



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at the **Queensgate Primary School**, Beatrice Avenue, East Cowes on **Thursday 15th November 2018**

Present:

Mayor: Cllr Peter Lloyd
Councillors: K Love; B Packham; S Walker; M Webster; M Paler; J Rann
Town Clerk: S Chilton
Also present: 19 members of the public

Public Forum

- Any news on link between Salisbury Way/Kingston Rd - Chris Ashman IWC has stated it will be complete by March 2019.
- Floating Bridge standing item on agenda –will be reinstated
- Why has the IWC not undertaken a proper financial and risk assessment on the Floating Bridge
- Does ECTC believe that all the problems with the floating bridge have been fixed, according to statements made by the IWC or are they sending mixed messages
- Cllr Ian Ward argues that the service is effective. Can ECTC ask if 90% effectiveness is good enough.
- Has the FB been accepted and is it still not under warranty?
- Discrepancy in the answers given to FOI's about FB and other peoples answers
- Is legal action against the IWC and officers needed?

Further discussion took place around health and safety issues of the vessel and procedures adopted and IWC officer's knowledge when breakdowns occur. It was suggested that as IW Council officers were reluctant to attend Town Council meetings that a joint meeting be arranged with Cowes Town Council to agree a way forward.

Meeting opened at 6.55

TC0134/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hendry sent apologies as he was attending a conference. Cllr Love apologised that he would be leaving early for travel connections to go on holiday.

TC0135/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

TC0136/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

P/01191/18 TCP/33634 8 St. James Close, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO326PP
Proposed single storey rear extension

Resolved: The Council had no objections to this application

The Decision Notices, Trees in Conservation Area – 3 Cambridge Rd, Trees in Tree Preservation Order – 6 Castle Copse. Hefford Rd, Trees in Tree Preservation Order – Corner of New Barn Rd and York Avenue were noted.

TC0137/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2018 were approved and signed.

TC0138/18 UMBRELLA TREE UPDATE

The Clerk read a summary of responses from the Town Council insurers and from Bill Murphy, IWC in respect of the cost of building and installing a supporting structure for the tree. The summary stated that the cost was likely to be in the region of £35,000.00 and could increase if services beneath the ground had to be moved, and that the Council's insurers were unable to indemnify a separate legal entity who had legal responsibility for the tree. A great deal of discussion took place and questions were asked around the feasibility of the Town Council providing the money and taking responsibility for the tree. It was noted that the £35,000.00 was not provided for in the Council's current budget. Various suggestions were put forward by both the public and councillors about replacing the tree, construction of a carving from the trunk and grafting a new tree from the original. However, in the light of the Town Council's insurers being unable to provide insurance cover and the prohibitive cost of building a structure to support the tree, the Town Council, very reluctantly, resolved that they could not take this matter any further. It was suggested that a voluntary group be formed to try to negotiate with the IW Council to raise the money, take over responsibility for the tree and effect insurance cover. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Bill Murphy to explore whether a voluntary group could be allowed to take over the responsibility for the tree, raise the money for the support and effect insurance and, that if this was a possibility, that a barrier be put in place in the interim period to allow the group time to raise the funds.

Resolved: That the Town Council will not pursue this matter any further.

TC0139/18 IW Ward Councillors report

This item was brought forward from agenda item 11 as Cllr Love had to leave the meeting early. Cllr Love reported on the Kings Square Xmas 2019 project. £600 expenditure had already been made from the agreed £1000.00 budget. He felt that councillors should respond to the Cross Solent travel consultation that was currently taking place. It was agreed that the Council would discuss this and give a collective response at their December meeting. Cllr Love also felt it was important for the Council to spend some time focussing on the Island plan and how East Cowes could be affected. He was requesting that an electric point be installed at the car park recently purchased by Red Funnel and was awaiting their response. The carpark would be a paying short/long term car park and would be operating by December. The issue of the floating Bridge was raised, and Cllr Rann said that the Town Council should ask the IW Council where the £6.5 million budget spent on this was coming from. Cllr Love reported that there were 3 statues linked to Robert Stigwood that were currently located in Bracknell and that they had been offered to him free of charge. He felt that they could enhance the historical culture of East Cowes and would be looking into the relocating them back to East Cowes. Cllr Love then left the meeting.

TC0140/18 FINANCES

To approve and agree payments as presented, to ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS and to agree donating £15.99 for the Remembrance posters made by Heritage Centre. It was proposed that a donation of £25.00 be made to the Heritage Centre.

Resolved: All payments were approved for payment, direct debits and other prepaid invoices were ratified. That a donation of £25.00 be made to the Heritage Centre

TC0141/18 FACILITIES, PROJECTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE

The council considered a report setting out future options for the Library. Currently the library building was held on a Tenancy at Will and the only costs to the Council were staffing costs. However, from April 2019 it was likely that the IW Council would require the Town Council to take on a full repairing lease which would involve greatly increased costs to the Council. In addition, it was stated that the

current building was not appropriate in that it had problems of accessibility, lack of flexible space for community development projects and deterioration of the fabric of the building.

A proposal was made to relocate the library to the room, annexed to the Town Hall, which was supported by the Library Service Manager. A further option was presented which would feature the Council taking over the entire Town Hall and public toilet site and developing a purpose-built community hub/library, public offices in addition to the facilities already on offer in the town hall. Councillors raised some concern was raised about the amount of space available, but it was pointed out that this could be extended by using the main hall area and the space in the hallway. It was generally felt that the Council should support this report. Cllr Webster proposed that option 1, to relocate the library by March 2019 be actioned and that Option 2, to development the Town Hall site be explored further.

Resolved: To relocate the library to the town hall and to explore the option to take over the town hall site from the IW Council and develop a community hub scheme.

TC0142/18 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Council considered holding a public consultation to inform the Council's future spending plans and to validate the projects identified in the strategic plan and to involve local people in the decision-making process. The Council felt that this was a good idea and should take place in time to inform the following years budget. It could also be used as an opportunity to update the town plan. It was proposed that this take place in December for a full day/evening to ensure attendance by as many people as possible.

Resolved: To arrange a public consultation event in December

TC0143/18 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Cllr Paler requested that the Council consider a programme of Councillor Training sessions. All councillors agreed that this was a good idea and that it should be arranged.

Resolved: The Clerk to arrange an inhouse programme of Councillor Training events and to invite other local parishes.

TC0144/18 NETWORK INTEGRITY PROJECT

The Council discussed the network integrity document issued by Island Roads. They had been asked to identify the top 5 priorities in East Cowes for consideration and inclusion into Contract Management Team, IW Councils forward plan. Cllr Rann suggested the following areas:

1. Old Rd – A need for pavements and traffic calming to ensure the safety of pedestrians and the large number of school children using Holy Cross school
2. New Barn Rd – Double Yellow lines need to control the amount of parking that is taking place there causing a risk of accidents
3. Saunders Way – The introduction of parking restrictions to eliminate the difficulties currently being experienced
4. Victoria Grove – Parking restrictions to be introduced during the from 8 – 6 – vehicles currently parking is posing a danger
5. Oak Tree way into John Nash avenue – Parking restrictions on both corners as there is a clear danger when trying to exit Oak Tree Way into John Nash Ave when cars are parked on the corners and severely restricting visibility

Councillors discussed these areas fully and agreed that these should go forward as the 5 priority schemes. The Council also noted that the request for the relocation of a bench and bin at Adelaide Grove were still on the list despite the Council responding about this some months before. They had informed the IW Council that they would like the bin to be relocated outside the scout hut, Adelaide Grove and the bench to be left where it is as it is useful resting spot for the elderly, but to be renewed as it is in a bad way.

Resolved: To advise the IW Council Contract Management Team of the 5 priority schemes identified.

TC0145/18 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

Clerks Report

A thank you letter from CAB for the recent donation and a copy of their annual report

A thank you letter from Queensgate Primary School Head teacher in response to the Councils congratulations on the school's recent achievements on school travel. She said she would be reading it to the children and putting it on display.

Police update on Operation Sceptre – officers have been visiting retailers to remind them of their responsibilities when selling knives, visiting secondary schools and speaking to pupils about the consequences of carrying knives. They have been visiting locations known for anti-social behaviour and seized a knife in Newport.

Training being offered by Age UK IW (Neighbourhood Watch Plus Project). Hampshire and IW Police Crime Commissioner is supporting neighbourhood watch by funding an Age UK IW project that will boost community level crime prevention and resilience within Neighbourhood Watch.

East Cowes Youth Club – no report received.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that he had attended a concert at the Methodist Church featuring the Solent singers and Quintisle Wind Quartet and had drawn the winning raffle tickets.

East Cowes Heritage had asked for help to place posters in the roads of East Cowes naming the fallen of WW1 and the Mayor had done Osborne Rd. The Mayor presided over the commemoration of the memorial bench at the Town Hall on Friday 9th November. The service was well attended by local people. He also attended the church service of remembrance with 3 other town councillors and the IW Councillor.

Finally, the Mayor and his wife attended the Classic Boat Museum to celebrate the opening of the new WW1 – Isle of Innovation Exhibition which they thoroughly enjoyed, now at the Gallery East Cowes and well worth a visit.

Cllr Walker: Cllr Walker and Cllr Hendry attended a digital conference and would bring a report to the next meeting.

Cllr Rann: Whippingham Community Asso. Hall is opening on Xmas day to provide a Xmas dinner to those older people who are alone on Xmas day. There will be a pickup at 11 – 11.30 and a drop off at 3.00 p.m. There would also be goody bags for the housebound. The organiser is Dawn Jones. Cllr Rann also talking to the Leader of the IW Council about what plans they had for East Cowes. She also proposed extending an invitation to the new Chief Executive of Red Funnel to outline their plans. She will be attending the second meeting of the Floating Bridge User Group and will report back to the Council.

Cllr Webster: Provided information about the table top sale on the 1st December and a variety show which would take place at 7pm, also on the 1st December. Any funds raised would be given to charity. She also asked if the Clerk could write to Island Roads and question why they had dug up a newly resurfaced pavement in Sylvan Avenue/John Nash Avenue. Cllr Webster requested that the Manager of Southern Vectis be invited to a future meeting of the council to discuss the rerouting of the No 5 bus service (just one an hour) along Saunders Way and Beatrice Avenue.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.