



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
Tel: (01983) 299082 Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on **Thursday 18th July 2019 at 6.30pm**

Present:

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

Councillors: Paler (Deputy Mayor), Walker, Packham, Love, Lloyd, Webster, Hendry

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Assistant Clerk: C Gale

Also present: Claire Kennard and Chris Ashman (Isle of Wight Council), Bob Seely MP, 60 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public raised concerns about regular water quality testing on the seafront and an application refused by DEFRA in respect of designation of bathing water. Mr Seely suggested he send the information on this to him and he would investigate
- A member of the public asked why the floating bridge was not an item on the agenda. It was explained that neither Alex Minns nor Mark Downer were able to attend but they had provided a statement which would be read out under Clerk's Report
- A question was asked about road safety in the town with reference to Red Funnel works, construction traffic in residential areas, the lack of a pavement for pedestrians walking to school and the lack of a speed limit on the Esplanade. It was suggested that the question be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors prior to sending to Island Roads and Bob Seely
- A question was asked about what is happening with the development of the Albany Barracks and Maresfield Road site
- A concern was raised about the future regeneration of the marine industry in East Cowes and the lack of investment in the Medina Yard
- A question was asked about whether telescopes could be provided on the Esplanade – to be followed up
- A question was asked about whether East Cowes Town Council could take over the whole of the Esplanade. This is currently the responsibility of the IW Council

Meeting opened at 6.30 p.m.

79/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

80/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of membership of the East Cowes Business Association, IW Councillor, East Cowes Community Partnership.

Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest due to membership of the East Cowes Community Partnership, IW Councillor, pecuniary interest relating to item 4 due to his spouse's employment status, non-pecuniary interest relating to item 10 due to being IW Councillor sitting on the related committee.

No other declarations of interests were received.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

81/19 EAST COWES ESPLANADE REGENERATION

Claire Kennard and Chris Ashman (Area Regeneration Programme Managers, Isle of Wight Council) gave a presentation about the regeneration strategy for East Cowes. They want to work with stakeholders including businesses and Town and Parish Councils as a community led project. An architect had been employed to come up with ideas following initial meetings that had been held with interested parties. Councillors raised concerns about the failure to repair the landslip and ideas were put forward for preserving the woodland area with access to Castle Point. There was deep concern expressed from both the Council and members of the public that that the character of the Esplanade should be preserved. That it is currently considered the best Esplanade on the island and should be left alone. Enhancements could include the use of flags, a bandstand and other features in keeping with a Victorian Esplanade and that it would be a mistake to over-develop and commercialise the area. CA and CK noted the comments. A working group meeting will be taking place on Thursday 25th July at East Cowes Town Hall which those present were invited to attend.

82/19 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Bob Seely MP spoke about the Island Plan for housing which states 9000 new homes should be built on the island over the next 15 years. He feels that the method used to calculate this number is flawed and has invited CPRE to come up with an appropriate formula to amend the Island Plan's housing targets. Having organised several public meetings in other towns across the island he is very aware of the feelings of local people that the allocation from government is too high, given the islands infrastructure, landscape and character. He stated that the island needs small scale developments of 1 and 2 bed roomed, affordable properties for local people, built in existing communities and not larger homes which attract people who are retiring from the mainland. Currently only 200-300 homes are built here each year. He encouraged those attending the meeting to complete his Island Vision survey. He was made aware of the proposal to develop Crossways, the current developments agreed in East Cowes and those which are in the pipeline; which could result in an additional 1700 units. Councillors felt that East Cowes had had their fair share and that Crossways was a step to far. He responded that to date he has not commented on any individual planning applications as clogging up the system will not help to resolve matters.

East Cowes Town Council stated that a public meeting will be organised when the Crossways Development application is lodged and are hopeful that Mr Seely will attend. It will be widely advertised in the media

83/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.1 Application No: 19/00417/FUL Location: 11 St Wilfred Drive, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6GQ

Proposal: Continued use of outbuilding for dog grooming business

Councillors discussed the application and raised concerns about noise if the building is not soundproofed.

Resolved: The Town Council objects to the application

5.2 Application No: 19/00446/HOU

Location: 37 Hefford Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6QG

Proposal: Proposed single storey extension

Councillors discussed the application

Resolved: No objection to the application

5.3 Application No: 19/00461/FUL Location: 13 Connaught Road, East Cowes, PO32 6DP

Proposal: Change of use of ground floor from shop to laundrette & studio flat

Resolved: No objection provided noise, parking and discharge of effluent are monitored by enforcement officers

5.4 Application No: 19/00523/HOU Location: New Barn Lodge, 53 New Barn Road, East Cowes, PO32 6AY

Proposal: Proposed alterations and single storey rear extension with roof terrace; new entrance porch; replacement of concrete tile roof with slate roof; new dormer window and alterations to roof

Resolved: The Town Council supports the application

84/19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on June 20th, 2019 were agreed and signed

Resolved: To agree the minutes of the 20th June 2019

85/19 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER REPORT

Cllr Webster reported that there was a problem with rats and overgrown brambles in Church Path. It was also noted that 2 tarmac spreading boards had been left behind by Island Roads outside 1 St James' Close.

Resolved: To note the report from the Environment Officer and to make him aware of the issues raised.

86/19 GRANT APPLICATION

The grant application from the Community Spirited Café was discussed. The Council was informed that it is not a registered charity or a CIC. It appears on the business web site and the Council's grant application guidelines state that they are unable to support profit-making organisations. This advice had been endorsed by the legal team of NALC. Councillors applauded the work done by the café but felt constrained by the legal situation. It was suggested that the applicant register the café as a CIC and then reapply, but this suggestion was rejected.

Resolved: To review the policy on grants and to defer the application

87/19 FINANCES

9.1 Councillors considered the payments as presented

Resolved: To agree the payments

9.2 Councillors considered the Direct Debit and BACS payments to be ratified

Resolved: To agree the ratified payments

9.3 To receive a quarterly income list

Resolved: To accept the income list

88/19 IWC COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

Council felt that more information was required before a comment could be made on the changes to the scheme.

Resolved: To call a special meeting to discuss the scheme with a representative of IWC and respond to the consultation.

89/19 LITTERBINS AND DOG BINS

Councillors felt that it would be helpful to have the Facilities Officer attend a future meeting to better explain the conclusions of the report.

Resolved: To defer the item to the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee Meeting on Thursday 5th September at 7.00pm and to request the Facilities Officer attend

90/19 REPORTS

12.1 Clerks Report

A Thank you was received from the IW Youth Programme. The contribution from the Town Council has enabled the project to apply for further grants from the Heritage Fund and the Arts Council.

The Footprint Trust reported that the grant made by the Council had enabled a home visit in East Cowes, which had resulted in an energy efficiency saving of £600 per year. They will be conducting further consultations after Christmas which is usually their busiest time.

Dates for the Parkside Pavilion litter pick were suggested. Saturday 21st or 28th September.

The clerk read out a statement from Alex Minns regarding the operation of the Floating Bridge during the St Marys Roundabout works planned for September 2019. It stated that the push boat will be tendered to ensure the floating bridge can run at all times and that no general maintenance has been scheduled for this period. AM asked if there were any specific issues Councillors should make him aware of them. Councillors asked that he be invited to attend the September Full Council meeting.

Advice from the NALC legal team has confirmed that under the Local Government Act 1894. The powers in the Act prohibit council's involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church e.g. the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to the costs.

12.2 Mayors Report

The Mayor spoke about her visit to "The World" residential cruise ship where she had been presented with a commemorative plaque. The Mayors report is attached to these minutes. Councillors felt that the Town Council should hold a small stock of commemorative gifts for visiting dignitaries.

Resolved: The Council to source commemorative gifts for presentation to dignitaries

12.3 IW Councillors Reports

Cllr Love stated that he has reported overgrown brambles, parking issues and that the Albany Road surface is breaking up to Island Roads. He had attended a meeting with Island Roads about the new road layout in East Cowes.

The Propeller will be delivered on 24th July and a documentary is being made about it and publicity will include the Town Council.

He attended a SLEP meeting with other representatives from the island.

He voiced concerns about the future development of the Spring Hill area, Venture Quays and the Maresfield Road site which is purported to be contaminated land.

He hopes that the Biosphere designation will help the island regarding regeneration and appropriate house building. He acknowledged the wonderful work being undertaken by the WI on a poppy cascade.

Cllr Hendry has attended Whippingham Parish Council and his first cabinet meeting. He has also had a meeting with John Metcalfe, C/EX of the IW Council about Britannia Road improvements, the reduction in grass cutting and Link Road.

12.4 Town Councillors Reports

Cllr Walker attended a Plastic Forum Meeting. IWALC has set up a working group looking at the Island Plan.

Cllr Webster voiced concerns about the state of the old doctor's surgery. The Clerk advised the Enforcement Team is monitoring the site.

91/19 GRANT APPLICATION

Councillors considered a request for assistance from Community Action IW for emergency works at the Parkside Pavilion to deal with a badger set that is undermining the building. It was thought that the IWC is the landlord and should be approached.

Resolved: To reject the application and to write to Community Action and suggest they contact the IWC

92/19 EXCLUSION OF THE 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 (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s 1(2)). The Chair duly moved to exclude the press and public for the following items.

Resolved: To exclude the press and the public

Contractual matters were considered

Resolved: To accept the most competitive and efficient quotes received

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed:

Dated: