



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 21st February 2019

Present:

Chair: Cllr Lloyd (Mayor)

Councillors: Rann (Deputy Mayor), Webster, Paler, Hendry, Walker, Packham, Love

Town Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: 9 members of the public

Public Forum

- A query was raised as to whether the Town Council had reviewed the 2006 East Cowes Town Plan. The chair advised that they had not but they intended to.
- A member of the public asked if her submission about Green Spaces had been received. It was confirmed that it had and this would be discussed under item 5 on the agenda.
- A query was raised about whether the Town Council had asked for the Seafront to be designated a green space. This also comes under item 5 on the agenda. A list had been compiled and will be discussed. This will form part of the response.
- A representative of a new group called the V&A East Cowes Action Group asked for support for their idea that the Columbine building be used as a V&A site with a fashion and design theme as an alternative plan if it does not continue to be used for business. Cllr Love advised that Mark McNeil from the Boat Museum Chairman also had some ideas for the site. Cllr Love reported (as IW councillor) that the IWC want to acquire the site and offer a lease of at least 5 years to allow time for the ship yard to move. Chris Ashman had advised that a radical proposal for income generation was needed to prevent flats being built on the site. Cllr Webster suggested that any plan would need to include car parking. Cllr Walker was concerned about the loss of jobs currently on the site. It was proposed this item be added to the agenda for the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee on 4th March.

Meeting opened at 6.30 p.m.

12/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None received

13/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
2.1 No declarations of non - pecuniary interests were received.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

14/19 ENVIRONMENT OFFICERS

Robin Reed and Debbie Chambers Environment Officers attended. Robin advised that they patrol in East Cowes half a day per week. The Town Council believed that the Environment Officers were allocated to East Cowes 2 half days per week. This will be checked with IWC officer Lee Matthews. He presented his report (attached). He also reported on several actions taken since November in response to requests from the public. No tickets have been issued in East Cowes to date. Cllr Love raised Clarence Road and the Esplanade as problem areas. A member of the public raised a concern about the disrepair of an historic grave in Kingston Cemetery. Cllr Lloyd noted as a Friend of Kingston Cemetery that repairs are only permitted with the permission of a family member. A member of the public also raised that emptying cigarette bins in also a problem.

One of the Environment officers will attend alternate month meetings and a written report will be submitted to the other meetings.

15/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2019 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Mayor

16/19 DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY

A long discussion took place regarding the draft Island Planning Strategy. Concerns were raised about the amount of housing allocation affecting East Cowes including the area on the Red Funnel Plan. The Town Council supported the comments of Whippingham Town Council about keeping a gap between settlements in order to retain their identity.

There was discussion about the designation of green spaces in the town. Dawn Smith in the IWC Planning department has advised that comments can still be made on spaces that have not yet been designated.

Cllr Rann read out a draft statement prepared by the Mayor.

Concerns were raised that the Saunders Way road had not been completed. Cllr Webster felt that it was time for a second road in and out of East Cowes was needed due to the amount of additional housing built in recent years.

Resolved: Cllrs Lloyd and Rann will meet with the Clerk on Friday 22nd February to complete the response

Resolved: To support the submission received from Sharon Lake

Resolved: To support the IW Garden Trust document relating to Spring Hill

Resolved: East Cowes Town Council to write to?.....asking about the current plan for implementing the new road network and who is funding it?

17/19 BUDGET 2019/20

6.1 The budget was presented by the Clerk. An amendment was made so that £6,000 could be allocated to the refurbishment of the paddling pool. The total budget for 2019/20 is £323,000 less £12,000 income from hall hire. Total £311,300. When divided between the tax base (properties in the town paying full council tax) this equates to £117.36 per household. This is an increase of £27.06 per annum or £2.26 per month over 12 months.

6.2 **Resolved:** To accept the budget as presented.

18/19 FINANCES

7.1 To approve and agree payments as presented.

Resolved: All payments approved for payment, direct debits and other prepaid invoices ratified.

7.2 To ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS.

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS ratified.

7.3 To consider a request from the Royal British Legion for a donation to IW Armed Forces Day 2019

Resolved: To donate £100 to this event.

19/19 FLOATING BRIDGE UPDATE

The clerk read out an email from Mark Downer. In January the floating bridge carried 23,814 foot passengers, 15, 172 cars and operated for 595 hours. Overall 99.75% of the timetable was met. It was noted that the leader of IWC will be making a speech in regard to the floating bridge on 28th February.

Resolved: To request comparative data about the operation of the floating bridge to include costs incurred and additional services provided when the bridge fails to operate.

20/19 COWES TOWN COUNCIL/EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL LIASON

Cllr Paler was nominated by Cllr Love

Resolved: Cllr Paler to represent East Cowes Town Council.

21/19 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

To agree dates for basic skills councillor training.

Resolved: Training dates set for 7th and 14th March 6-9pm at East Cowes Town Hall. Councillors from Cowes and Whippingham to be invited to attend.

22/19 PREFIX "ROYAL" TO EAST COWES TITLE

Cllr Paler has contacted the Lord Lieutenants Office and received a list of criteria that have to be satisfied in order to apply.

Resolved: To set up a working group to include Cllrs Webster, Rann, Paler, Love who will invite a few members of the community to join them to prepare an application.

23/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

11.1 Town Clerk

The Clerk read out a report from Laura Reid regarding Parkside Pavilion and the Youth Club

11.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor has attended meetings with representatives of Red Funnel and is opening the Well Road car park on 22nd February

11.3 IW Ward Councillors

Cllr Love reported that the IWC budget will be a cost saving budget. The budget will be kept for cross Solent travel costs for cancer patients.

11.4 Town Councillors

Cllr Love reported that £650 has been raised so far for the Stickwood Heart(?) to be brought back to Barton Manor. It is hoped that the hovercraft museum will be able to complete a flight from the museum on 25th July. This is the 60th anniversary of the first flight. The location of the propeller needs to be discussed at a council meeting. He has been in discussions with the Tenant's Office regarding visitors for EC2019 event on 23rd May. The mayor of Coburg will be attending an event on 24th May. The EC Business Association has agreed to assist with wine and catering for the event. Plans are also in hand for the Festival on the Seafront. GKN has given £1,500 towards this. He asked whether the current Town Council insurance will cover these events. Clerk to check.

Cllr Packham reported that he has requested Cllr Ward looks at the situation with the Esplanade car park

Cllr Walker has attended a Waste Management meeting. The next one will take place on 28th February. He will also be attending the Harbour Commission meeting on 2nd May

Cllr Rann asked for support for organising a community litter pick to be arranged before the Easter holidays. Councillors will suggest priority areas at the next Facilities, Projects and Events meeting on 4th March.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: