



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 16th January 2020 at 7.00pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: 19 members of the public, 5 guests: Wesley Jones (Environment Agency), Stuart MacIntosh (Cowes Harbour Master), Ben Willows and Chris Frisby (UKSA), Peter Jackson (CHC Advisory Committee)

Public Forum

- A member of the public reported raw sewage coming out of the drains at Hawthorn Meadows. Cllr Hendry has followed this up.

Meeting opened at 7.10p.m

01/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Love due to family illness.

02/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

03/20 MINUTES

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2019 were approved as accurate and signed.

04/20 FLOOD DEFENCES/COASTAL PROTECTION

4.1 Correspondence from Peter Marsden regarding coastal protection was noted.

4.2 Wesley Jones (Environment Agency Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership and Strategic Overview Team Leader for South East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight) gave a presentation about the flood risk in East Cowes and the plans that are in place to deal with it. Government grants are based on the number of residential dwellings that could be affected by flooding which means East Cowes can only access around £5million. The Environment Agency will be taking a phased approach working in East Cowes first and then in Cowes.

A viable scheme is proposed for East Cowes which consists of the erection of temporary aluminium and polythene A-frame barriers extending 250m from the Waitrose roundabout via the Red Funnel Marshalling Yard to GKN together with fully funded flood resilience measures to homes in Albany Road and Castle Street area. Regeneration opportunities in the town will be expected to address flood management issues. A multi-agency approach is being taken by the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Isle of Wight Council. Mr Jones encouraged members of the public to attend a Drop-In Session at the Town Hall on Thursday 13th February when they can share their local knowledge and ask any questions about the plan.

05/20 COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION SLIPWAY PLANS

5.1 Stuart MacIntosh (Cowes Harbour Master) explained that there are currently 4 slipways in East Cowes owned by the Isle of Wight Council. 3 are unusable and in a state of disrepair. The 4th slipway adjacent to the Red Funnel ferry terminal does not provide safe access for recreational use. Ben Willows (USKA) presented a proposal from the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee (CHAC), to build a new slipway on East Cowes Esplanade. Advice is needed from a marine designer and further consultation is required.

5.2 East Cowes Town Council was asked for its support, in principle, and to nominate two members to become members of the CHAC. Any interested members of the public were also invited to put themselves forward. Councillors proposed and seconded to support the project in principle and nominated Cllrs Walker and Paler to serve.

Resolved: Cllrs Paler and Walker to represent ECTC on the CHAC. East Cowes Town Council supports the project in principle.

06/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

Statistics for the operation of the floating bridge for December were noted.

07/20 EAST COWES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ARTS & CULTURE GROUP

7.1 A request for an "in principle" grant for the Barracks project from the Arts and Culture Group was considered.

7.2 The Council proposed and seconded a £5000.00 grant for this purpose

Resolved: The Town Council agreed in principle to a grant of £5000.00 on the basis that the IW Council approve the tenancy of the Barracks be transferred to the ECCP Arts and Culture Group

08/20 FINANCES

8.1 To approve and agree payments as presented.

8.2 To ratify payments made including by Direct Debits and BAC.

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified.

09/20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

9.1 The budget for 2020/21 was put before the Council, considered and formally agreed.

9.2 The proposed precept was agreed

Resolved: To approve the budget as presented for 2020/21. To approve the precept of £325,720.00 (minus the Local Council Tax Support Grant of £1692.00) for 2020/21.

10/20 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

The Council considered a request from IWALC to nominate a councillor to go forward into a draw for this event.

Resolved: To nominate Cllr Lloyd.

11/20 COUNCIL POLICIES

The Council considered the policies presented.

Resolved: To adopt the Vexatious Complaints Policy (with the amendment to link it to the Retention of Documents and GDPR Policies), Complaints Procedure, Dignity at Work Policy, Retention of Document Policy (linked to the Vexatious Complaints Policy), Internal Audit & Key Controls Policy.

12/20 NATURES HIGHWAYS

The Council considered the Natures Highway Report.

Resolved: The Council did not wish to comment as it intends to maintain its own verges.

13/20 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's Report

A letter of thanks was received for the grant of £250 from Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day. Consideration will be given to East Cowes hosting a future event.

IWALC is delivering Code of Conduct training on 17th March at the Riverside Centre. Cllrs Rann, Paler and Walker to attend.

A good response has been received from voluntary groups for the Mayor tea party and all arrangements are in hand.

13.2 Mayor's Report

The Mayor report was noted (attached).

13.3 IW Ward Councillors Reports

None were received.

13.4 Councillors Reports

Cllr Paler's report was noted (attached). Cllr Lloyd had reported a dangerous tree stump outside the Frank James Hospital to Island Roads steward, but nothing had been done to date. Cllr Packham queried why the dog bin had not been installed at Hefford Road. The Clerk advised that this should be done in the next 2 weeks. Cllr Walker attended the CHC meeting and agreed Cllr Paler's report covered proceedings.

14/20 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 8.25pm.

Signed:

Dated: