



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 19th November 2020 at 6pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

Councillors: Love (Deputy Mayor), Packham, Lloyd, Hendry, Webster, Walker, Palin
Kay Smith (Community Resilience Officer ActionIW), Ian Middleton (Island Roads)

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

Also present: 6 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public commended the Town Council for the display of flowers in the trough at the base of Yarborough Road and spoke highly of the employee from Care in the Garden who was seen tending to the weeds
- The Council was asked to confirm how much the Town Council had received from the film makers who erected a marquee on the Esplanade. The film makers paid £3000 for siting the marquee for just over a week
- A member of the public asked if the Town Council knows the amount of the overspend incurred by IWC on the floating bridge to date and what the ongoing costs are projected to be over the life of the vessel. This is not information the Town Council has access to, but it will be sought from the IWC.
- It was confirmed that the Clerk and the Mayor have heard informally from the Solent LEP.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

94/20 CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Cameron Palin on his co-option and welcomed him to the Council. Cllr Hendry had to leave the meeting.

95/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

96/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor for East Cowes, membership of East Cowes Business Association, East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Heritage Centre. Cllr Palin

declared an interest as a member of the Floating Bridge Stakeholder Group and as the Cowes Enterprise College representative for the Floating Bridge User Group.

3.2 No requests for dispensations were received.

97/20 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT

Kay Smith Community Resilience Officer (ActionIW) spoke about the 6-month lottery funded project, borne out of the pandemic, to build better community resilience that she heads up. She noted the Town Council's application to the fund, being distributed by the IWC, which has come from central government for £3208 of funding for the 440 clinically extremely vulnerable residents of East Cowes. She acknowledged the incredible work being done by the East Cowes and Whippingham Community Support Hub, co-ordinated by Michael Paler. A 2- year project being run by the Mental Health Alliance is also finding more effective and long-lasting ways of supporting mental health through promoting community resilience, training and support and effective signposting. Together with Becky Haydock, (Sovereign Housing), ActionIW will be looking at the use of outside spaces and how these might be used to help. The new landslip project could provide an opportunity for this. Michael Paler has a good number of dedicated volunteers in place, some of whom have recently taken a mental health training course. KS left the meeting.

98/20 SPEED LIMITS, Ian Middleton, Island Roads

Ian Middleton explained that Island Roads receive requests for lower speed limits and traffic calming which are added to a register. Black box surveys collect information over 5-7 days to inform what measures might be appropriate. IWC decides the speed limits. Several months ago, IWC asked Island Roads to come up with recommendations. Any additional requests should be emailed to info@islandroads.com. Data collection will take place over 6-7months. Old Road, Sylvan Avenue and Yarborough Road in East Cowes have been logged for review. The policy is that 20mph speed limits should be self-enforcing (in an area where vehicles travel at less than 24mph or there are traffic calming measures in place) not relying on police enforcement. Cllr Hendry re-joined the meeting.

Island Roads review have 300 requests to consider island wide. Funding must be agreed with IWC and a 28-day consultation period follows. If comments are received, further consultation is conducted. It is likely to be 2022 before any changes are implemented. Due to the cost of implementing changes the approach is likely to be a targeted one e.g. outside schools.

IM was asked if the 10mph speed limit on the Esplanade could be extended. This would have to be raised with the Secretary of State through IWC, as the local highway authority only has power to reduce speed limits to 20mph. IM left the meeting.

99/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 15th October 2020 were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 15th October.

100/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

An email was received from Dave Stewart, Leader of IW Council, in response to a letter from the Clerk, raising the ongoing concerns for the level of service and the future of the vessel. Dave Stewart confirmed that the strategy is to ensure it is in service, to address the shortcomings in the design and build via the legal process, and to look at a range of long term solutions including the possibility of side thrusters.

Concerns were raised about the operation of the passenger launch whilst the floating bridge is suspended.

Resolved: To write to Dave Stewart asking for copies of risk assessments for the passenger launch including the covid risk assessment and details of any incidents that have occurred.

101/20 FINANCES

8.1 & 8.2 The payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS were agreed and ratified.

Resolved: To agree and ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS.

102/20 EAST COWES ESPLANADE LANDSLIP

Sharon Lake and Valerie Kitchen were thanked for providing information about the landslip project. A quote has been received from Island Roads of £15,000 to supply the gabions, stone to fill them and training for volunteers. The group is in negotiations with Island Aggregates to provide oversized stones to fill the gabions which would reduce the cost from £15,000 to £5,000. Community volunteers and professionals will be giving their time to help. The group would like to start this project as soon as possible after Christmas. East Cowes Community Partnership requests a grant of £5,000 from the Town Council, on behalf of the regeneration group, as seed funding to get the project started. The group is planning a community sponsorship programme of dedication plaques to raise a further £5,000, as well as approaching local businesses for funding.

Resolved: To agree a grant of £5,000 for the Landslip project to be paid to East Cowes Community Oarbitrary Partnership.

103/20 AIR AMBULANCE

10.1 & 10.2 The Town Council considered giving a donation to the HIOW Air Ambulance Appeal.

Resolved: To donate £3,000 to the HIOW Air Ambulance Appeal.

104/20 XMAS CARD COMPETITION

11.1 & 11.2 The Town Council discussed running a Xmas Card competition for the East Cowes community. The poster drafted by the Mayor was agreed and would be circulated to schools and via the website and Facebook.

Resolved: To agree to run a Xmas card competition with £250 allocated from the budget for the provision of prizes. Cllrs Rann and Palin to judge.

105/20 MEETING DATES FOR 2021

The meeting dates for 2021 were agreed including changing the time of the Facilities Projects and Events Committee meetings to 6pm.

106/20 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's report

Youth Worker Laura Reid has had to stop in person sessions due to the second lockdown but continues to offer phone calls and Skype to the young people. A letter of thanks was received from the Foodbank for the donation of £500. They are interested in discussing Foodbank provision in East Cowes in the New Year as residents currently go to Newport to redeem their vouchers.

13.2 Mayors report

The Mayor read out her report (attached).

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry has had one volunteer come forward for the Community Speedwatch. A further 5 are needed to be able to go ahead. He has dealt with reports of leaves, parking issues and road safety at St Wilfred Drive. He reported that a tenant may be interested in taking a lease at the technology park.

Cllr Love reported attendance at the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee meeting. Following complaints that the gate was locked it was stated that the Dover Road slipway must always be accessible. A meeting

date is awaited to progress the slipway in front of the Shoreside Café. The Town Council needs a new representative on the CHAC. A major improvement plan is needed for the Kingston Marina area. The Harbour Master is retiring. There was some discussion about Cowes Week 2021 including the possible erection of 5g masts in the Solent for transmitting picture of the racing.

Cllr Love also reported that the Boat Museum is expanding and will take over 3 floors of the building in agreement with IWC. Becky Haydock from Sovereign Housing would like to attend a future meeting to share information about housing needs in East Cowes. Some residents have raised concerns about the medical centre in the town. The East Cowes Crafters continue to look at the possibility of the Cockerell Rise building becoming a community asset for use by the group.

13.4 Councillors reports

Cllr Webster reported that concerned residents had contacted her about the medical centre.

Cllr Packham had reported dog fouling to the Environment Officer.

107/20 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 council discussed legal matters.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

Dated: