

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Facilities, Projects and Events Committee** held on **Monday 4th March at 10.00 a.m.** in the Town Hall, East Cowes to discuss the following matters set out in the agenda.

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

FO87/19 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who had work commitments, Cllr Packham who had a domestic appointment. Cllr Love did not attend

FO88/19 To receive Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests were given
- 2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received

FO89/19 Cross Solent Travel

Caroline Morris (NHS Clinical Commissioning Group) attended to explain the history of the scheme, started on 2005 to cover travel costs for cancer patients travelling to the mainland. New regulations are now in place covering the NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme which is for people on low incomes and includes parents taking children to hospital. The scheme needs to be publicised and made easier for people to apply. NHS are considering options to minimise costs by assessing if the appointment is necessary and whether virtual methods are possible. Island friendly appointment times are also being considered. Cllr Rann asked about the future of St Mary's hospital. CM explained that with many people living longer and having multiple conditions there is a need for more general medical provision on the Island and specialist treatment to be concentrated in Southampton, Portsmouth and London. Nationally there is an issue with recruiting consultants and nurses and the relative isolation of the Island aggravates this problem. Cllr Rann thanked CM for attending.

FO90/19 Wightfibre in East Cowes

Kevin Burton (Island Roads Network Manager), John Irvine (CEO Wightfibre), Steve Cooper (New Build Manager), Dave Burrows (MDM Networks Contracting Manager) attended to discuss the unacceptable condition the highways are being left in following installation works.

John Irvine explained that East Cowes was one of the first areas to receive the network starting in Autumn 2018. He acknowledged progress had been slower than estimated and the plan to keep disruption to 1-2 days had, in some cases, been 1-2 weeks, which was unacceptable. The works are now ending. He explained that, for operational reasons, sometimes a temporary repair is needed and making good can take up to 6 months. MDM, the New Build Team and Island Roads all inspect the works and a defect list is drawn up. Wightfibre have 6 months to address any issues. JI apologised to residents and noted the broadband will serve the town for at least the next 30 years. Steve Cooper's team work on defects before final inspection. He stated that Lower East Cowes works should be completed by early to mid-May but that there are some areas of East Cowes where a decision had been taken not to build due to financial constraints. Kevin Burton (IR) stated that IR inspect work in progress and at completion using industry standard codes of practice. They also inspect 21 months after permanent reinstatement as finished works are guaranteed for 24 months. IR were concerned that interim works were not up to standard in East Cowes and will issue penalty notices if works are considered unsafe. IR have 2 dedicated inspectors for East Cowes and retain

sole liability for the network until 2038. Residents can alert IR regarding poor quality work on their 24 hours help line and someone will attend.

Dave Burrows apologised for the disruption and advised that permanent reinstatement is the best solution. They had experienced some problems with concreting. Cllr Rann thanked the speakers for attending.

FO91/19 Planning Applications

Application No: P/00123/19 Alt Ref: TCP/22056/A

Location: 4 Connaught Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6DR

Proposal: Demolition of rear lean-to extension; alterations; proposed single storey rear extension

Resolved: No objections

Application No: P/00159/19 Alt Ref: TCP/22056/A

Location: 16 Yarborough Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6SH

Proposal: Demolition of conservatory

Resolved: No objections

FO92/19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 4th February 2019 were agreed and signed

FO93/19 Library

The clerk presented a report on the background of the library. There was discussion about taking formal management responsibility for the library on the basis that the Co-ordinator is employed by the Town Council and that the library will be permanently moving to the Town Hall site. It was also agreed that library accounts should be included in the Town Council's accounts. It was agreed that if the "Friends of the Library" raised funds, that these should be kept in a separate account from the Town Council and that any potential assets purchased by the Friends should have prior Council approval. The official Library opening will take place on Monday 1st April at 12 noon. The press will be invited.

Resolved: To advise the Library Coordinator that the Town Council were taking formal responsibility for the management and overall control of the Library to include financial Matters.

To instruct the Library Coordinator to close the Santander bank account and transfer all monies and financial accounts to Town Council.

To support the 'Friends of the Library' and to be consulted on potential assets purchased by them.

FO94/19 Town Map

The clerk gave an update on the town map. Councillors were invited to add any items that they would like highlighted to the list. The map should be ready by the end of March.

Resolved: To order 30,000 copies of the completed leaflet for distribution around the town and more widely across the Island.

FO95/19 Litter Pick

Tabards and litter pickers have been purchased for a community litter pick. Councillors agreed that this will take place on Saturday 6th March 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. starting from the Town Hall. Local groups will be encouraged to take part. Councillors will bring suggested routes to the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee on 1st April. Cllr Webster volunteered to provide refreshments.

Resolved: To undertake a community litter pick on Saturday 6th March 10.30 – 12.30 starting at the Town Hall.

FO96/19 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.

1 The Council considered contractual quotes that had been received for various works

- Esplanade toilets roof and shelter
- Paddling Pool refurbishment
- Picnic Benches
- Notice Boards
- Website
- Remedial works for Esplanade Play Area
- Remedial works for Town Hall Roof and Gutter
- Towel Dispenser with Electric Hand Dryer (Town Hall Ladies)
- Replacement of Wallgate systems Esplanade Toilets
- Maintain, realign sound system

Resolved: To accept the most competitive and efficient quotes received

2 The Wellbeing Health Group requested a waiver of the hall hire charge for 1 hour on the evening of Monday 4th March

Resolved: To waive the hall hire charge on this occasion.

3 The clerk gave details of a staffing issue.

4 The clerk advised that the Town Council currently pays for 4 hours per week for the Environment Officer at a cost of £2000 per annum.

Resolved: To request 2 sessions of 4 hours per week from the IWC

5 The clerk gave an update on the CCTV contract.

Resolved: To rescind the decision made in August 2017, minute no FO44/18, and to explore other alternatives

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.35am