



## East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at Queensgate Primary School, Beatrice Avenue, East Cowes **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6.30pm**

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### **Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Rann (Mayor)

**Councillors:** Paler (Deputy Mayor), Walker, Packham, Lloyd, Webster, Love

**Assistant Clerk:** C Gale

**Also present:** Martha James (Plan Research), Lee Matthews (IWC), 12 members of the public

### Public Forum

- Will the Town Council, along with Cowes Town Council and Whippingham Parish Council investigate the possibility of a public inquiry or a judicial review into the councils handling of the floating bridge? The Mayor stated that the Town Council would provide a written response to the questioner.
- Will the Town Council develop a long-term policy to replace the sporting facilities that were lost when GKN closed their sports club.

### **Meeting opened at 6.45p.m.**

97/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who had a family commitment.

98/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

99/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3.1 Application No: 19/00804/OUT Location: Land Between Queensgate Primary School and Crossways Road East Cowes Isle of Wight PO32

Proposal: Outline for residential development to provide 165 dwellings and formation of vehicular access off Beatrice Avenue and Whippingham Road

The Town Council considered the report of the planning consultant Martha James of Plan Research Ltd. MJ stated that it was a bland development with no consideration to its surroundings. There were many problems with the design, too many houses and no benefit to the local community. KL had raised the questions of nitrate contamination and concerns about water supply at the IWC meeting. MJ explained that most developers are off-setting potential nitrate leakage by filling fields with trees. Island Roads comments

on the scheme had identified the road connecting Whippingham Road and Beatrice Avenue as a potential rat run and found the access for emergency vehicles to be inadequate. The Planning Committee meets on 26<sup>th</sup> November. MJ will attend and speak on behalf of East Cowes Town Council.

**3.2 Resolved:** The Town Council objects to the application and will submit comments on 20<sup>th</sup> September as agreed.

3.3 Application No: 19/00790/FUL Location: Land west of Classic Boat Museum Gallery, Columbine Rd

Proposal: Retention of new building for marine industry use for a temporary period of 2 years.

The application was discussed. Concerns were voiced about the noise from generators and bright lights late in the evening. It was agreed that the 2-year period for the application must be an absolute maximum for the temporary building. The Town Council is keen to support the marine industry in the town. KL advised that Wight Shipyard and Aluminium Marine Co. needed a space 3 times larger than the existing space to enable them to work on 5 vessels at the same time.

**Resolved:** The Town Council supports the application for a maximum period of 2 years and on condition that noise is kept to a minimum and work does not take place after 9 pm.

**Resolved:** To write to the IWC requesting that a new site is found for the business.

100/19 UNFLUSHABLES – HOW TO CARE FOR OUR SEWERS

Sharon Holdcroft did not attend. She will be invited to a future meeting.

101/19 MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 and the Special Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were agreed and signed

**Resolved:** To agree the minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

102/19 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Assistant Clerk read out a report received from Alex Minns about the Floating Bridge. There was discussion about the continuing problems with the floating bridge being out of service again. Communication with the public is poor. It was noted the next Floating bridge User Group meeting is at East Cowes Town Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm.

103/19 PALM TREE AND PROPELLER ON THE ESPLANADE

7.1 Lee Matthews from IWC attended to explain that the Planning and Conservation Departments had agreed in principle to additional palm trees but the siting of them requires careful consideration to ensure the Esplanade remains an open green space. The siting of the Propeller may require a planning application or planning consent. KL brought the condition of the frontages of the Coastguard Cottages to LM's attention. LM advised that a new contractor for grounds maintenance will be in place by mid-October. Councillors asked whether IWC would consider transferring the whole of the Esplanade to the Town Council. LM suggested the Town Council writes to IWC with this request.

**Resolved:** To have a site meeting with LM on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm to look at possible sites for the palm trees and propeller and the condition of the Coastguard Cottage frontages.

To write to the IW Council and request transferring the Esplanade to East Cowes Town Council

104/19 FINANCES

8.1 Councillors considered the Direct Debit and BACS payments to be ratified. The next quarterly income list is to be presented at the October Full Council meeting.

**Resolved:** To agree the ratified payments.

105/19

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

9.1 Councillors considered the draft questionnaire. A few small amendments were discussed and noted.

**Resolved:** To approve the questionnaire with the agreed amendments

9.2 The questionnaire will be available at the consultation at the Town Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm as well as online on the Town Council website. Councillors will indicate to the Clerk which sessions they are able to attend.

**Resolved:** To agree the dates for the public consultation.

## **106/19 COMMUNITY HUB**

The Assistant Clerk explained the process for applying for a Public Works Loan. At this stage the Council needs to ask the public whether they would support the project and could take the opportunity to do this alongside the Public Consultation in October.

**Resolved:** To consult the public about their support for a public works loan for a community hub at the budget public consultation event.

## **107/19 ARTS AND CULTURE EVENTS IN EAST COWES**

11.1 MP had attended a meeting of the East Cowes Community Partnership. There is no request for funding at this point. 6 ideas have been put forward: Remembrance Day 2019, Christmas Fayre 2019, Christmas Lights 2019, VE Day 2020 Celebrations, Cowes Week 2020, Arts and Culture Events. In conjunction with ECCP the Friends of East Cowes have booked the Town Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to run a workshop where the public can contribute their ideas. ECCP wants to enhance existing events as well as run new ones.

11.2 Ideas from the Workshop will come to the next Full Council meeting.

**Resolved:** Arts and Culture Events report will be placed on the agenda for the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **108/19 REPORTS**

### **12.1 Clerks Report**

The Assistant Clerk read out letters of thanks from Bob Seely MP for inviting him to speak at the Town Council meeting about housing development on the Island and a letter of thanks from Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight for the grant of £100. A report from the library co-ordinator was read. Information was given out about the IWALC Housing Workshop to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Councillor Walker will be attending. A report had been received from John Cattle Skate Club about the success of the summer skateboarding sessions provided in East Cowes with 87 attendees aged 2-15years taking part. This was a 74% increase from 2017.

### **12.2 Mayors Report**

The Mayor shared her report. Copy attached.

### **12.3 IW Councillors Reports**

Cllr Hendry submitted a written report as ward councillor for Whippingham and Osborne. The Mayor read this out. Copy attached.

Cllr Love reported that he attended the Cowes Harbour Commission meeting where slipways were discussed. He noted that UKSA would like to reinstate the middle slipway opposite the yellow house in East Cowes. He also attended an Older Voices Meeting. He had raised questions with Sir John Hobart, Cabinet member for the Coastal Path about the route through East Cowes. The Town Council needs further information about this and will contact Sir John. Regarding up-coming works at St Marys Roundabout KL asked that East Cowes Town Council write to Leader of the Council, Dave Stewart, about the need for electronic signage for the Floating Bridge. Princess Olga of the Romanov Family is visiting the island in October. KL also stated he was looking into installation of UPVC windows at the Frank James Hospital. He had attended the Young Peoples Education Panel and noted both Primary Schools in East Cowes are full. Holy Cross had been assessed by OFSTED as "Requires Improvement ". A question was raised about the current plan for sea defences at East Cowes which SEEDA had said needed to be raised by 0.5 meters. This will be placed on a future Full Council agenda. KL also asked about the current situation with the projector. The Facilities Officer will be asked for an update.

**Resolved:** To mark the occasion of the visit by Princess Olga in a manner to be agreed with the Clerk and to organise planting of a tree in Jubilee Recreation Ground. The Town Council agreed to contribute towards expenses from the Mayors Allowance.

### **12.4 Town Councillors Reports**

MP provided a written report. Copy attached.

SW attended the Plastic Waste Forum (now renamed the Environment Committee) and provided a copy of the report "A Green Transition for the Isle of Wight" to be held in the Clerks office. He had attended the IWC meeting regarding St. Mary's Roundabout works. He also attended the Cowes Harbour Commission meeting where Stewart MacIntosh gave an update on the Association of British Ports safety monitoring system. MW had attended the Floating Bridge Stakeholders meeting at County Hall. She raised concerns about the poor state of the sandbags hut on Well Road. PL Noted grass and weeds need cutting at John Nash Avenue/Sylvan Avenue. Brambles at Vereker Drive are also very high.

**109/19                    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.

**Resolved:** To exclude the press and the public.

Confidential matters were considered.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: