



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, East Cowes on **Thursday 6th December 2018**

Present:

Mayor: Cllr P Lloyd

Councillors: K Love; J Rann, B Packham; S Walker, M Paler, S Hendry

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: 3 members of the Public

Public Forum

- Can the Town Council ensure full support to the group who are trying to save the umbrella tree in all their actions? The Mayor responded that the Town Council had made a resolution at their last meeting and that the Council had to support that decision. The Clerk confirmed the legal position about time limits on Council decisions and reiterated the resolution that the Town Council would not be pursuing this matter any further.
Cllr Love stated that in his capacity as IW Councillor he would support the group.

Meeting opened at 10.40 a.m.

TC0146/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Webster sent apologies as she was attending another meeting.

TC0147/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 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.

Cllr Rann declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.2 as the editor of the magazine was a friend

2.2 No applications for dispensations were received

TC0148/18 CASTLE COPSE

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee

TC0149/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2018 were approved and signed

TC0150/18 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE & LEP BUSINESS CASE CONSULTATION

5.1 Cllr Rann gave an update of the Floating Bridge User Group meeting, minutes to follow. Alex Minns, Sean Newton and Mark Downer were present. The Mayor gave a report on statistics provided by Mark Downer regarding usage etc. Cllr Love queried why it showed an improvement when the customer experience was lousy and there had been much disruption again this month. Wight Shipyards were undertaking further improvement works. Cllr Love stated that if the IW Council accept the floating bridge now the town will never get the service it needs. He stated that the card system is not efficient, and inadequacies are being glossed over.

Cllr Rann said Cowes people felt that the service was unreliable, and signs were put up too late informing of closure. She explained that the bridge is now running at 80% and the other 20% is due to

high/low tide movements and that the chains were the main problem. They are being changed, but the new ones will be similar. She was disappointed at the lack of communication from the IW Council over the past year, despite repeated requests for them to attend and answer questions, and that the LEP should be made aware of this. Cllr Love agreed and said the whole thing was a catalogue of failures. He informed the Council that he had given up his seat on the group and on the Harbour Commissioner group. He proposed that another Councillor be nominated to serve on the groups. Cllr Paler was nominated for the Floating Bridge User Group. Cllr Walker was nominated for the Harbour Commissioner group.

Resolved: Cllr Paler and Cllr Walker appointed on the respective groups as representatives of the Town Council.

5.2 An update on the LEP Floating Bridge Business Case consultation was given by the Mayor. There was some discussion about the purpose of the consultation as the document was a series of statements. It was not clear what the consultation was for and what the expected outcomes from this document were. Cllr Rann stated that the Town Council had not been included and that the IW Council had been criticised by Price Waterhouse for lack of consultation. Again, it appeared that IW Councillors and officers were afraid to meet with the Town Council. Cllr Love proposed that a formal meeting be arranged with Cowes Town Council and elected members to discuss this matter further and form a collective response.

Resolved: To request an extension to the consultation to enable a joint response from both Councils. To arrange a joint meeting with Cowes Town Council

TC0151/18 FINANCES

To approve and agree payments as presented, to ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS and to consider the purchase of an accounting package, Scribe, for the management of the council's accounts.

Resolved: All payments approved for payment, direct debits and other prepaid invoices ratified. The accounts package be purchased.

TC0152/18 APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

The Locum Clerk left the chamber at this point.

The Council received the recommendations from the HR interview panel for appointments to the posts of Caretaker/Handyperson, Assistant Clerk/Administrative Assistant and Town Clerk.

Resolved: That the recommendations for all posts be agreed.

The Locum Clerk returned at this point

TC0153/18 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8.1 The Council discussed the planned public consultation and agreed that it should be held over 2 dates – 20th December and the 12th January. A rota of councillors was agreed for both dates.

