



EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Facilities Committee** held on: **Thursday 4th October at 10.30pm** in the Town Hall, East Cowes.

Town Clerk

Present:

Chair: Cllr Rann

Cllrs: Packham, Webster, Love

FO45/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hendry and Lloyd

FO46/18 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Love declared an interest as Ward Councillor, IW Council, Member of East Cowes Business Asso. and East Cowes Community Partnerships

No written requests for dispensation were received

FO47/18 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 16th August 2018 were agreed and signed

FO48/18 Projects and Events

Some questions were raised about the amalgamation of Projects & Events with Facilities and whether it would extend the meeting unduly. It was felt that this proposal would enable a more professional and managed approach to projects and events.

Resolved: to incorporate Projects and Events into the Facilities Committee

FO49/18 Membership of the Committee

It was agreed that all councillors should sit on this committee now that it had been extended

Resolved: The committee would comprise 8 councillors with immediate effect.

FO50/18 Vice Chair

2 nominations were received for the position of Vice Chair for the committee:

Cllr Lloyd and Cllr Hendry

A vote was taken for each candidate and Cllr Hendry was elected

Resolved: Cllr Hendry was elected Vice Chair of the committee

FO51/18 Terms of Reference

The committee considered the revised Terms of Reference to cover the newly formed committee.

Resolved: It was resolved to adopt the revised Terms of Reference

FO52/18 Town Hall Hire

Discussion around the fee structure for hire of the Town Hall took place and it was generally felt that it was unfair to charge non-profit-making hirers the same as profit-making hirers. It was pointed out by the Clerk that the current hire charges were not covering the cost of staff, heating and lighting and that the council should be at the very least be breaking even. It was generally agreed that community groups should be subsidised by the Council but that others should not. Councillors stated that if hirers were willing to set up and put away the tables and chairs and clear up afterwards then a lesser charge could be considered. An idea was put forward to have two hire rates to cover commercial/non-commercial hirers. Cllr Love raised a point of Order that Cllr Webster had an interest in this item. Cllr Webster agreed. The Chair proposed that she felt this matter deserved more investigation by the Clerk and Facilities Officer, in terms of actual cost to the council, and that they should be asked to make proposals for 2 scales of hire charges that could be considered by the Full Council.

Resolved: This item be deferred to Full Council for decision

FO53/18 2019 Projects & Events

The committee considered the projects listed on the strategic plan for the short term (1 year). The projects were agreed, and it was pointed out by the Clerk that some of the projects listed were not accounted for in the budget, such as the water main replacement on the Esplanade and the installation of CCTV, and that the Council may have to defer some items listed in the budget till the next financial year. The committee agreed that this may have to happen. A great deal of discussion took place around Cllr Love's ideas for 2019 and the budget of £4525.00 that he stated had been agreed by the council even though it was not identified in the budget. The projects and events he identified were to be undertaken in conjunction with East Cowes Community Partnership (ECCP). Other Councillors said that the ECCP should be reporting back to and consulting with the Town Council. This was discussed thoroughly, and the Clerk was asked to clarify and confirm that this was included in the original terms of reference for the ECCP. This was confirmed. Cllr Love said he was happy to bring back a costed list of the events/projects to the Council but that all groups should be treated in the same way. The Clerk agreed that any group receiving monies from the Town Council should provide evidence of spend to satisfy the Council's accounting and auditing requirements and that this would be the case in the future.

The committee then agreed 2 councillors should work with the ECCP on the 2019 projects and to be formally responsible for consulting and reporting back to the Town Council. Cllr Love and Cllr Hendry were nominated.

Cllr Rann proposed that East Cowes should produce its own map which would display the town, places of interest and the years events as they did at Ryde. Some discussion took place and it was proposed that the Clerk do a costing exercise and bring a report to the next meeting.

Resolved: Cllrs. Love and Hendry were appointed to work with the ECCP on behalf of the Town Council on projects and events for 2019. It was further resolved that the £4525 budget for 2019 projects be approved at the next meeting of the Full Council.

That the Clerk draw up the costs of producing a map as described and report to the next F,P&E Committee

FO54/18 Library

The committee were told that the grant made by the IW Council would be halved this year and would cease altogether next year and so the Council would need to include this the next year and ongoing budgets. Cllr Webster stated that it had been formerly agreed by the town

Council that a budget of £5000 be available to the library as it was a community asset. Cllr Rann raised the idea of the Council buying a local shop and relocating the library, developing an internet café and perhaps letting out the accommodation above. Cllr Packham suggested that the empty doctor's surgery could be considered too. Cllr Love felt that the Council should focus on the asset they already have as it had had a lot of money spent on it recently and look at how that could be developed with further Sec 106 money. Cllr Rann asked what the £5000 was intended for and was it ongoing. Cllr Webster stated that it was a contribution towards maintenance and that we also pay the salary of the library coordinator. Their accounts are audited and sent to the town council for information. The Clerk suggested that the council could explore taking the building over from the IW Council as had happened in other parishes, and this might open other opportunities to develop revenue streams.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Clerk would explore the transfer of the library from the IW Council to the Town Council and report back.

FO55/18 Gate on the Esplanade

The committee considered Cllr Love's request to replace the gate on the Esplanade to match the hoop top fencing. A quote was considered by the committee. After some discussion a vote was taken on the replacement of the gate.

Resolved: It was resolved that the gate would not be replaced.

FO56/18 To resolve the Exclusion of Press and Public

Contractual matters

1 Contract Terms and Conditions: The committee considered the terms and conditions of a contract between the Town Council and the contractor providing summer and winter planting and maintenance in and around East Cowes.

Resolved: The terms and conditions were agreed

2 Quote for Toilet Cleaning

The committee considered 3 quotes for cleaning the Osborne Rd and Esplanade toilets.

Resolved: It was resolved to accept the quote from the most economical and efficient contractor.

Meeting closed at 12.40