



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at Town Hall, York Avenue Queensgate Primary School, Beatrice Avenue, East Cowes on **Thursday 21st February 2019**

Present:

Chair: Cllr Lloyd (Mayor)

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

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: 9 members of the public

Public Forum

- A query was raised as to whether the Town Council had reviewed the 2006 East Cowes Town Plan. The chair advised that they had not, but they intended to.
- A member of the public asked if her submission about Green Spaces had been received. It was confirmed that it had, and this would be discussed under item 5 on the agenda.
- A query was raised about whether the Town Council had asked for the Seafront to be designated a green space. This also comes under item 5 on the agenda. The Clerk advised that Aa list had been compiled, which included this, and will be discussed at item 5. This will form part of the response
- A representative of a new group called the V&A East Cowes Action Group asked for support for their idea that the Columbine building be used as a V&A site with a fashion and design theme, as an alternative plan, if it does not continue to be used for business. Cllr Love advised that Mark McNeil, from the Boat Museum Chairman also had some ideas for the site and that . Cllr Love reported (as IW councillor) that the IWC want to acquire the site and offer a lease of at least 5 years to allow time for the Wight sShip yard to move. Chris Ashman, IW Council, had advised that a radical proposal for income generation was needed to prevent flats being built on the site. Cllr Webster suggested that any plan would need to include car parking. Cllr Walker was concerned about the loss of jobs currently on the site. It was proposed this item be added to the a future agenda for the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee. on 4th March.

Meeting opened at 6.30 p.m.

12/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

13/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

14/19 ENVIRONMENT OFFICERS

Robin Reed and Debbie Chambers Environment Officers attended to report on their activities in the Town. Robin advised that they patrol in East Cowes half a day per week. The Town Council believed that the Environment Officers were allocated to East Cowes 2 half days per week. This will be checked with IWC officer Lee Matthews. He presented his report (attached). Mr Reed also reported on several actions taken since November mostly related to dog fouling. In response to requests from the public. No tickets have been issued in East Cowes to date enforcement has taken place to date but, following a poster awareness campaign, it is hoped that future culprits will be fined. Intelligence from the public would be welcomed. Cllr Love raised Clarence Road and the Esplanade as problem areas. A member of the public raised concerns about the disrepair of an historic grave in Kingston Cemetery. Cllr Lloyd noted, as a Friend of Kingston Cemetery, that repairs are only permitted with the permission of a family member. A member of the public also raised that the emptying of public cigarette bins is also a problem.

One of the Environment officers will either attend alternate monthly meetings or send a written report. The Mayor thanked the officers for attending.

15/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2019 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Mayor

16/19 DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY

A long discussion took place regarding the draft Island Planning Strategy and concerns were raised about the amount of housing allocation affecting East Cowes, including the area on the Red Funnel Plan. The Town Council supported the comments of Whippingham Town Council about keeping a green gap between settlements in order to retain their identity and avoid coalescence.

Work had been undertaken to identify here was discussion about the designation of the local green spaces in the town which the Council wanted included in the strategy. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk would prepare a Local Green Spaces submission to accompany the Council's Planning Strategy submission. Dawn Smith in the IWC Planning department has advised that comments can still be made on spaces that have not yet been designated.

Cllr Rann read out a draft statement a draft submission, prepared by the Mayor, and which included her comments. Councillors

Concerns were raised that the Saunders Way road had not been completed and requested that Chris Ashman should be invited to a future meeting of the council to discuss this. Cllr Webster felt that it was time for a second road in and out of East Cowes was needed due to the amount of additional housing built in recent years. Further discussion took place on the government housing requirement numbers for the island and that as 50% of the island was in an AONB all this development would be crammed into the existing settlements. It was agreed that the Island's infrastructure could not support the existing population and that further development would take it to breaking point.

Resolved: That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's response to the draft Island Planning Strategy be adopted by the Council and include the objection to the Columbine site being used for housing, as identified in the SHLAA.

Cllrs Lloyd and Rann will meet with the Clerk on Friday 22nd February to complete tThat the Local Green Spaces responsesubmission be incorporated into the Island Planning Strategy response and include

Resolved: To support the submissions received from Sharon Lake and

Resolved: To support the IW Garden Trust report document relating to Spring Hill.

That Chris Ashman be invited to a future meeting to discuss Saunders Way

That **Resolved:** East Cowes Town the Council clerk to write to?.....Island Roads asking for details about the current plan for implementing the new East Cowes road network and who is funding it?.

17/19 BUDGET 2019/20

6.1 The budget was presented by the Clerk and it was confirmed that the Council had taken account of the results of the public consultation in preparing the budget. An amendment was made so thatto allocate £6,000 could be allocated to the for refurbishment of the paddling pool. The total budget for 2019/20 is £323,000 less £12,000 income from hall hirehires . Ttotal £311,300; resulting in . When divided between the tax base (properties in the town paying full council tax) this equates to a Council Tax Band D property paying £117.366.71 per householdyear. This is an increase of £27.06 per annum or £2.26 per month over 12 months.The budget was commended as being a forward-thinking document.

6.2 Resolved: To acceptapprove the budget as presented and to set the precept of £311,300.00 (minus the Local Council Tax Support grant) £309,608.00 for 2019/20.

18/19 FINANCES

7.1 To approve and agree payments as presented.

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

7.2 To ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS.

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS ratified.

7.3 To consider a request from the Royal British Legion for a donation to IW Armed Forces Day 2019

Resolved: To donate £100 to this event.

19/19 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE

The clerk read out an emaila report from Mark Downer stating that the Leader of the IW Council would be making a statement on the 28th February and confirming the January statistics, . In January the floating bridge carried 23,814 foot passengers, 15, 172 cars and operated for 595 hours. Owhich stated that overall 99.75% of the timetable was met. It was noted that the leader of IWC will be making a speech in regard to the floating bridge on 28th February. Councillors felt that the statistics were meaningless unless they could undertake a comparison to other years figures.

Resolved: To request comparative data about the operation of the floating bridge to include costs incurred and on additional services provided when the bridge fails to operate.

20/19 COWES TOWN COUNCIL/EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL LIASON

A request had been made by the Mayor of Cowes Town Council for a reciprocal arrangement to be made whereby a councillor from each council attended the other's meetings. This would ensure that joint interests could be more efficiently dealt with. Cllr Paler was nominated by Cllr Love.

Resolved: Cllr Paler to represent East Cowes Town Council at Cowes Town Council meetings.

21/19 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Councillors discussed appropriate To agree dates for basic skills councillor training and to extend an invitation to neighbouring parishes..

Resolved: Training dates set for 7th and 14th March 6-9pm at East Cowes Town Hall. Councillors from Cowes and Whippingham to be invited to attend.

22/19 PREFIX "ROYAL" TO EAST COWES TITLE

Cllr Paler proposed that East Cowes should apply to the Cabinet Office for the prefix "Royal" to East Cowes. He had has contacted the Lord Lieutenants Office and received a list of criteria that have to must be satisfied in order to apply. Councillors stated that this had been attempted before, but as this year was the bicentennial of Queen Victoria's birth, it could be an appropriate time to reapply.

Resolved: To set up a working group to include Cllrs Webster, Rann, Paler, Love who will invite a fewand members of the East Cowes Project groupcommunity to join them to prepare an application.

23/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

11.1 Town Clerk

The Clerk read out a report from Laura Reid regarding Parkside Pavilion and the Youth Club

11.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor has attended meetings with representatives of Red Funnel and is opening the Well Road car park on 22nd February

11.3 IW Ward Councillors

Cllr Love reported that the IWC budget will be a cost saving budget. The budget will be kepchas been preserved for cross Solent travel costs for cancer patients.

11.4 Town Councillors

1 Cllr Love reported that £650 has been raised so far for the Stigckwood Heart(?)Art to be brought back to Barton Manorrecovery. If the propeller is in place lit is hoped that the hovercraft museum will be able to complete a flight from the museum on 25th July (. This is the 660th anniversary of the first flight). The location of the propeller needs to be discussed at a council meeting. He has been in discussions with the Tenant's Office regarding visitors for EC2019 event on 23rd may.. The Mmayor of Coburg will be attending the events planned for May 23rdg an event on 24th May. The EC Business Association has agreed to assist with wine and catering for the event. Plans are also in hand for the Festival on the Seafront. GKN has given £1,500 towards the festival on the seafront. this. He asked whether the current Town Council insurance will cover these events. Clerk to check.Insurance cover by the Town Council was to be confirmed.

2 Cllr Packham reported that he has requested Cllr Ward looks at the situation with the Esplanade car park.

3 Cllr Walker has aattended a Waste Management meeting. The next one will take place on 28th February. He will also be attending the Harbour Commissioners meeting on 2nd May

4 Cllr Rann asked for support for organising a community litter pick to be arranged before the Easter holidays. Councillors will suggest priority areas at the next Facilities, Projects and Events meeting on 4th March.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: