



## East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held remotely by Zoom on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6pm**

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### **Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

**Also present:** Ian Thornton (Island Roads), Ian Middleton (Island Roads), Kevin Burton (Island Roads Network Manager), Stewart Chandler (IWC Highways and Transport Client Manager), Zhana Vincent (IWC Highways PFI Contract Management Team – Network Improvement Officer) and 8 members of the public.

### Public Forum

A member of the public asked whether the Town Council will support the Community Speed Watch project. This will be on the October Full Council agenda.

Meeting opened at 6.05p.m.

### 69/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 70/20 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 requests for dispensations were received.

### 71/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were agreed and signed.

**Resolved:** To agree and sign the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> August.

### 72/20 IWC PARKING RESTRICTIONS PROPOSALS

The Mayor explained that the formal consultation had not commenced yet so public questions could not be taken on this item. The guests were welcomed to the meeting. Stewart Chandler explained that the parking

restriction proposals for East Cowes form part of an overall district review which will be ongoing over the next few years. The aim is to implement changes to achieve safe and expedient traffic flow based on the advice of the Safety Officer and to remove anomalies that have developed over many years. Requests from residents are also considered. ECTC will receive a map and full explanation of the rationale prior to the formal consultation. A further review considering other items added to the priority list will take place in 2 years.

Kevin Burton stated that there had been some IT issues with the maps and that in future text would be added to ensure clarity. A paper explaining the rationale for the changes will be drawn up and circulated. Concerns were raised about the loss of parking spaces, displacement of vehicles creating problems in other areas and the lack of car park provision. In some areas there may be scope for the Housing Association to add parking.

The Clerk advised that all emails received by the Town Council about the proposals has been forwarded and the senders advised to respond when the formal consultation begins.

### 73/20 IW PARKING REVIEW CONSULTATION (WYG)

The council discussed the consultation and responded to the questions as follows:

- 1.Key aspects of parking provision and management: Long term parking facilities (as we are a ferry port), limited parking to allow shoppers and residents to park for a short while (maybe 1 hour free for shoppers), cheaper parking charges to encourage footfall, electric charging points around town
- 2.Current approach to parking charges: They are too high and discourage use of car parks – instead, they encourage people to park in side streets which can cause unsafe parking practices
- 3.Flexibility in current system: Not enough flexibility in the system; the system is not addressing local issues. There should be more independence given to parish and town councils to introduce/recommend schemes such as residents permit schemes in their areas rather than a blanket approach made by the local authority. It would also be helpful if parking payment tickets could be used elsewhere in other carparks if they have unexpired time on them. Introduce free card payments.
- 4.Use of parking strategy as a demand management tool (climate change and pollution): Not as a means to reduce car use as there are too many people who would be unwilling to give up their cars, and it is not helpful to “force” residents to give up their cars. So, this is not realistic but as to climate change then more electric charging points would be helpful
- 5.Social distancing measures on High Streets: Not in their current format. They are ugly and do nothing to enhance our street scenes. They should be determined and implemented locally by the town or parish council.
6. Further observations: Cycle lanes are needed and should be encouraged as long as cyclists are strongly encouraged to use them and not cause an obstruction by using the roads.

### 74/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

6.1 The Clerk read out emails from John Metcalfe and Dave Stewart received today. They responded to the Town Council letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> September and provided an update on the current position. It was stated that extensive investigations are being carried out into the working of the pumps, motors and hydraulics. The revised date for completion is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The IWC is following pre-action procedures for the damage suffered due to the unreliability of the floating bridge. There are on-going discussions with the 2 companies involved with the design and build.

6.2 The council considered supporting a letter from the FB Stakeholders Group to the LEP.

**Resolved:** To co-sign the FB Stakeholders Group letter and to forward it to Cowes Town Council requesting their support. To publish the Town Council letter of 4<sup>th</sup> September and John Metcalf’s response on the Town Council website.

## 75/20 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

Debbie Vallas (IWC) had met with town councillors to explain the scheme. The Clerk went through the options. The council did not agree with reducing the maximum level of support, removing the blanket protection, or removing the carers allowance disregard

**Resolved:** It was resolved that formal disagreement to all proposals be made to the IW Council.

## 76/20 FINANCES

### 9.1 & 9.2

**Resolved:** To agree and ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS and to note the bank reconciliation.

## 77/20 GRANT APPLICATION

2 grant applications were received from the East Cowes Town Crafters for the Elephant Festival. £1100 had been agreed in principle in July. The applications presented totalled £2000 plus £360 for hiring the town hall.

**Resolved:** To award the grant with funds to be allocated from the Arts and Culture budget.

## 78/20 DEFERRMENT OF COUNCIL MEETING

The Council considered deferring the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to 22<sup>nd</sup> July due to the postponed Romanov Book Launch.

**Resolved:** To defer the meeting to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

## 79/20 DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

The Council considered the house to house distribution of the East Cowes Town Crier newsletter.

**Resolved:** To have the December edition of the newsletter professionally printed and distributed door to door and to install a plastic box outside the town hall for residents to collect a copy.

## 80/20 REPORTS

### 13.1 Clerk's report

The water pipe on the Esplanade has now been repaired. Nicky Flux-Edmonds has been contacted regarding the planning permission for the new piece of play equipment at the Bumblebee Playground in order to arrange a site visit. A letter of thanks has been received from HIOW Victim Support for the grant recently awarded.

### 13.2 Mayors report

This was circulated prior to the meeting (attached).

### 13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry is meeting with Cllr Stewart (IWC) and planning officers regarding the completion of the Saunders Way development. Barratts have moved soil on to land which was granted planning permission for 35 houses in 2018. This is currently being moved.

Cllr Love raised the problems with the floating bridge with the Scrutiny Committee. There will be a meeting between Cllrs Peacey-Wilcox, Ward and Stewart and 2 engineers to look at possible solutions and long-term action to replace the floating bridge. The East Cowes Crafters Elephant Project mosaic is progressing well. Photos have been submitted for display on the Red Funnel boards. ECCP is looking into the use of the SWS Sir Christopher Cockerell's shed as a possible base for the crafters and future location for the propeller.

#### 13.4 Councillors reports

Cllr Lloyd raised a question about the use of funds generated by the implementation of parking charges. The Clerk reported that the NALC legal team had recently advised that it is unlawful for a council to put parking revenue into a general fund.

Cllr Webster highlighted the need for more dropped kerbs in the town and asked whether the old doctor's surgery could be considered as a suitable location for a car park.

#### 81/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**Resolved:** 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 meeting closed at 8.16pm

Signed:

Dated: