

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6RU
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Minutes of a meeting of the **East Cowes Town Council** to be held on **Thursday 17th October 2019 at 6.30 p.m.** at **Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes**

Present;

Councillors: Hendry, Walker, Packham, Lloyd, Webster, Love

Town Clerk: S Chilton, **Assistant Clerk:** C Gale

Also, present: 9 members of the public

The Mayor was on leave and the Deputy Mayor was indisposed and unable to attend. In view of this, Council elected a chair from within their cohort. Cllr Webster was elected and duly took the Chair.

Public Forum

- Will the Town Council support the feasibility of making Old Rd 1 way from Cambridge Rd to Castle St? Comments will be passed to Island Roads
- Will the Council support the recommendations of the Historic Places report, in respect of the preservation of the Columbine building, and could the council confirm their view to Lee Byrne, Conservation Officer, IWC? Council responded they supported all the recommendations made in respect of the Columbine Building and will write to Lee Byrne, IWC.
- Are the Council aware that the winter gritting programme has cancelled 29 roads, four of which are in East Cowes? Council was aware.
- A thank you for letter in response to the question re the Floating Bridge judicial review suggestion. The Clerk read the response which identified the potential costs involved and the process. Council agreed they will await a response from Cowes TC before discussing this further.
- Is there a possibility that the Town Council could support local businesses? Council will be forming a Town Forum to review and develop a Town Plan that will look at these issues.
- The cost and repayment term of the PWLB of £700k was queried. Council replied this figure was provided by the architectural consultants engaged to develop a scheme. It was a "worst scenario" figure and grant applications have been made that would decrease the total borrowed.
- A thank you for the Town Council support for the recent visit by the HH Princess Olga Romanov.
- Hawthorn Meadows needs a post box and a bus service and a road link to East Cowes and the site is looking like a building site. Cllr Hendry has chased about the post box and Island Roads re the link road. Island Roads are still waiting for information from Barratts, but it is hoped this will be completed in the spring of 2020. Cllrs Love and Hendry agreed to follow up on issues raised.

Meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

113/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1.1 App No: 19/00417/FUL Appeal No: 19/00005/REF Location: 11 St Wilfred Drive, East Cowes, PO32 6GQ
Proposal: Retention of outbuilding for use as dog grooming business Start Date: 20/09/2019

Resolved: Council objected to this appeal on the grounds of noise nuisance to other residents

1.2 App No: 19/01095/FUL Location: Land Adjacent 13 Oakfield Road East Cowes Isle of Wight PO32 6DX
Proposal: Proposed dwelling with parking

Resolved: Council supported this application with the condition that due regard is given to the Badgers Trust comments

1.3 App No: 19/01142/FUL Location: Land Adjacent 1 St James Close East Cowes Isle of Wight
Proposal: Proposed detached dwelling; formation of vehicular access; alterations to 1 St James Close
Resolved: Council objected to this application on the grounds of highways safety posing a risk to the public on entering and exiting the site, particularly as it is on a well-used school route. Additionally, it appears to go beyond the existing building line.

114/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Rann who is on annual leave and Cllr Paler who was indisposed

115/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor, member of East Cowes Business Association and member of East Cowes Community Partnership. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

116/19 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 19th Sept and the Special Meeting on the 7th Oct 2019 were agreed and signed

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of the 19th September and 7th October

117/19 FLOATING BRIDGE

5.1 An update on the Floating Bridge from the IW Council which stated that statistics for August and September was read out.

5.2 Cllr Paler's report from the Floating Bridge User Group was read out.

Cllr Love stated that the statistics provided were meaningless. He proposed that ECTC write to Mark Downer and request comparative statistics over the period the floating bridge had been in operation. He informed the Council that IW Council Cabinet were considering legal advice they had received and whether they will take legal action. He felt that the communications from IWC were slow, especially at weekends and that electronic signs were still an issue. A proposal was made and seconded to write to Mark Downer setting out those points and requesting that the statistics are put onto the IWC website.

Resolved: To write to Mark Downer setting out the points made and that statistics are put onto the IWC website.

118/19 FINANCES

6.1/2 Councillors considered the payment list, Direct Debits and BACS payments to be ratified.

Resolved: To approve and agree the ratified payments.

6.3 Councillors received an income list and bank reconciliation for September

Resolved: To accept both documents

6.4 Councillors considered a contribution of £100 from the Mayors Allowance for the visit by Princess Olga

Resolved: To agree a contribution of £100 from the Mayors Allowance for hospitality for the Princess Olga visit

119/19 EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

Councillors noted the report of PKF Littlejohn, External Auditors for the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2018/19. The comments of the auditors in respect of the receipts and payments return for 2017/18 were noted. No action was required as the current return had been made correctly on an income and expenditure basis.

Resolved: To accept the report

120/19 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

Councillors considered the requirement to resolve to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing Communities & Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £700,000.00, over the borrowing term of 25 years, for the purpose of the development of a Community Hub. The annual loan repayments will come to around £33,660.00. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 8.9%, which is the equivalent of an additional £10.40 per year. This will be subject to a precept increase consultation.

