

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Facilities, Projects and Events Committee** held on: **Thursday 10th January at 10.00 a.m.** in the Town Hall, East Cowes to discuss the following matters set out in the agenda.
Sue Chilton, Town Clerk

Present: Cllr Rann (Chair), Cllrs Love, Paler, Hendry, Webster, Packham, Walker
S Chilton (Town Clerk) no members of the public

FO64/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lloyd who was unwell, Cllr Hendry would be arriving later

FO65/19 CASTLE COPSE – Graham Biss, Managing Director, Natural Enterprise

Graham Biss gave a presentation on the future usage and development of Castle Copse, one of 29 sites Natural Enterprise manage. It is a designated green space, which means it cannot be built on and has 6 veteran oaks as well 10/15 other very old oaks. The site has a plethora of wild life including bats, red squirrels, sloe worms and foxes. The management plan covers from 2012 – 2022.

The original blue hoarding separating the area from local properties has now been removed, due to its poor condition, and has been replaced with hedging. This will take 2 growing seasons to form an effective barrier. Mr Biss stated that it is their priority to keep an open, safe space for the natural wildlife, but which is accessible to all.

The maintenance team visit the site twice weekly and undertake scheduled work which includes risk assessments of the trees and early intervention in areas deemed necessary. More benches (in the form of logs) are being installed. The interpretation board was commended by Cllr Walker and Mr Biss stated that they would like to install a second one. He emphasised that since its opening one of the most important things was to receive feedback – good or bad.

There was some discussion about taking over the area behind the church, but Mr Biss said that agreement could not be reached with Barratts and that he was concerned about liability and could foresee significant difficulties as a result.

Cllr Love commented that he had stopped residents from cutting trees down on the site last year. Cllr Rann suggested a letter be sent from Natural Enterprise to residents telling them to contact Mr Biss if they had any problems and to inform them that the trees were the subject of protection orders. She also thought it would be useful to include information in the Council's newsletter. Mr Biss agreed to contact us with a piece to include. There had been incidents of antisocial behaviour and neighbours had complained about language and noise but the biggest problem at the moment was residents dumping garden waste on the site which was an ecological threat to the area. In the future he foresaw not too many changes but perhaps an additional interpretation board, active encouragement to families and schools to use the area and management of trees.

Cllr Hendry joined the meeting

Some discussion took place about bees, but Mr Biss said that the habitat would not support the introduction of bees. Cllr Love asked if the trees at risk could be identified and information sent to the Clerk. This was agreed. Mr Biss said that Barratts had put in extra drainage to deal with the problems regarding water on the site.

Cllr Rann suggested the Council might help towards an additional Interpretation Board, this was formally proposed by Cllr Webster. Mr Biss thanked the Council and again asked for feedback.

Resolved: To donate £1000.00 to Natural Enterprise

FO66/19 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as Ward Councillor, IW Council, Member of East Cowes Business Assoc. and East Cowes Community Partnership. Cllr Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Natural Enterprise item as a resident of the area.

No written requests for dispensation were received

FO67/19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2018 were agreed and signed.

FO68/19 Town Map

A proposal to develop a Town Map was put forward by Cllr Rann. Several samples of different map formats were studied and then a discussion took place around cost and style. It was generally felt that this would be a good thing for East Cowes in terms of information for residents and visitors and as a promotional tool for the areas of interest in the Town. It was agreed that costs should be sought for a large copy in the form of an information board to be in a central area. It was also suggested that a digital copy be obtained if possible. Cllr Rann suggested a mock-up be ordered with an estimate of cost.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange for a mock-up and obtain costs and to bring further information on this item to a future meeting

FO69/19 2019 Bicentennial – Civic Reception

Councillors were briefed on this matter by Cllr Love. A discussion took place around holding a civic reception in the town Hall for the Mayor of Coburg, the Coburg Society and various other dignitaries at an estimated cost of £3000.00. Councillors supported the proposal and discussed the format this should take. Cllr Love said it should be combined with a formal opening of the Grand Exhibition, at the Town Hall which was part of the EC2019 celebrations. It was agreed that this was an event that should be hosted by the Town Council and that local key organisations be invited as well as the Lord Lieutenant as it was felt to be important to raise the profile of the Town.

Cllr Rann stated that it had been some time since the Town had hosted such an event and that as it was Queen Victoria's 200th Anniversary it was important to mark the occasion.

Resolved: That a Civic Reception be arranged and that a maximum of £3000.00 be made available for this event

FO70/19 Hovercraft Propeller

1 Cllr Love briefed the Council on the status of the recovery of the Hovercraft Propeller from the Hovercraft Museum (previously agreed in Sept 2017) which would cost in the region of £1500.00 to get it back to the Island. Wight Shipyards have agreed it can be taken there and they are able to ensure it is compliant. Some discussion took place on appropriate locations for the propeller as it was 21ft high. Cllr Love said that ideally it should be in place by 25th August as this was the 60th anniversary and the Hovercraft Museum were keen to do a fly past with 2 Hovercraft on that day.

Resolved: A maximum of £1500.00 be made available for the recovery of the propeller to Wight Shipyards

2 Nominations for another councillor were requested to join Cllr Love on this project. Cllrs Paler and Walker were proposed.

Resolved: Cllrs Paler, Walker and Love would work together on this project

FO71/19 Romanov Project

1 Cllr Love apologised for his mistake that an invoice to the Forge, a sum of £468.00 inc. VAT, had not included in the original agreed budget and as a result remained outstanding. The Clerk clarified the original budget sums of £10,000.00 paid by East Cowes Town Council and £7000.00

paid by the IW Council through Sec 106 monies. Apart from a sum of £48.23 this budget was now exhausted. Cllr Rann thanked Cllr Love for his apology.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Forge had to be paid.

Resolved: To pay the outstanding invoice to the Forge

2 Cllr Love gave an update on the installation of a granite bench at the Romanov Monument which would be engraved with intertwined V & A. The IW Council would be paying for the installation of the bench if the Town Council agreed.

Resolved: The Town Council agreed that the bench should be installed by the IW Council

FO72/19 EC2019 Project

Cllr Love gave an update on the progress of the EC2019 projects supported by the Town Council, totalling £4525.00. So far, the project group have produced two documents advertising the event, but these are still to be finalised. A sample was distributed to Councillors. The IW Council have agreed a budget of £7500.00 Sec 106 money to this project. However, consent of the Town Council is required that this budget can be administered by the Town Council.

Cllr Love gave further information on the Walk of History; the Esplanade Festival where the procession cannot be confirmed at present. The other projects – the Grand Town Exhibition and the Town Show had been discussed earlier. There was to be a special meeting to the whole project including the Civic reception weekend. It was suggested that this take place in March on a Thursday evening. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Love.

Resolved: That the £7500.00 budget from IW Council be administered by the Town Council. That a special meeting be arranged to discuss the whole project in detail including the Civic Reception

FO73/19 Decorative Lighting

The Council discussed purchasing a projector (inc. fitting) for decorative lighting purposes, a sum of £2000.00. It was agreed that this could be very useful at various significant times of the year to light up the town hall. The Clerk stated that advice was being sought from the Conservation Officer as the town hall is in a conservation area. Cllr. Love proposed that an additional projector would be useful for inside use in the Town Hall.

Resolved: To purchase and fit 2 projectors providing that the Conservation Officer is agreeable.