



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 East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes
Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7.00pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

Clerk: S Chilton, **Assistant Clerk:** C Gale

Also present: 11 members of the public

Public Forum

- Will East Cowes Town Council speak to Island Roads about pruning the overgrown trees on York Avenue by the Prince of Wales pub?
- A member of the public was unable to find information on the Town Councils website. He was advised that the agenda is posted 3 clear days before the meeting on the website and on 3 notice boards located around the town.
- A member of the public raised concerns at the poor state of white lines marking the edging on the footpath from Sylvan Avenue to Church Path.

Meeting opened at 7.15 p.m.

127/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry advised he might be late to the meeting due to travel arrangements.

128/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor, member of East Cowes Business Association, member of East Cowes Community Partnership and the Isle of Wight Society.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

129/19 ISLE OF WIGHT COASTAL PATH

Apologies had been received from John Taylor of Natural England who was unable to attend due to sudden close family illness. Mr Taylor will be invited to attend the meeting in February.

130/19 THE ALBANY BARRACKS PROJECT

Sharon Lake and Tracy Reardon gave a presentation on behalf of the East Cowes Arts and Culture Group (ECAC). SL explained that now the Columbine building has been preserved for employment in the town, the group was now focussing on the barracks as the possible location for a "Futures Museum", that would host exhibitions featuring the latest technologies. There would be inter-generational activities, connections with local businesses, universities and local education establishments. It would aim to attract around 100,000 visitors per year. The building would take about 5 years to restore. It could provide indoor and outdoor space for events. The group showed a short film to showcase what type of exhibitions could be held. The Town Council thanked the group for their exciting and innovative presentation and wished them every success with presenting it to the IWC on 12th December.

Councillor Hendry arrived.

131/19 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Love gave his report as he had to leave early. He reported that following objections the gritting programme had been kept the same as last year. He expects IWC council tax to be increased by the maximum of 4% as they will have to make savings of £4.5-5.5million next year. He has raised concerns about climate emergency issues following sight of the 2050 flood map. He continues to monitor activity at the former Frank James Hospital.

132/19 FLOATING BRIDGE

6.1 The Mayor read out a letter from Mark Downer responding to councillors concerns about the floating bridge breakdowns affecting school children. The letter stated that there had been 2 incidents during the school commute where the launch had been commissioned within 45 minutes. It was considered unnecessary expense to have a bus on standby in these circumstances.

6.2 The council received a report from Cllr Paler who had attended the Floating Bridge User Group meeting.

Resolved: To send a letter to the Headteacher of Cowes Enterprise College asking for information about the level of disruption caused by problems with the floating bridge;

To write to IWC leader Dave Stewart asking what provisions are in place for pupil safety and alternative transport.

133/19 ARMED FORCES DAY

7.1 A request was received from the Royal British Legion for financial assistance in support of Armed Forces Day 2020.

7.2 The council considered supporting the day in the sum of £250 as set aside in the budget.

Resolved: To support Armed Forces Day 2020 and the write to them asking if some time in the future consideration can be given to hosting this event in East Cowes

134/19 FINANCES

8.1 Councillors considered the payments to be made.

8.2 Councillors considered Direct Debit and BACS payments.

Resolved: To agree payments as stated.

135/19 CIVIC

9.1 Councillors considered the refurbishment of the Mayoral chains at a cost of £634.00 plus VAT

9.2 Councillors considered 2 designs and the purchase of a town crest plaque to be positioned above the stage in the centre between the panels. The cost would be £155.00 plus VAT

9.3 It was suggested that the purchase of flags with the town crest on could be considered at a future date. Cllr Love left the meeting.

Resolved: To agree the refurbishment of the chains and purchase of a plaque with funds from the contingency budget

136/19 RECISSION OF RESOLUTION, MOTION FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

10.1 The council considered rescinding the resolution 123/19, 11.2 "To nominate 5 councillors to serve on the Planning Committee" passed at the meeting held on 11th October 2019. A proposal was made to rescind the motion, this was seconded and agreed.

10.2 The council considered a motion "That all Councillors serve on the Planning Committee. An amendment to the proposal was made that there will be 6 members on the committee to consist of all the councillors except those who are also IWC Ward Councillors. This was seconded and agreed.

10.3 The council considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Planning committee

Resolved: To rescind the resolution made on 11/10/19, minute number 123/19

That 6 members will serve on the Planning Committee (to exclude IW Ward Councillors);

To adopt the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee to include the agreed amendment

137/19 REPORTS

11.1 Clerks Report

Community Hub consultation: 233 community hub surveys have been returned so far. The Clerk read out proposed criteria for the Mayors Volunteers tea party. Councillors suggested some additional groups and individuals to be added to the list of invitees. 60-70 people will be invited with each group having 2 representatives.

The Clerk read out the written response received to questions tabled at the Town and Parish Councils seminar held in September. The annual report received from Gift to Nature reporting on Castle Copse was noted. The final draft of the Town Map was circulated. It was noted that Kingston Cemetery needs to be identified on both sides of Kingston Road.

The Clerk reported that she had applied to IWC for a grant for the remaining balance of the Sec 106 Community Facilities Fund for the Community Hub. The IWC have agreed, in principle, to the grant application and have awarded East Cowes Town Council £100,000 towards the Community Hub project. This will be valid for a period of 2 years.

11.2 Mayors Report

The Mayor shared her report. Copy attached.

11.3 IW Councillors Reports

Cllr Hendry submitted a written report as Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Osborne. Copy attached.

11.4 Town Councillors Reports

Cllr Walker attended the Environmental Forum meeting. He had been unable to attend IWALC due to a clash of dates.

Cllr Lloyd had assisted residents with council tax queries.

138/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s 1(2)). The Chair duly moved to exclude the press and public for the following items.

Resolved: To exclude the press and the public.

Contractual matters were considered.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed:

Dated: