



EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Facilities, Projects and Events Committee** held at East Cowes Town Hall on **Thursday 1st July** at 6pm to discuss the following matters set out in the agenda.

Present: Cllr Paler (Chair), Cllrs Love, Webster, Packham, Palin, Reardon, Hendry and Lake
S Chilton (Clerk), Martha James Planning Consultant, Chris Ashman, Dir. of Regeneration IWC
Also present 4 members of the public.

Public Forum

Mr Douse asked that his thanks to the Facilities Officer for his help and hard work with the water sampling scheme be recorded. He also asked about the potential for safety buoys at East Cowes. Cllr Love explained that we are classed as part of the inner harbour where there is a 6-knot speed limit, and any requests need to go through the Harbour Master. Other areas, already in the scheme, such as Sandown, are not in a harbour. However, the request could be put forward at the next CHAC in September.

Mr Burdett added that UKSA were in the same area and a management plan is needed. Cllr Love stated that he had raised concerns with Ben Willows, UKSA and asked if boats could stay at one end of the beach. They also discussed the possibility of pontoons as an alternative to using the beach. Cllr Webster stated that an agreement had been drawn up in the past. Cllr Love said it would be useful if that agreement could be found. He also stated that the Harbour Master was aware that people are breaking the rules.

FO36/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from David Bailey, Head of Historic Properties and Toby Beasley, Osborne House Head Gardener who had been called to the mainland.

Apologies from John Cattle in respect of item 5, Skateboard Consultation

FO37/21 Osborne House

Item deferred.

FO38/21 Seafront Mural Competition

Councillors considered the entries to the seafront mural competition and a winner was agreed. A presentation will be made to the winner at Full Council on the 22nd July.

FO39/21 Declarations of Interest

4.1 Cllr Love declared non-pecuniary interest as a member of East Cowes Business Assoc, East Cowes Community Partnership, and Ward Councillor for IWC and the Heritage Centre.

Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Item 7

Cllr Paler declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the IW Society.

Cllr Lake declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the East Cowes Regeneration Steering Group

Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of East Cowes Business Assoc. And East Cowes Community Partnership

4.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

FO40/21 Skatepark Consultation

Cllr Hendry reported that a meeting had taken place with John Cattle and Zoe where they had looked at the problems with the skatepark. It had been installed some time ago and the materials used were not suitable. Ideally the ramps need to be concrete; at present they are metal and, in the summer, they get so hot an egg can be fried on them and when wet they are very slippery and dangerous. The lip at the top is difficult to navigate. There needs to be a consultation with users and a report brought back to the council. John Cattle proposed several sessions in the summer with users which would include scooter riders.

FO41/21 Minutes

The Mayor moved a resolution to approve the minutes of the meeting held on **Thursday 22nd April** which were agreed and signed.

Resolved: Minutes were approved and signed.

FO42/21 Item 7 was delayed.

FO43/21 Romanov Electricity Supply Certification

8.1 Council discussed paying 50% of the cost of checking and certifying the electricity supply to the Romanov monument at a cost of £400, the remainder to be paid by the IW Council. Cllr Webster queried whether the project had received money from the Town Council in the past and Cllr Love confirmed that a grant had been made. Cllr Reardon asked about ongoing electricity costs. It was confirmed that they would only become the liability of the Town Council if they were to take on the lease of the green space. It was proposed that the Town Council pay the 50% and seconded. A vote was taken and agreed.

Resolved: To pay 50% of the total cost of £800.

FO44/21 Waterfront Regeneration Plan

7.1 MJ presented her report from the meeting of the steering group (attached), which she felt was a sole plan for the IWC to make money. Any comparison to the Town Plan were incidental. There was not much community betterment apart from a planted area on the esplanade. Cllr Reardon said she thought that this was supposed to be a community led project. MJ queried whether there was a need for a care home, would this be a good thing? The inclusion of a hotel, a hostel – the reasoning behind these were unclear. What is the hostel for? Use of words was not clear and the whole thing was not being very consultative. The presentation had said there would be stakeholder engagement – were the nominated representatives of the Town Council seen as stakeholder engagement? We are being asked what the community want. Cllr Webster said that traffic was a problem that had not been dealt with. Cllr Reardon said there was no traffic plan which was a concern. MJ said that regeneration was a misnomer its just a few buildings of what the IWC want to do with them. A master plan would look at a much broader scenario, including roads etc. Cllr Love said he felt that the plan was very dense, and he was concerned about flood risk and buildings going higher. He felt that the hotel was in the wrong position and car parking was a massive issue. Retirement village with support accommodation would be welcomed. The whole thing needs more thought. MJ said there was no thought into moving people from one area to another, no signage for visitors to lead them into the town. There were missed opportunities to develop opportunities for employment. Cllr Love said there was no mention of the Floating Bridge. Cllr Reardon said there were different scenarios for each section, the council need to show the IWC what we would like. MJ asked if the plans could be shared with the community. Cllr Webster asked if the plan was reliant on a successful bid to the Levelling-Up Fund. Cllr Love said that the documents to the meeting was now in the public domain and could be shared. MJ said that the draft plan was not included in the documents. Cllr Love said he felt that there should be an exhibition at the Tow Hall to share information with the public. Cllr Palin said that the community need to say what they want and not be presented with the IWC plan with a few tweaks.

7.2 Cllr Lake, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the East Cowes Regeneration Steering Group, explained that the land was owned by the IWC and Red Funnel and that they could do what they liked with it. She was pleased to see that the plan was not housing-led and that the Council should use the Town Plan as a base. The Town plan shows what people want so we need to match the priorities of that plan into IWC Regeneration Plan and then

present to the IWC. To suggest starting all over again and to ask community what they wanted was crazy. The town plan sets out what the community want. Perhaps we could list the 5 top priorities and start from there.

Cllr Hendry said that housing needs to be an element within it. Cllr Lake said that small developments of housing would be more acceptable, and we need to put these proposals forward. Cllr Reardon said that the Town Council need to meet to discuss. It was generally felt that a highways plan was put forward first. MJ stated that the housing was the best part of the plan, it had been dealt with sensitively. There were more suggestions about sharing documents to the public. CA stated that the council had nominated 2 representatives to the steering group, which had met a month ago. The work on the plan is not complete. Requests have been made to the steering group to provide comments to be incorporated into a proposal that would the have further consultation. Feedback is needed so that we can go on to the next stage and then there would be documentation for public consultation. It is currently not at a stage that could go out to public consultation. A proposal was made and seconded that the council would meet with MJ to discuss the Town Plan priorities and how the plan can achieve this. This was agreed.

Resolved: To arrange a meeting with MJ and the proposals to be reported to the Steering Group.

FO45/21 Councillor Name Badges

Cllr Palin proposed that the council consider wooden names plates and name badges. Councillors had mixed view about name plates but generally felt they were not necessary. Name plates were seen to have advantages and disadvantages for Councillors attending functions. It was pointed out that councillors would need to take care when attending functions in their private capacity where wearing a Cllr Badge would not be allowed. Cllr Palin said he was happy to withdraw the proposal.

FO46/21 Assets of Community Value

Cllr Lake proposed that the Council should request that certain buildings and green areas were added to the Register of assets of Community Value to enable the Council an opportunity to buy should they ever come onto the market. The assets put forward were Columbine Building and the Barracks. Cllr Love said that the IWC were preparing a list of their assets and there might be opportunities for parishes to purchase in the future. But this weas in its early stages. Cllr Hendry proposed that the Columbine and the Barracks be put forward. This was seconded and agreed. An amendment was then proposed by Cllr Love to include Albany Green, Bells Landing and the Crossways field. This was seconded and agreed.

Resolved: To request that the Columbine building, the Barracks, Albany Green, Bells Landing and the Crossways field be considered as an Asset of Community Value and included on the IWC Register

FO47/21 Town Hall roof and Masonry survey

11.1 The council noted the report of the Facilities Officer on the recent survey of the town hall roof and masonry. They also noted the report on other projects. Councillors asked that their thanks be given to the Facilities Officer for such a comprehensive and well written report.

11.2 No actions were required.

FO48/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

A motion 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. (1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act s1 (2)), was duly moved, seconded, and agreed.

Resolved: To exclude the press and public for the next item

Contractual matters were discussed.

Meeting closed at 7.55p.m