Resolved: At the East Cowes Town Council meeting of 17th October 2019, it was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £700,000.00 over the borrowing term of 25 years for the development of a Community Hub. The annual loan repayments will come to around £33,660.00. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 8.9% which is the equivalent of an additional £10.40 a year. This will be subject to a council tax precept increase consultation.

121/19 TENNIS COURT FENCE RENEWAL

The Council considered a request from IW Council to contribute towards fence replacement at East Cowes Tennis Courts. They decided that these were essential works and that a chain link fence was the preferred option. The IW Council have stated that they are going to tidy this area and remove any fly-tipping. The Council agreed that they would be willing to pay 50% of the cost.

Resolved: To pay the IW Council 50% of the total cost of £2039 + VAT a sum of £1223.40

122/19 EAST COWES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

10.1 The Council received Cllr Hendry's resignation as ECTC representative on this group

10.2 Nominations for a representative on the group were Cllr Love, Cllr Rann and Cllr Walker. Cllr Love was elected as the representative. To serve alongside Cllr Paler on the ECCP.

Resolved: To accept Cllr Hendry's resignation and to agree that Cllr Love act as the 2nd East Cowes Town Council representative on the East Cowes Community Partnership

123/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

11.1 In view of the number of planning applications that the Council were receiving for comment the Clerk proposed that Council should consider reinstating the Planning Committee. This would enable applications to be considered on an as and when basis and would not be included at Full Council meetings, unless they were deemed more suitable for Full Council consideration. Councillors felt that this was a sensible action to take.

Resolved: To reinstate the Planning Committee

11.2 Council nominated 5 Councillors to serve on the Planning Committee.

Resolved: Councillors Webster, Rann, Walker, Packham and Lloyd would form the Planning Committee

11.3 Councillors discussed frequency and times of meetings.

Resolved: That the Planning Committee will meet on an as and when basis and in the mornings. Wherever possible they will take place on a Tuesday or Thursday.

11.4 Councillors discussed the powers for the Planning Committee and whether they should have delegated powers. The criteria for major or controversial applications was debated and it was agreed that where the public had shown an interest then those applications would be determined by Full Council.

Resolved: That the committee shall have delegated powers; apart from major or controversial applications, that will go to Full Council for comment.

124/19 MEETING DATES

Meeting dates up till May 2020 were presented to council for agreement.

Resolved: To agree council meeting dates to May 2020 as presented

125/19 REPORTS

13.1 The Clerk informed the Council about the intended removal of Public Call Boxes, one of which was in East Cowes, at the junction of Upper Yarborough Rd and Adelaide Grove. Discussion took place on the value of preserving this call box if only for emergency use and this view was endorsed by the public. The Clerk was asked to reply to the Planning Authority requesting that this call box remain.

Resolved: To write to Planning Department and request that the call box in East Cowes remain.

The Clerk gave information on potential road names for a new development of 4 dwellings on land at 38 New Barn Rd. Island Roads had given the council 1 month in which to object to any of the names.

Resolved: The Council did not object to any names, apart from John Gibson Close. The Clerk to notify Island Roads

13.2 The Mayors report was read and noted (attached to minutes)

13.3.1 Cllr Hendry read his report. There were no questions (attached to minutes)

13.3.2 Cllr Love gave information on Newport Parish Council community hub and that he had been invited to visit it. He has raised concerns over the standard of work at Frank James hospital and stated that work may cease there. IW Council are involved and dealing with it. He has also raised concerns about the reduction in Mental Health services in the community. The Stigwood Art has been reduced to 50% of its original size and he hopes to get council agreement to place it in the proposed community hub library. He advised that following his protestations about recent local flooding he had been invited to a future meeting on flood defences with the agencies involved. He spoke about the Xmas Fayre and the funding allocation from the ECTC. He had attended an IW Council Brexit preparation meeting. They have a robust emergency plan in place. Thankyous to all who supported the recent visit by the HH Princess Olga which was a huge success. IW Council budget consultation will take place after Xmas and they predict there will be a difficult time ahead.

13.4.1 Cllr Walker read Cllr Paler's report (attached to minutes) and spoke about the Q & A session at the Parish Council seminar he had attended. The questions asked by ECTC would be responded to in writing. He had also attended a Housing development workshop where there were several questions on housing numbers.

13.4.2 Cllr Lloyd has dealt with a couple of concerns raised by residents and had reported a defective lamppost. He thanked Cllr Love and David Hill for their organisation and commitment to the recent successful events that had taken place.

13.4.3 Cllr Packham had attended the IWALC meeting where Bob Seely repeated the presentation, he made to ECTC. There were concerns raised about fresh drinking water supply for additional homes.

13.4.4 Cllr Webster raised concerns about the floating bridge breaking down whilst there were school children on board. She repeated her call for a school bus to transport them when breakdowns occur to be added to the letter agreed at 117/19. She gave information on reports of sewage coming up through the drains at Grace Woodford Drive. Cllr Hendry said he was chasing, and that Southern Water were dealing with this matter.

Cllr Hendry requested that Cllrs reports be placed on the Council's website and written reports issued to the public at meetings. This was agreed by councillors.

Some discussion took place regarding the return method to be used for the public consultation on the PWL. It was agreed that they should be returned to the Town Hall.

126/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The council resolved 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)).

Resolved: To exclude the press and the public.

Confidential matters were considered.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:

Dated: