



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
Tel: (01983) 299082 Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held remotely by Zoom on **Thursday 23rd July at 6.00pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Lloyd, Webster, Love

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

Also present: 3 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if litter pickers employed by the Town Council could be asked to collect litter weekly in Clarence Road from the Marina to the Town Centre.
- An additional “Do Not Feed the Seagulls” sign was requested at the North Gate of East Cowes Marina to be fixed to the existing Town Council sign. The Clerk stated an update would be provided at the next Full Council meeting.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

43/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who was attending the IWC Scrutiny Committee meeting, Cllr Paler who was unable to attend for personal reasons and Cllr Walker who was unwell.

44/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 Cllr Love declarations non-pecuniary interests as IW Ward Councillor, member of East Cowes Business Association, member of East Cowes Community Partnership and membership of East Cowes Heritage Centre.
- 2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

45/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 19th March were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of the 19th March

46/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk had received 2 reports from Mark Downer. The first stated that planned maintenance was taking place and service was due to resume on 24th July at 5pm. The second stated that the maintenance works had

also shown a fault with the prow hydraulics so resuming service had been delayed. The service is expected to resume at 0500 hours on Tuesday 28th July. The passenger launch will run in the meantime.

47/20 ENVIRONMENT OFFICERS REPORT

The report of the Environment Officer (attached) was noted. Councillors agreed that the report lacked substance and that it was becoming clear that the Town did not seem to be much value from the EO Service and that this should be brought to the attention of the IW Council. It was also noted that a new dog bin had been installed at Maresfield Road. A councillor had received complaints that the dog bins in New Barn Road and Oak Tree Way are been emptied infrequently.

Resolved: To write to the IW Council regarding the Council's concerns of the current EO service and to island Roads regarding the dog bin emptying.

48/20 FINANCES

- 6.1 To approve and agree payments as presented
- 6.2 To ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS
- 6.3 To note the bank reconciliation

Resolved: All payments by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified and the bank reconciliation noted.

49/20 ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

The decisions taken by the town council by email consensus during lockdown and published on the website were presented for ratification.

Resolved: The electronic decisions were ratified.

50/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

- 8.1 To receive and note the internal audit report 2019/20
- 8.2 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
- 8.3 To approve the Accounting Statement 2019/20
- 8.4 To set the commencement date of 1st September 2020 for the exercise of public rights

The documents were agreed and signed and dated by the Mayor.

Resolved: To receive and note the internal audit report 2019/20, to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20, to approve the Accounting Statement 2019/20, to set the commencement date of 1st September 2020 for the exercise of public rights.

51/20 GRANT APPLICATIONS

9.1 The council considered the grant application from the Ellen Macarthur Cancer Trust for the provision of a 5-day sailing course at a cost of £534 and agreed to support the application providing that a child from East Cowes benefited.

Resolved: To approve grant application and to award a sum of £1068 to the Ellen Macarthur Cancer Trust to cover the cost for 2 young people from the Island provided at least one of them is from East Cowes.

9.3 The council considered the grant application from HIOW Victim Support for the provision of a range of home security equipment and personal alarms. Councillors supported the application but did not want grant monies spent on fake CCTV.

Resolved: To approve the grant application and to award a sum of £200 to provide equipment, except for fake CCTV cameras, and to request details of what is been provided in East Cowes.

52/20 TOWN HALL

10.1 The council considered the Clerk's report on the reopening of the Town Hall including the access for appropriate hirers. Government advice now permits indoor exercise classes to take place within stipulated guidelines which would mean that the revised capacity of the hall would be a maximum of 20 people. The Clerk advised that each group would need to provide their own Covid-19 risk assessment, which was approved by Council, agree to limited numbers and have a system for tracking and tracing participants before being able to hire the premises. The Clerk has completed a risk assessment for the main hall and library service. Hirers will be asked to leave out chairs and tables so they can be sanitised before further usage. Staff will return to the office in August and groups will be able to return in August/September.

The Clerk and Library Co-ordinator have been discussing offering a click and collect service with the Co-ordinator spending one morning in the library preparing books and one morning in the foyer for returns and collections. Books returned will be quarantined for 72 hours. Collections will be placed in paper bags.

53/20 COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The council discussed proposals put forward by Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) and Cowes Town Waterfront Trust (CTWT) to merge into one charitable body and obtain charitable status. The group would then wish to obtain a Harbour Revision Order to modernise and update the current constitution and governance. The consultation ends on 3rd August.

Councillors raised concerns about the concentration of power in one organisation if the merger went ahead. Neither East Cowes Town Council nor Cowes Town Council would have a representative at Board level but only on the advisory group. East Cowes had not been referred to in the document. Councillors were concerned that the future development of Cowes and East Cowes has an impact on all residents not just the sailing community and that their voice should be heard through their democratically elected representatives. It was acknowledged that the poor standard of accommodation in the area meant that yachtsmen were choosing to berth on the mainland rather than use local facilities. It was agreed that there was insufficient detail in the proposals, and it posed more questions than answers, and that the closing date should be reviewed. Cowes Town Council was keen that both councils should present a united front. Councillors agreed that a joint response should be developed

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Cowes Town Council to advise them of the concerns of East Cowes Town Council, to insist that the Town Councils were represented at the highest level, to request further information from CHC and that the 3rd August deadline be extended to allow for further information to be considered. Cowes TC and East Cowes TC to then agree a joint response to the consultation.

54/20 AUGUST MEETING

As the council had not met since March due to the Covid-19 lockdown they considered a further full council meeting be held during August.

Resolved: For the Full Council to meet remotely by Zoom on 27th August at 6pm.

55/20 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's report

A letter of thanks was received from Sailability for their grant. Due to Covid-19 they will be carrying it over to next season. The Warmer Homes project has also conveyed their thanks. They have been able to help 25 people, conducted 12 home visits and saved members of the public around £3,000 as a result. Mark Downer reported that 10 PCN notices had been issued to fishermen causing obstruction on East Cowes Esplanade during the first 2 weeks of July and they are continuing to monitor the situation. The Footprint Trust Impact report is available for councillors.

13.2 Mayors report

The Mayors report (attached) was noted.

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love noted concerns over job losses at GKN and the need for future support for the community. He has been in talks with Island Roads regarding the landslip where some progress has been made and the outlook is more positive. Two fires have been dealt with in the woodland near the Esplanade recently. Fire safety messages could be incorporated on signage along the Esplanade which needs reviewing when the town council takes over this area. Concerns around the lack of timely communications from Island Roads will be on the Facilities Projects and Events meeting agenda on 3rd September. On planning matters decision the Frank James Hospital has been deferred, local concerns have been raised about property owners removing a porch on a property in the Well Road area in defiance of its conservation listing and there are issues over hedge maintenance at the coastguard cottages.

13.4 Councillors reports

The Deputy Mayor's report (attached) was noted.

56/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor moved 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)). Public duly left the meeting.

Resolved: To exclude the press and public

The council considered staffing matters and contractual matters.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed:

Dated: