in the next phase the future extension of the and the dredging of an Eastern Channel

The Consultants are in the process of designing a new model of tidal flows.

There is concern from The Yacht Clubs re future for sailing events and a series of meetings with stakeholders is being arranged I have raised the question of effect on the East Cowes beach and the weed and the Consultants have agreed to look at it.

COUNCILLOR M. BARTON O.B.E

REPORT ON MEETING RE AAP's (Area Action Plans)

Ollie Boulter told the Medina Area representatives that the new timetable for the AAPs was SP2 Review in August/September and consultation period on the three AAPs in September/October with the Examination in February 2016. The Hearings will be in April with adoption in May 2016

EFFECT OF NEW PLANNING LEGISLATION ON COUNCILS

Ollie Boulter is concerned that the local planning authorities ability to determine decisions on Brown Field Sites will be reduced.

A number of us raised the question of large sites in the Medina Area and Ollie said probably permissions would be granted by default on major schemes but would wait to see what emerged in the Green Paper

CUTS IN SERVICE

There will be a reduction of some 25% in planning services with pre planning advice being an extra charge. There will no longer be a reception service and for advice appointments will have to be made. Parish and Town Councils will no longer get the support they get now and the decision by Newport and Ryde to appoint planning support may well be the way forward.

MORRIS BARTON