



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 remotely by Zoom on **Thursday 15th October 2020 at 6pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Anni Adams (Medicines Manager, East Cowes Medical Centre), Stephen Hull (PCSO), Martha and Daniel James, (Plan Research), Chris Ashman, (IWC Director of Regeneration), 7 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if the Town Council would support the installation of the gabions by the landslip on the Esplanade. A Facebook page has been started to rally support.
- A member of the public asked whether any progress had been made on the use of pollution monitors in the town. This has not been pursued to date but will be added to the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee meeting for November.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

82/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

83/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Osborne.

2.2 No requests for dispensations were received.

84/20 EAST COWES MEDICAL CENTRE

The Mayor welcomed Anni Adams (Medicines Manager) from East Cowes Medical Centre, who explained about the challenges they have faced over the last few months. A new phone system has been installed and is staffed by 4 people. Residents are encouraged to use online services to free up the phonelines for others who are unable to access the internet. The e-consult service has been operating since mid-September and they are required to respond within 48 hours. Medication and appointment requests are dealt with more quickly if via e-consult or in writing.

Blood tests will now be conducted at the surgery with very few exceptions. Following the recruitment of 2 mental health practitioners, a Skeletal Muscular Practitioner, a GP and a Nurse Prescribing Specialist the practice is now in a good position going forward.

There is no shortage of Flu vaccines which are being rolled out in accordance with an agreed schedule.

Cllr Love joined the meeting.

85/20 POLICE UPDATE

PSCO Stephen Hull noted that the Police had a good partnership with the Medical Centre. During lockdown the workload of the PCSOs had eased. He had dealt with some assaults, suspicious vehicles, scams and fishermen obstructing the seafront area. Members of the public are urged to report any incidents to ensure they are logged as they may help with related cases. He said that generally East Cowes was fine. He gave his consent to the Clerk forwarding his email address to a member of the public.

The Clerk asked whether there police patrols were taking place in the evenings in the area of the skatepark, as there has been some anti-social behaviour reported to the police by neighbours and a bench had been set fire to. Mr Hull will pass this information to the rest of the PCSO team and agreed to visit the site.

86/20 HOUSING AND LAND USE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT – Martha James, Plan Research

5.1 Martha James explained that the MP was making a case to reduce the housing allocation for the Isle of Wight due to local need for 1 or 2 bedroom properties for new home owners and older people wishing to downsize. The current housing allocation is 645 per year and, under new proposals, this would be raised to 1045. In 2019 350 homes were built. Under the new methodology the Island target is higher than Portsmouth or Southampton. 50% of the Island is designated AONB and 84% is rural. To build 15,000 homes in 15 years would mean a 23% rise in the housing stock. A more strategic regional approach is needed.

5.2 Councillors agreed with these conclusions and that they would write a letter of support to the MP.

Resolved: The Town Council will send letter in support of Bob Seely MPs case to reduce the housing allocation for the Isle of Wight.

87/20 VENTURES QUAYS – CHRIS ASHMAN, IW COUNCIL

Chris Ashman gave an update on the current position with the Venture Quays acquisition by IWC on 28th September 2020. It includes 4 parcels of land: the Columbine and the area in front; the area behind the Barracks building; the specific site of the Albany Factory and the temporary carpark to the rear in Maresfield Road.

An agreement has been reached with the main tenant of the Columbine Building. Conditions of the agreement with Homes England set objectives for a housing scheme to commence on one of the sites by 2024. The Regeneration Team will continue to consult with East Cowes Town Council.

The Barracks has been identified by the Regeneration Team as a possible community facility and will be part of the overall improvement of the Esplanade. A short-term lease of the Albany Building (2 years) to an island based business which requires an enhanced storage capability will be going ahead.

Mr Ashman invited the Town Council to put forward a representative for the Steering Group that will be looking at the Waterfront Masterplan and will send through details of the first meeting. It was proposed that one of the Council's planning consultants should also be included on the group and Mr Ashman agreed to this.

IWC is working with Red Funnel to complete works to the southern elevation of the Columbine building. Ongoing work on the Town Plan will be helpful in identifying priorities for the town. Six weekly update meetings have been arranged between Mr Ashman and the Town Council to ensure continued communication about Venture Quays.

88/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

An email was received from Alex Minns on 9th October stating that the bridge was expected to be back in service by 17th October. An update was received on 15th October with a revised date of Monday 19th. A member of the public confirmed that the letter sent to the LEP by the Floating Bridge Stakeholders Group and the Town Council was also being supported by Cowes Town Council and Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council. In his capacity as IW Councillor, Councillor Love has met with Cllrs Stewart, Peacey-Wilcox and Ward to look at solving the long-term issues around the Floating Bridge.

89/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 17th September 2020 were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 17th September.

90/20 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

9.1 Cllr Hendry has been in touch with Holly Deakin (Hampshire Police) about setting up a Community Speedwatch initiative in East Cowes. These projects are run by a co-ordinator (who could be a volunteer, or a member of the Town Council staff), and teams of 3 volunteers who receive training and support from the constabulary. Volunteers would need to be able to commit to a session every few weeks. The equipment costs approximately £300. Speedwatch can be conducted on straight roads with no dips or parked cars over 100 metres in length.

9.2 The council discussed the benefits of extending the 10-mph speed limit on the Esplanade. More 20mph limits in the town were also felt to be desirable and could form part of the Town Plan.

9.3 The Council agreed to encourage volunteers to become involved in the speed watch initiative. The Clerk suggested that Kevin Burton from Island Roads might be invited to a future meeting to discuss how speed limits might be reviewed.

Resolved: To recruit local volunteers for the project, by advertising in the magazine, social media and the website and to agree in principle £300 to fund equipment and to provide the Town Hall free of charge for any training.

The Clerk will invite Kevin Burton to a future Facilities, Projects and Events Committee meeting to speak about speed limit changes.

91/20 FINANCES

10.1 The payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS were agreed and ratified.

10.2 The Clerk presented the second quarter budget which was noted.

10.3 The bank reconciliation and quarterly receipts list was noted.

Resolved: To agree and ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS and to note the second quarter budget and receipts and bank reconciliation.

10.4 The council considered the allocation of further funds to provide food parcels for families in East Cowes adversely affected by the covid19 situation.

Resolved: To re-allocate the £1500 in the budget previously set aside for Community Payback to provide food parcels for families in East Cowes who have been referred by health visitors, social services, councillors or the voluntary sector.

92/20 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's report

The lease from IWC to East Cowes Town Council of the agreed areas of the Esplanade including the car park has been completed. A letter of thanks was received from the Ellen MacArthur Trust for the grant of £534. The Youth Worker Laura Reid provided an update and booked sessions are now being offered with all the appropriate Covid and safety measures in place.

Resolved: The Town Council endorsed the Youth Club going ahead with delivering the revised service.

11.2 Mayors report

The Mayor read her report (attached).

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry reported that he has been dealing with the usual casework. He had met with IWC Cllrs Stewart and Ward and the Planning Department regarding the completion of the Saunders Way Link Road. Negotiations are ongoing with Island Roads as the development does not fall within the PFI contract.

Cllr Love has raised questions regarding the landslip at the IWC Cabinet meeting. Conditional approval has been given to the Landslip Regeneration Group to devise an outline plan. An estimate of the cost of removing the fencing and installing gabions is £13,000. An artist's impression of what the area will look like has been created by a local resident. Cllr Love has also queried the removal of some trees in the town. A proposal for further improvements at the Romanov Memorial will be presented in the new year. It was noted that this is under the remit of IWC. The Clerk will liaise with Lee Matthew at IWC and provide the electricians contact details to Cllr Love.

11.4 Councillors reports

There were no reports.

93/20 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 8.50pm

Signed:

Dated: