

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

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## **Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr Rann (Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:** Webster, Paler, Hendry, Walker, Packham

**Town Clerk:** S Chilton

**Also present:** 4 members of the public

Public Forum

- A query was raised regarding variation to planning approval applications (Item 3.3) and what control the Town Council had in challenging this. Councillors explained that any variations come to them for comment but that the Local Planning Authority make the final decision. Concerns were voiced about an application which affected traffic layout involving large lorries through the town and the need for a long-term plan. Councillors advised the member of the public to lobby the IWC Cabinet Member responsible, Ian Ward regarding her concerns on safety.

## **Meeting opened at 6 p.m.**

### **1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Love who was on holiday and Cllr Lloyd who was unwell

### **2/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 2.1 Declarations of non - pecuniary interests were received from Cllrs Walker, Packham in item 3.4 as they reside close by and from Cllr Ran in item 3.1 and 3.2 as the applicants were known to her.
- 2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

### **3/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

3.1 Application No: P/01405/18 Alt Ref: TCP/33044/A, Location: 22 Adelaide Grove, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO326BY. Proposal: Demolition of extension; proposed side and rear extension; porch  
**Resolved:** No objections to this application

3.2 Application No: P/01373/18 Alt Ref: TCP/32880/B Location: Osborne Cottage, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO326BD. Proposal: Variation of condition 2 on P/01263/16 to allow revised design to balcony  
**Resolved:** No objections to this application

3.3 Application No: P/01448/18 Alt Ref: TCP/32391/B. Location: Venture Quays/Trinity House Depot & Wharf/Red Funnel Marshalling Yards, located in vicinity of Dover Road and, Castle Street, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32. Proposal: Variation of condition no 2 on P/01065/15 to allow amendments to new terminal building.  
**Resolved:** No objections to this application apart from Cllr Webster who wished her objection to be noted

3.4 Application No: P/00010/19 Alt Ref: TCP/25697/A. Location: 8, Osborne Heights, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO326FE. Proposal: Proposed detached garage  
**Resolved:** No objections to this application

### 3.5 Protection of trees in Tree Preservation Order Notice, 28 New Barn Rd - Consent

**Resolved:** Noted

#### 4/19 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Deputy Mayor declared that the Town Council meets the required criteria and is now eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence. She stated:

- That at least two thirds of the members of the council hold office as a result of being declared elected.
- That the Town Clerk holds an eligible qualification and has completed training in the exercise of the power.

**Resolved:** That East Cowes Town Council are eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence

#### 5/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Deputy Mayor

#### 6/19 REVIEW OF HALL HIRE RATES

The Council noted the report on hall hire rates and discussed increasing rates in line with inflation. Cllr Webster stated that the rates had been increased by r.o.i in 2017 and queried how the council would know whether the servery had been used as part of the hire charge. She suggested that the rate shouldn't be split but that it should be inclusive. Cllr Rann put this to the vote, and it was carried. Cllr Webster said that she felt the hire rate could not be increased until the toilets and dressing rooms at the rear of the stage were refurbished and suggested that the heating should be turned off when not in use. The Clerk explained that the Facilities Officer had advised it was more cost-effective to leave the heating on constant but managed by the temperature set. Cllr Hendry suggested that the Council could purchase SMART temperature controls which would do this, but they would need to be costed. Cllr Hendry stated that the Town Council didn't want to lose hirers by increasing the charge. Cllr Walker felt that the increase was minimal. Cllr Webster proposed leaving the rates as they were but introducing a charge for the caretaker to set up etc. as set out in the Clerk's report. This was seconded and put to the vote and was carried. It was further agreed to review rates annually.

**Resolved:** Not to increase hall hire rates at present but to review annually. From April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, to make a charge, that reflects the caretaker's hourly rate of pay, for caretakers to lock/unlock, set up and pack away, clean and remove rubbish when requested by the hirer. This to be agreed at the time of booking.

#### 7/19 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE AND LEP BUSINESS CASE CONSULTATION

The Council noted the joint response from East Cowes TC and Cowes TC to the Floating Bridge LEP Consultation, which had been agreed at the meeting between East Cowes Town Council and Cowes Town Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The Cowes Clerk had sent the joint response to Stuart Baker, Head of Local Growth and the Solent LEP and this had been formally acknowledged.

The Mayor of Cowes, Cllr Paul Fuller has suggested that another meeting be arranged with ECTC to be held at East Cowes. Cllr Fuller also requested that, in future, each council send a liaison person to attend each other's meetings, as the two councils have much in common to deal with. This would be put on a future agenda for discussion.

The Mayor had asked that a report from him, regarding the joint meeting, be read under item 7. The report stated that he felt time had been wasted going over old ground, but the meeting did come up with a few positives such as, the size and weight etc. independent engineering/ audit, not meeting SLEP tendering objectives including the economic impact and the solution for a loan for a smaller sized FB7. He stated that he was appalled at the behaviour and lack of respect shown to the stakeholders who were present and how some councillors were at risk of rejecting free knowledge and advice from an engineer who knew what he was on about. The statement said they were invited by two IW Councillors and an ECTC member, who had all recommended their attendance, realising the

knowledge and benefit their presence would have. Others had been consulted and the Mayor had been last to be informed by phone of their decision. He stated that it sounded that they had councillor's approval and should attend as advisors. The group has since informed him that they will not be working with the two Town Councils again, as a direct response to the actions of those present at the meeting.

#### **8/19 FINANCES**

8.1 To approve and agree payments as presented, to ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS.

**Resolved:** All payments approved for payment, direct debits and other prepaid invoices ratified.

#### **9/19 PARKING ISSUES IN THE TOWN**

Cllr Rann informed the council of her concerns regarding various parking issues in the Town including the dumped trailers in Maresfield Rd and the new Red Funnel paid car park that would be opening soon and which, she felt, may have an adverse impact on parking in residential streets. She felt that commuters may be inclined to park in the side streets or laybys, rather than pay at the new car park. She suggested that if on street parking charges were introduced it might discourage this behaviour and might also get rid of dumped trailers. There was some discussion about the streets where commuters currently park. Cllr Webster suggested that a reduced price for Red Funnel users might encourage them to use the new car park. Cllr Rann said the charge had not yet been decided and the car park would be both short/long term parking for 47 users.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mark Downer, Parking Enforcement, IW Council, had offered to meet Councillors to discuss parking issues in the town. It was agreed that he should be invited and provisional dates for 12<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> February were suggested.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to invite Mark Downer and to agree a date to be advised.

#### **10/19 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

10.1 The Council discussed the provisional results of the recent public consultation which had received views from both face to face meetings and online surveys. The Clerk read the report covering the responses. Cllr Rann stated that she was pleased with the public's contribution. It was agreed that there needed to be a further discussion on the ideas and views put forward prior to drafting a budget. A meeting date was set that all councillors would attend.

**Resolved:** To meet on 6<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the results of the consultation.

#### **11/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

11.1 Town Clerk

1 Caroline Morris, IW Clinical Commissioning Group had offered to attend a future meeting to explain the issue of cross Solent travel for health purposes and the arrangements, that should be in place for essential travel, where there is no choice but for people to attend a mainland hospital.

**Resolved:** To invite Caroline Morris to a future meeting of the Town Council

2 Sight for Wight had sent a letter of thanks to the Town Council for the donation made for the Short Story Writing Competition. They also sent information on the Award Ceremony which took place in December.

3 A message of congratulations from Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Cowes Town Council was received regarding the East Cowes Xmas decorations

4 Leaving Care Team had written thanking the Town Council for the grant which enabled them to purchase first aid kits and DIY sets for care leavers moving into independent living.

5 Correspondence had been received from the Footprint Trust regarding "A Warmer Parish" initiative that they would like to present to Council.

**Resolved:** To invite a representative from the Footprint Trust to a future meeting

11.2 Mayor's Report

The Clerk read the Mayors Report which covered his attendance at the joint meeting of Cowes TC and East Cowes TC (item 7) and the Sight for Wight Awards Evening. He had also attended the public consultation events. Cllr Rann and the Mayor had met with representatives from Red Funnel to discuss their long-term plans. A new cargo ship capable of carrying 12 lorries will be launched by the end of March. Crossing will consist of 4 per day on a Monday and Friday. This will begin at the end of May. There will be no evening sailings and there are no plans to bring the Red Jet service to East Cowes. Demolition of their buildings has begun and should be completed by the end of March. Road alterations will be undertaken using Sec 106 monies. Lorries will be kept as far as possible to limit noise nuisance. There shouldn't be any overnight parking and the marshalling yard should be completed by Sept 2020 but may creep into 2021. Well Rd carpark is to open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

### 11.3 IW Ward Councillors

No reports

### 11.4 Town Councillors

Cllr Paler - Reported on meeting with Barratts re fly-tipping and this was removed within a week. Saunders Way has not yet been passed to Island Roads. Drug dealing reported to him was taken up with Hampshire Police and extra patrols are now taking place with police targeting dealers. East Cowes Esplanade walkabout went well. The East Cowes Community Partnership meeting has plans well ahead for EC2019. Will be meeting Barratts next week and this will include Kingston Copse ownership.

Cllr Webster – Spoke about the Environment Officer attending future meetings. This was in hand. She also spoke about the foreign Wight Fibre workers having problems conversing with the residents of John Nash Avenue and Oak Tree Way when asked about the mud and general mess that is being created.

Cllr Rann – Explained that the GKN cranes are dredging. She asked that the Environment Officer and the police be asked to send a report to Council or attend.

The Deputy Mayor then chose a random ticket for the winner of the public consultation draw. The winner was Mr Simon Craddock who received a £50 voucher for Waitrose.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7.45 p.m.