



EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Facilities, Projects and Events Committee** held on: **Thursday 1st November at 6.30pm** in the Town Hall, East Cowes

Present: Cllr Hendry (Chair), Cllrs Love, Paler, Webster, Packham, Walker, Lloyd.
S Chilton (Locum Clerk) 4 members of the public

FO57/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Rann who was on holiday

FO58/18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as Ward Councillor, IW Council, Member of East Cowes Business Assoc. and East Cowes Community Partnerships and in item 3. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as Member of East Cowes Community Partnership. No written requests for dispensation were received

FO59/18 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 4th October 2018 were agreed and signed.

FO60/18 Regeneration – Esplanade Project (Chris Ashman – Director of Regeneration, Isle of Wight Council)

Mr Ashman spoke about the ideas that were developed for the Esplanade at the regeneration meeting in May and shared feedback from the meeting held in October. He told the meeting that regeneration programme was an Island wide issue and that in East Cowes the regeneration of the Esplanade had become an aspiration from those attending. He stated that he wished to bring this area of the island to the attention of people. He had himself looked at the strengths and opportunities of the Esplanade and felt that the time was right to move the challenging ideas into a fully formed project plan. There is a locally informed project group, as there is in every area. Regeneration projects come under different themes and in the East Medina area these included Kingston Marina park and the Island Tech park. However, for this area the Esplanade will be the project that goes forward. Funding opportunities – Sec 106 allocation would qualify, as would a lottery grant. A funding plan would be part of the project.

Cllr Webster stated that she felt there should be more attention paid to the needs of the older generation as there were ample facilities for children and young people and that the advantage of the East Cowes seafront was that it was already the best on the island. This was generally agreed by other councillors. There was discussion around how this might produce some commercial opportunities for funding. The Woodland walk idea was debated which would enhance the landslip area. The green in front of the houses was mentioned as it was a mess and needed some improvement. The Chair asked what Mr Ashman wanted from the Town Council. Mr Ashman said his main purpose was to seek the Councils support for the Project group and for the project and the volunteer project group. It was agreed that in addition to Cllrs Love and Hendry three other councillors would join the group.

Resolved: Cllrs Paler, Walker, and Lloyd would join Cllrs Love and Hendry attending the Esplanade Project group.

FO61/18 Library

The council considered a report prepared by the Clerk regarding 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.

An interim option was put forward for relocating the library to the room, annexed to the Town Hall, which was supported by the Library Service Manager, Rob Jones. A further option was presented which would feature the Council taking over the entire town Hall and public toilet site on a 100-year lease and developing a purpose-built multi-agency community hub/library and public offices; in addition to the facilities already on offer in the town hall. This would be a major scheme that would require a substantial amount of funding. It was suggested that some of this could be supported from Sec 106 monies. Rob Jones then gave a presentation on how libraries were developing numerous other activities across the country and were fast becoming community hubs which were fully utilised by the community at large. He outlined some of the activities taking place and how this could also happen here at East Cowes if the library could be moved into a more accessible, flexible space.

Some discussion followed as to whether this would be a good use of Sec 106 money or whether other options could be considered such as the Studio School which would be ceasing in a year. It was generally agreed that the existing town hall was the centre of the town and the public were more likely to make use of this building. Councillors felt that moving the library to the Town hall should be supported and that full costings should be developed prior to formal agreement and that further investigations be made into the Council taking over the entire site.

Resolved: That full costings for Phase 1 move to the Town Hall annexe would be presented to Full Council and that Phase 2 be further investigated.

FO62/18 Umbrella Tree Update

This item was deferred pending further information.

FO63/18 2019 Projects and Events

The Council were asked to consider and approve the projects presented by Cllr Love and which were proposed as a joint exercise between the Town Council and the East Cowes Community Partnership. Cllr Love discussed the separate elements within his report – East Cowes 2019 – A Land of Royal Footsteps.

- A Town Walk of History
- A Town Tapestry
- A Town Carnival Procession
- A Grand Town Exhibition
- A Town Show
- Esplanade Festival
- Town Victorian Day

- Boat Museum exhibition
- Life Boat Open Day
- Churches Together

He had illustrated the costs for each element and councillors discussed each of them fully. The following projects which totalled £4527.00 were agreed from the allocated £4525.00 budget:

- A Town Walk of History - £1600
- Esplanade Festival - £2427.00
- Town Victorian Day - £500.00

Other projects that were “free” were also agreed. They included:

- Grand Town Exhibition
- Town Show

Cllr Love asked that these 2 events, to be held in the town hall, be allowed free of charge and this was agreed as a community project which fitted the council’s policy. It was proposed that the Town Council should approve the provisional costings included within the report.

Resolved: That the budget of £4525.00 be made available for the East Cowes 2019 project

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting