



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 20th February 2020 at 7.00pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also, present: 9 members of the public, 2 guests: Maggie Oldham (CEO Isle of Wight NHS Trust), Vaughan Thomas (Chair Isle of Wight NHS Trust)

Public Forum:

There were no questions from the public

Meeting opened at 7.05p.m.

15/20 IW HEALTH AND CARE PLAN NHS CONSULTATION – Maggie Oldham, Chief Exec. I.W. NHS Trust and Vaughan Thomas, Chair of IOW NHS Trust

Vaughan Thomas explained that in 2017 the Trust was rated as inadequate by the CQC. 144 “must do” actions were required across 27 core areas. 9 inadequate categories, where there were safety concerns, have since been resolved. A core plan has been developed, in partnership with the CQC and IWC, for dealing with problem areas. Maggie Oldham reported that positive progress has been made and that they aim to address problems for the long term. The plan looks at 3 areas: procurement (ensuring the most efficient use of resources); new models of care and partnership working with Portsmouth and Southampton Hospitals and the Mountbatten Hospice. It is expected that these measures will keep staff better trained and interested and hence help with recruitment and retention of staff. The government has promised a £48m investment at St. Marys Hospital and much of this will be used for digital support for patients to cut down on travel to the mainland. VT and MO took questions from Councillors and members of the public. Copies of the Isle of Wight Health and Care Plan were made available. The Council thanked them for their informative presentation and invited them to make a return visit. To be arranged.

16/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who was on holiday and Cllr Walker who was unwell.

17/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor, membership of the ECBA and ECCP.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

18/20 MINUTES

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2020 were approved as accurate and signed.

19/20 REGENERATION UPDATE

Sharon Lake, Chair of the East Cowes Regeneration Steering group provided a report (attached) to the Town Council following their meeting on 28th January. Three groups have been set up to work on the proposals for Barracks/Albany Green, the Esplanade and the Landslip. The Mayor stressed that it was important that the community are involved. The Clerk advised that the transfer of the Esplanade from the IW Council to the Town Council is currently going through.

20/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out the statistics received for January. It was noted that there are still problems with use of signage indicating when the bridge is out of service. Members of the public remain concerned about the reliability of the floating bridge and that the statistics do not include scheduled out of service periods. To be checked by the Clerk.

21/20 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The contents of the Environment Officers Report (attached) were noted.

22/20 FINANCES

- 8.1 To approve and agree payments as presented.
- 8.2 To ratify payments made including by Direct Debits and BAC.
- 8.3 The 3rd quarter budget update was presented by the Clerk.

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified. The bank reconciliation and 3rd Qtr budget were approved and accepted

23/20 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Town Council will run an event to support this national initiative on Saturday 21st March from 10am -12 noon starting from the Town Hall. The town centre and John Nash Avenue will be included in the routes. Refreshments will be available afterwards at the Town Hall.

24/20 COUNCIL POLICIES

The Council considered the policies presented.

Resolved: To adopt the Grants Policy, Communications and Media Policy, Risk Management Policy, Lone Working Policy.

25/20 TOWN PLAN FORUM

11.1 The Council considered the proposal that the Town Plan Forum will commence work on the development of a Town Plan with the boundary of the parish border.

11.2 The Council considered a request for £200 to support the engagement of young people in the development of the Town Plan.

Resolved: The Council agreed that work on the Town Plan can commence with the boundary of the parish border and to budget of £200 to support youth engagement.

26/20 STAFF TRAINING

12.1 The Council considered a training course for staff covering pool management, new legislation surrounding CCTV and risk assessment at a subsidised cost of £105 per person (usually at least £295) for the Facilities Officer and a Deputy.

12.2 The Council considered the provision of a first aid course by the ambulance service at a cost of £595 for up to 12 people. Places not filled by staff will be offered to local businesses and voluntary organisations. **Resolved:** To agree to the expenditure for the pool management course for 2 staff at a cost of £105 per person and the First Aid course at a cost of £595.

27/20 IW HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

13.1 A letter from Chris Ashman regarding the Housing Needs Survey was noted. The survey finished on 17th February. It had been reported to IW Council that some parish councils felt that the questions on the survey were inappropriate. As a result, Ollie Boulter, IW Planning had offered to meet with council to discuss.

13.2 The council considered an invitation from Whippingham Parish Council to join them for a meeting with Ollie Boulter.

Resolved: Agreed to arrange a meeting with Ollie Boulter and Whippingham Parish Council.

28/20 REPORTS

14.1 Clerk's Report

Permission has been granted for 3 trees to be felled to ground level and 10 to have surgery at Holy Cross Primary School. Information was received from the Environment Agency about their maintenance programme.

An ANOB AGM and forum will take place on Thursday 26th March in Yarmouth. Cllr Love and Paler will attend.

The Footprint Trust are running free First Aid Fuel Poverty training sessions at the Riverside Centre on 2nd April at 11am. FAECES have a beach clean on Sunday 5th April at 3pm.

Resolved: To invite Andy Hammerton of the Environment Agency to a future meeting.

14.2 Mayor's Report

The Mayor report was noted (attached).

14.3 IW Ward Councillors Reports

Cllr Love reported that he had been in touch with Island Roads about the potholes on York Avenue. It will be resurfaced in May or June. He had raised flooding concerns about Spring Hill, Millfield Avenue and St Thomas' Avenue and sewer problems in Saunders Way with the Environment Agency. He attended an Older Voices meeting regarding the problems being experienced by residents of Coburg Court. The underpinning is failing and it will have to be rebuilt. Along with other councillors, he had received a long email from the developers of Norris Castle. The Isle of Wight Council budget will be cut by £4.5 million. Additional savings of £10.5 million must be saved between 2021-24. Council tax will rise by 3.9%.

14.4 Councillors Reports

Cllr Paler's report was noted (attached).

Cllr Lloyd asked if there will be a bicycle rack outside the new community hub. The Friends of East Cowes have put up suicide prevention notices up at the cemetery. Colin Pope from the Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society had contacted him in respect of the trees to be planted in Jubilee Recreation Ground.

Cllr Packham noted that residents were grateful that the extra dog bin has been installed in Hefford Road. A Flood Defence Survey will be out next month for residents in at risk properties.

29/20 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 and staffing matters were considered.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed:

Dated: