



## East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held remotely by Zoom on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 6pm.**

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### **Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Rann (Mayor)

**Councillors:** Packham, Lloyd, Hendry, Webster, Love, Walker

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

**Also present:** 1 representative of the press and 8 members of the public

### Public Forum

- There will be a beach clean on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am from meeting at the Esplanade carpark.
- What has ECTC done about the CHC/CTWT merger consultation? Response to follow under item 11.1.
- Will ECTC jointly sign a letter from the Floating Bridge Stakeholders Group to the LEP calling for an independent review?

Meeting opened at 6.15 p.m.

### 57/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All councillors were present.

### 58/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared non-pecuniary interests as IW Ward Councillor, member of East Cowes Business Association, member of East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Heritage Centre. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Osborne.

2.2 No written requests for dispensation were received.

### 59/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 were agreed and signed.

**Resolved:** To agree and sign the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> July,

## 60/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out an update on the Floating Bridge from the IW Council which stated that the works were continuing in accordance with the shipbuilders programme and more would be known about further works and the expected timetable by the end of August.

The Council felt the floating bridge is unreliable and not fit for purpose. Concerns were raised about the impact on the 100 secondary school children from East Cowes who travel on the floating bridge every day to get to school and the inadequate provision of the Jenny Boat to transport this number safely due to covid-19. Disabled travellers have also been affected as the replacement launch is inaccessible. The cost of the failure of the floating bridge to local industry and the economy of East Cowes is huge and the town should be entitled to receive compensation. The council will discuss the matter again at the next meeting and consider signing a letter drafted by the Stakeholders Review Group to be sent to the LEP calling for the IWC to be held to account. Concerns were raised regarding the economical and social aspects this has had on the town, its community, and its businesses over the past 3 years.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to send a letter to the IWC setting out the Council's concerns and to request reparation in the form of a compensation package for the town, refunds to floating bridge card holders and free travel for residents for the duration of the loss of service.

## 61/20 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

5.1 The Council noted the resignation of Cllr Michael Paler.

5.2 The Council put forward nominations for Deputy Mayor to serve until the May 2021 election.

**Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Karl Love to the position of Deputy Mayor.

5.3 The Council sought representatives to outside bodies and organisations formerly attended by Michael Paler.

**Resolved:** Cllr Hendry will represent the Council on East Cowes Community Partnership, Cllr Walker will represent the Council at Cowes Town Council meetings, Cllr Packham will be deputy representative for IWALC.

5.4 The electoral services manager at IWC has advised that no election has been called. The Council can now begin the co-option process.

**Resolved:** To go ahead with the co-option process.

## 62/20 FINANCES

6.1 To approve and agree payments as presented

6.2 To ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS

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

## 63/20 CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM NALC CONSULTATION

The Council considered the consultation. Cllrs will send their responses to the Clerk's Office for collation by 9<sup>th</sup> September.

## 64/20 IWC PARKING REVIEW CONSULTATION & LOCAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY'S (IWC) INTENTION TO INTRODUCE PARKING RESTRICTIONS.

8.1 The Council considered the Isle of Wight Parking Review consultation questionnaire produced by consultants Wyg. The Clerk read out a letter from the SLCC Branch Secretary to John Metcalfe (IWC) requesting an extension to the deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> August due to the inadequate response time. The Town & Parish Council Protocol states the consultation period should be at least 6 weeks.

**Resolved:** To give this further consideration at the next meeting due to the revised deadline.

8.2 The Clerk advised that the IWC proposed parking changes in East Cowes was an informal consultation at this stage, but many comments had been received by concerned residents. Details of a formal consultation will appear in the local press in the next few weeks. The Clerk will collate the comments and forward them to the PFI Network Team. A map showing all the changes has been requested. It was noted that some of the maps were inaccurate. Concerns were raised about the removal of parking spaces, the lack of car park facilities in the town and the impact on residents and local businesses. Councillors agreed that there needs to be more joined up thinking between all agencies regarding traffic flow and parking in the town.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will invite the PFI Network Team to a meeting for them to present their proposals and provide the rationale behind the changes.

#### 65/20 ASSISTANT FACILITIES OFFICER

The Human Resources Committee recommended the appointment of Mr Andrew Thomas to the position.

**Resolved:** Subject to satisfactory references, to appoint Mr Andrew Thomas to the position of Assistant Facilities Officer.

#### 66/20 ELLEN MACARTHUR CANCER TRUST

10.1 The Clerk had contacted the organisation for an update. Due to covid-19 they have been offering a 3-month virtual programme with a view to trips later in the year if it is safe to do so.

10.2 The Council discussed putting the grant of £534 towards the virtual programme.

**Resolved:** To award a grant of £534 to the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

#### 67/20 REPORTS

##### 11.1 Clerk's report

The CHC/CTWT public consultation has been suspended until 2021. The seagull and distancing signage has been installed at the Marina. All the additional litter and dog bins have been installed. The litter picking in Clarence Road has been carried out. The Library is operating a drop off and collection service on Mondays 10am-1pm. Hirers are slowly beginning to return to the hall.

A report was received from Youth Worker Laura Reid who advised that the Parkside Pavilion volunteers have been adversely affected by the virus and exam debacle. They are gradually reintroducing sessions and providing as much support as they can.

The Town Plan questionnaire has had a good response with 466 online and 176 paper replies received to date. Daniel James (Plan Research) advised that he will be attending a Microsoft Teams meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September, a new initiative from the Regeneration Team relating to co-housing and supported housing projects. He will report back to the Town Council.

##### 11.2 Mayors report

The Council noted the Mayor's report.

##### 11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love reported he had received numerous complaints about the use of the Castle Street exit by Red Funnel. He has raised the matter with the yard supervisor, Island Roads, Planning Enforcement (IWC) and the Health and Safety Executive.

Cllr Love reported the CHC Advisory Group is looking into potential jet ski licences for the inner harbour and continue to work on the east Cowes slipway project.

Cllr Hendry will follow up questions about the closure of the oil depot and Saunders Way.

#### 11.4 Councillors reports

Cllr Webster asked that a bus service be requested from the IWC for school children travelling to Cowes whilst the Floating Bridge is out of service.

This will be added to the letter agreed at 60/20

Cllr Lloyd asked about the marking of VJ Day. The Clerk noted that a special wreath would be purchased by the Town Council to be laid on Remembrance Day in November.

#### 68/20 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)). The press and public duly left the meeting.

**Resolved:** To exclude the press and public.

The council considered staffing and contractual matters.

Meeting closed at 8.03pm

Signed:

Dated: