



East Cowes Town Council

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

Minutes a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at the Town Hall, East Cowes on **Thursday 20th September 2018**

Present:

Mayor: Cllr P Lloyd

Councillors: K Love; B Packham; J Rann; S Walker; M Webster

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: 40 members of the Public.

Prior to the Public Forum the police gave an update on knife crime. She explained that there is a national anti-knife crime initiative and Hampshire are focussing on it. It is seen as a gang-related crime and is not prevalent on the island, but there had been a recent incident in Gurnard. The police are focusing on education and are engaging with schools and using local intelligence. They are also tackling sales and distribution aspect and are issuing letters to suppliers. A member of the public drew their attention to drug use in a local area and asked if the police were taking preventative action on this. The police thanked them for the information and encouraged the public to call in with any local intelligence. They agreed that they would monitor any ongoing activity and report back to the Council.

Public Forum

- Beach Clean Saturday 22nd 4 p.m. on the Esplanade if anybody would like to help
- Umbrella Tree – could a new tree be planted if it isn't possible to keep the old one?
- Floating Bridge – the IW Council had refused to let independent engineers, including former floating bridge manager speak to Wight Shipyards. They are intent on throwing bad money after bad money and are refusing to take into consideration in kind help. The issue of a judicial review re noise was raised.
- Preliminary talks happening about possible planting of a tree to mark the bi-centennial anniversary of Queen Victoria
- Cemetery, Fairlee Rd – are IW Council responsible for this as there are weeping ash trees there that all have fungal disease. This is IW Council's Bereavement Services responsibility

TC0103/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

TC0104/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Business Association, Isle of Wight Councillor and membership of East Cowes Community Partnership

TC0105/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

P/00973/18 TCP/21256/A – Sunnymead, Victoria Grove, East Cowes PO32 6BJ
Proposed single storey extension – Councillors had no objections to this application

TC0106/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2018 were approved and signed

TC0107/18 POLICE REPORT

Report given prior to Public Forum

TC0108/18 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

The Council were informed of the refusal of consent to carry out work to trees at Managers Office, Coburg Court, East Cowes TPO/2002/24

TC0109/18 FLOATING BRIDGE

Cllr Rann proposed that the FOI questions from the Stakeholder Group be sent to the IW Council from the Town Council, seconded by Cllr Hendry.

Resolved: To instruct the Clerk to send the FOI's to the IW Council from the Town Council

TC0110/18 UMBRELLA TREE UPDATE

The Clerk explained that the PiCUS report would now be made public and would be available on the website. A copy was available for inspection in the Clerk's Office. The Clerk read the conclusions and recommendations from the PiCUS report, which had been commissioned by the Town Council, and undertaken by CBA Trees. The report found that the trunk does not appear to be significantly compromised at this time, however it is compromised and in time will fail. The report pointed out that with the public location of the tree and the location of the fungus, public risk due to failure must be considered. Based on the structural condition, if it were to be retained then remedial works would be required to either the tree itself and/or the immediate area surrounding it. The report stated that a local forge had offered to construct a steel framework to support the tree and/or to provide protection to pedestrian users and that in the investigators view was fully worth exploring as a positive and best option to retain the tree that is unlikely to survive in the long term. It was felt that a correctly made supporting structure with input from an arborist, the manufacturer and IW Council representatives could provide an opportunity to retain this locally important tree for a longer period of time and without the need for pruning of the canopy. With a carefully and fully considered frame it may be possible to fully retain the pedestrian access beneath the tree as the frame could catch and hold up any branch failures that are likely to occur in the future. It was also noted that if the tree was retained a regular annual inspection of the tree should be carried out by a qualified arboriculturist.

The Mayor proposed that the Council support the findings of the report and work with the community to retain the tree and would write to the IW Council and Island Roads encouraging them to take no action against the tree in the interim.

Cllr Webster put forward the suggestion that the tree should be named in remembrance of the Man who planted it and it should be known as the "Gutteridge Tree".

Resolved: It was resolved:

- 1 To fully support the findings of the PiCUS Report and agreed that they will work with the community to support the retention of the tree by the use of a steel framework, provided by The Forge, as outlined in the report (5.14) and with the advice of a qualified arborist.
- 2 To name the tree "The Gutteridge Tree"
- 3 To invite the IW Council and Island Roads to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss what action they would taking in the light of this report and to seek their assurance that no action would be taken until the Town Council had the opportunity to respond.