Resolved: To hold 2 public consultations – 20th Dec and 12th Jan. Rotas to be emailed to Councillors

8.2 Cllr Rann stated that the editor of the Island Magazine was a friend and therefore she would not take part in the ensuing discussion. The Council discussed the merits of producing a monthly Town Council newsletter. The Mayor reminded the council that this had been agreed in the past but had not been actioned. It was generally agreed that the Council should communicate as fully as possible with the electorate to update on Council activity. It was agreed that the newsletter should be produced in tandem with the monthly magazine.

Resolved: To produce a newsletter and to continue with the monthly magazine for 12 months and then review

TC0154/18 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

The Council discussed the areas covered by the draft Public Protection Orders, mostly covering dog fouling in public places, and felt that they were all very sensible. Cllr Love was concerned that the alcohol ban might affect families using the beach or parks. It was explained that the orders only applied to those people displaying anti-social behaviour. Councillors felt that the draft orders were agreeable and noted that the orders should be well publicised in public places. The Mayor stated that this was a matter for the IW Council.

Resolved: To support the draft Public Protection Orders

TC0155/18 CROSS SOLENT TRAVEL CONSULTATION

The Council fully discussed the Cross Solent Travel consultation and agreed that it was far too narrow in that it only allowed responses from individuals. All Councillors were aggrieved that this consultation should be taking place when islanders were being forced to travel to the mainland for certain health services. It was not a personal choice by them. Cllr Love said that it was against the Human Rights Act. Councillors gave examples of when they had paid to cross to the mainland and how expensive this could be. There was concern that the health of some people, who could not afford the cost, would suffer as a result. The Mayor said that Health Service should take responsibility for this as it was their decision to make patients travel to access health services. It was agreed that the IW Council budget for cancer care travel should be preserved at all costs and that a formal statement should be sent to the IW Council stating this. It appeared that the IW Council and NHS were trying to blame each other, when, in fact, they are both culpable.

It was also discussed that patients who were travelling on ferries should be afforded a private and quiet area as they were at their most vulnerable and at risk and should not be expected to mix with the general public.

Resolved: To involve IWALC and write to the Health Minister. To send a statement to the IW Council setting out the Town Council's resolution on this consultation.

TC0156/18 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

11.1 Clerks Report

Government are ending rates on public toilets

11.2 Mayor's Report

Not much to report this month. He had taken part in the interviews for new staff. He asked if anyone could attend the East Cowes Business Assoc. Awards evening as he couldn't attend, however, Cllr Love was attending on behalf of the town Council.

11.3 IW Councillors Report

Cllr Love spoke about the Venture Quay, Columbine Building/Barracks/Boat Museum site and that he had met with Chris Ashman and others. It appears that the IW Council are trying to take control of this area. Newport Marina to go ahead. Red Funnel Car park all very positive. He would chase up the invite that had been made for the C/Ex of Red Funnel to attend a meeting of the town council. Millfield Ave – a developer is looking at this site. No news on Crossways development. Chris Ashman promised Kingston Marina link road will be open by March. Need to look at tree replacement in park as four had been removed. Propeller from Hovercraft museum looks to be going ahead. Will cost in the region of £1000 to get it back and this should be considered for inclusion in next year's budget. Stigwood Art – Barton Manor don't want it, but he felt it needed to be placed in the town as it is most important and valuable. EC2019 – has met with Carnival company and the East Cowes Community Partnership bidding for £15k for the event. Photo exhibition going well.

11.4 Town Councillors Report

Cllr Walker gave a brief report regarding the digital conference he and Cllr Hendry had attended. He said it had been very useful and informative and it was important that the town council attends in the future.

It was agreed that Cllr Walker should speak on behalf of the Town Council at the Planning Committee on the Hawthorn Meadows application.

Cllr Hendry circulated a comprehensive written report on the conference which was noted by councillors.

Cllr Rann reported on the new Help Centre at County Hall which was to be a multi-agency centre. She was very impressed. She was unable to attend the LAF meeting and felt that it was vital that in future councillors should be formally nominated onto the different groups rather than the ad hoc approach adopted at present.

Cllr Love said he had received very positive comments about the new Esplanade shelter.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 12.40