TC0111/18 FINANCES

To approve and agree payments as presented, to ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS

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

TC0112/18 COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

The council considered the implications of rescinding resolution TC0131/17 made in December 2017: That ECTC would provide Councillors with specific email addresses to be used for Town Council work/business. Cllr Hendry explained the regulations around the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and how that might impact on any personal email addresses. The Mayor stated that the original resolution had been supported by the majority of the Council and therefore all councillors should abide by it. Cllrs Love and Webster protested that they had enough email addresses and did not want any more nor could they be forced to use them and that there was no legal requirement for this. Cllr Hendry agreed this was correct but that you cannot guarantee where emails come from. The Council sometimes gets sent personal data which includes names and email addresses and we need to handle this data in a secure way. A self-hosted address does not guarantee that the data remains in the UK. If we choose not to implement the resolution, then we would need to consider putting in place a system that will ensure the GDPR regulations are actioned and complied with. Cllr Rann asked if there was a resolution to rescind. Cllr Love proposed a motion that the resolution be rescinded, and Cllr Webster seconded the proposal. A vote was taken, and the motion failed. Therefore, the resolution stands.

Resolved: That the resolution “TC0131/17 made in December 2017: That ECTC would provide Councillors with specific email addresses to be used for Town Council work/business” stands

TC0113/18 BENCHES & NOTICES FOR ESPLANADE

The Council considered a motion put forward by Cllr Walker to install signs stating “Do not feed the Gulls/Birds” notices on the Esplanade as this was becoming a nuisance. Councillors pointed out that it would be difficult to enforce but that they did agree with this in principle.

The Council then considered a request by Cllr Hendry to consider more benches be placed in the children’s play area on the Esplanade as there were not sufficient when the playground was in full use. Cllr Rann suggested that picnic benches could improve the area too. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that this be deferred to the Facilities Committee.

Resolved:

- 1 To install “Do not feed the birds” signs along the Esplanade
- 2 To defer the installation of additional benches in the Esplanade play area to the Facilities Committee

TC0114/18 EAST COWES 2019 PROJECTS

The Council discussed a suggestion to form a Projects & Events Committee with delegated powers to oversee all events and projects agreed by the Full Council. Cllr Webster did not agree and said that this should be dealt with by the Facilities Committee and that the committee should not be given delegated powers. Cllr Love said that there was already an events committee involving the Town Council and East Cowes Business Association. It was pointed out that this was not a committee of the Council. Cllr Rann said it was frustrating that things couldn’t be moved on more quickly and this committee would enable that to happen. Cllr Love agreed. The Mayor said that it was proposed that 6 out of 8 councillors would sit on this committee. Cllr Hendry responded that it might be the case that all councillors would want to sit on it. This was confirmed by a show of hands.

It was agreed that if Projects and Events had a regular slot on the Town Council agenda it could become very time-consuming. It was suggested that the Facilities Committee be extended to include Projects and Events and agree to meet regularly.

Resolved: That the Facilities Committee be expanded to include Projects and Events and would meet regularly

TC0115/18 EAST COWES & WHIPPINGHAM MAGAZINE

Cllr Rann proposed having a regular Clerk's Report on Town Council activity in the monthly East Cowes & Whippingham magazine rather than individual councillors writing articles. This was agreed by the Council

Resolved: That the Clerk would provide a monthly report to the East Cowes and Whippingham magazine on Town Council news and activities.

TC0116/18 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Rann suggested that the Town Council should consider holding Town Council meetings in the Hawthorn Meadows area on a quarterly basis to enable the public living in Hawthorn Meadows easier access to Town Council meetings. She suggested it was undertaken over a one-year trial period and then reviewed. Cllr Webster stated that it would have to be held in the school which would have to be paid for.

Resolved: That the Town Council would hold their Full Council meetings in Hawthorn Meadows on a quarterly basis for a trial period of one year.

TC0117/18 COMMEMORATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW1

The decision to purchase a memorial bench to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 was ratified and it was suggested that it be placed on the forecourt of the Town Hall in front of the flagpole.

Resolved: To place the bench in front of the flag pole aside the Town Hall

TC0118/18 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1 Clerk

- A thank you letter had been received from Breakout Youth in respect of the recent grant made by Council
- The Keziah Memorial Garden Playground would be officially opened on October 1st by Keziah's mother Nikki Flux-Edmonds.
- Island Roads Volunteering Scheme requested ideas for future projects for volunteering days. Councillors agreed Cadets Walk would be a good project. Clerk to pass this on
- East Cowes Youth Club – The Clerk read a report from the Youth Leader which was very positive, and she had agreed to attend a meeting of the council in the future to give more information.

2 Mayor

- The awayday recently held for councillors had been very successful and productive and he thanked councillors for their input.
- Keziah's garden – Barratts had recently agreed to gift the whole of the plot where the playground stood to the Town Council
- He had attended a very positive meeting at Parkside and had presented some training certificates to staff. He stated that he had received a small personal gift which he had registered with the Clerk.
- He had attended the meeting at the Royal British Legion and all was progressing well
- There were some issues at Kingston Cemetery and the Friends of ten Cemetery were walking out but that had now been sorted out.
- He had attended the Cowes Mayor's Cowes Week reception
- He had recently moved to a new house and to date still had no phone connection.
- He reminded the public of the Beach Clean that was to take place on Saturday 22nd September.

Cllr Walker gave information on the Coffee and Cake afternoon in aid of the McMillan charity he was arranging at the Town Hall on 28th September from 1 – 4 p.m.

Cllr Webster requested an agenda item for next month – the Bus Service diversion at Beatrice Avenue and that the boss of Southern Vectis needed to be contacted again. And that children going to Cowes High School were being made late by the unreliability of the floating bridge and that the IW Council should put on a bus service.

Cllr Rann's raised the issue of the "No Alcohol" signs that were to be installed on the Esplanade and that the outcome of the consultation by the IW Council was still outstanding. She suggested that the Ambulance Service be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation of the service. New Barn Rd yellow lines were still outstanding following the resurfacing work. Cllr Love stated that this had been added to the request list and he was following this up.

4 IW Councillors

Cllr Love's report included stated that the planning consent for Victoria Quay had now expired and that it posed a major problem for the town as this was a £50 million-pound project. Owners will have to make a fresh application now. A report on Cowes Harbour Commission was very negative in that the plans for the marina had now collapsed and that Cowes Harbour Commission will have to pay £700k to have the channel dredged. Sec 106 monies may be available for Victoria Harbour Quay improvements and it is hoped Mr Choo will sign.

He was concerned about the plans for the regeneration of the Medina Valley where there are planning issues and the IW Council are challenging the Government to move this forward. The Kingston Rd Link to be confirmed soon.

Red Funnel development – there is an issue with the public slipway which is now landlocked. They were to create a new slipway, but this is not going to happen now because they are £2 million down due to delays creating the new yard.

Hawthorn Meadows housing – Barratts have sold off some of the development land and there are signs saying "Private/Keep Out"

Romanov project – Had met with Princess Olga who had asked that her sincere thanks be passed on to all those involved in the project.

It is likely that the Boundary Commission changes will not affect East Cowes but could impact on Whippingham. The Boundary Commission do not appear to be listening to the IW Council regarding boundary change proposals.

EC2019 – Cllr Love is meeting with Lee Mathews to discuss closure of the Esplanade for a major festival in the town during 24th – 28th May 2019. He would like the town Hall reserved for this period.

TC0119/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The press and public were excluded under 1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act s1 ((2) for the remainder of the meeting to enable the council to discuss contractual and staffing matters.

1 Staffing Matters

The Council received a confidential report from the Locum Clerk regarding the current management of the Town Council's offices and a matter of staff competence.

Resolved: The Council agreed to continue the current arrangements for the management of the Town Council offices and agreed that the Clerk should deal appropriately with the staff competence matter.

2 The Council considered the tenders received for summer planting and the maintenance of Keziah's Memorial Garden, the water main repairs on the Esplanade and CCTV for the town.

Resolved: The Council agreed the 2 most competitive quotes be accepted for the water main repair and CCTV and the quote for summer planting and Keziah's garden stay with the current contractor.

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m