



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 at remotely by Zoom **Thursday 17th December 2020**
at 6pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Anni Adams (East Cowes Medical Centre) and 5 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked how the Speed Watch project was progressing.
- A member of the public reported that a further set of trainers has appeared on the overhead telecom cables in Beatrice Avenue. BT and PCSO Stephen Hull will be advised.
- A member of the public asked if Island Roads still attend to remove dog mess. It was confirmed it needs to be reported by midday to be dealt with the same day.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

108/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

109/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 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. Cllr Hendry left the meeting due to technical problems.

2.2 No requests for dispensations were received.

110/20 EAST COWES MEDICAL CENTRE

The Council thanked Anni for attending the meeting to provide an update on medical services in East Cowes. The Medical Centre is currently dealing with around 200 e-consults a week. They have introduced a board in the entrance with various forms to complete including one requesting phone contact for patients without access to a computer. Cllr Hendry re-joined the meeting. New staff, who deal with chronic pain, joint problems and social prescribing, have joined the practice. The practice have had the best take up on the island of flu vaccines for the over 65s, and are now rolling them out to the over 50 age group. 5 sites have been identified for delivering the covid19 vaccination with patients from East Cowes allocated to the Westridge Centre in Ryde. Concerns were raised about the logistics for the vulnerable getting to appointments. It is hoped that when the alternative vaccine is available that will be offered at the surgery. Anni requested that the Town Council add details to the website to help reduce the number of calls they are receiving asking about it. The 111 service now has a winter resilience team dealing with an additional 20 appointments per day to prescribe for acute conditions. The Mayor thanked Anni for attending.

111/20 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 19th November 2020 were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 19th November 2020.

112/20 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Mayor gave an update on the Floating Bridge from the IW Council stating it has returned to service and they continue to monitor the situation. The IWC, with other parties, is continuing to seek appropriate remedy of the issues and this is moving forward. They will give further details when able to do so. The Council noted the continuing problems and frustration created by the unreliability of the floating bridge for residents and businesses in the town. There was discussion about whether there are any other possible routes to resolve the issues including requesting whether the District Auditor could investigate a potential misuse of public money. The Clerk agreed to explore this and report back.

113/20 FINANCES

6.1 & 6.2 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.

114/20 BUDGET 2021/22

7.1 The Council considered the two draft budget options presented. The original had been considered and determined by Councillors from an initial draft provided by the Clerk, and the alternative developed by Cllr Hendry, also based on the initial draft. It was noted that the main difference between the two options rested on whether to resurface or patch the newly acquired Esplanade car park during the next financial year. Resurfacing would result in an approximate increase of 23p per week for a Band D property based on the tax base for the current year. This figure is likely to reduce when the tax base for the next financial year is determined by the IW Council.

7.2 It was noted that the precept under this budget option would be £355,283.00.

Due to technical difficulties being experienced by Cllr Walker the Clerk had to obtain his vote by telephone.

Resolved: To approve the original budget option for 2021/22. To approve the precept of £355,283.00 for 2021/22.

115/20 COLUMBINE ROAD MURAL DESIGN

8.1 The old "To the Seafront" sign on the Albany Barracks wall at the corner of Maresfield Road and

Columbine Road is now illegible. The Council discussed a request from Chris Ashman (IWC Director of Regeneration) for support from the Town Council for a project to replace the sign with a mural designed by local school children.

8.2 The Council discussed whether to provide financial support for the project. It was felt that this should be financed from other sources identified by IWC.

Resolved: To facilitate the mural project by contacting local schools.

116/20 VOLUNTEER POLICY AND UPDATE

9.1 Following an appeal for volunteers in the Christmas edition of the "East Cowes Town Crier" delivered to every home in East Cowes, to date 4 volunteers have come forward interested in helping with litter picking, 3 for Community Speed Watch and 1 for the Community Cinema.

9.2 The Council considered the draft Volunteers Policy.

Resolved: To adopt the Volunteers Policy.

117/20 LIBRARY- COMMUNITY HUB

The Clerk presented a short paper that recommended a cost-effective plan for the initial staffing of the Library and Community Hub enabling it to be open all day Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. The Library Volunteer Co-ordinator is confident that around 10 volunteers would be able to offer 3 hours each week. With the Clerk's Office based in the new building morning sessions could be overseen by existing staff and students on work experience. The Library Coordinator and volunteers could cover afternoon sessions. The opening hours and staffing to be reviewed after 3 months.

Resolved: To agree the plan for the initial staffing and opening hours of the community hub with a review after 3 months of operation.

118/20 XMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Mayor thanked all who had taken part in the Xmas Card Competition and announced the winners and runners up in each category. The prizes were vouchers from "The Entertainer", £50 to the winner, £25 to the runners up and £25 to the overall winner. The overall winning design will be used as the Town Council's Christmas Card.

119/20 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Following changes in the composition of the Council some vacancies needed to be filled on Council Committees and outside bodies for the period up to the election on 6th May 2021.

Resolved: Cllrs Palin and Love will serve on the Grievance Sub Committee as required. Cllr Love will represent the Town Council on the Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Group, Cllr Palin will represent the Town Council on the Floating Bridge User Group and step down as the Cowes Enterprise College representative. Cllr Packham will represent the Town Council on the Local Area Forum (LAF).

120/20 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's report

A member of the public wished to convey thanks to all the town councillors for their work for the town and for the delivery of the Christmas edition of the "East Cowes Town Crier". Information was received from Sharon Lake of the East Cowes Esplanade and Landslip Community Project about the possibility of placing project display boards on the Esplanade shelter in front of the toilets. Further details of the size and design will be brought to the Council in due course.

13.2 Mayors report

There has been no official business to carry out since the last meeting. The Mayor continues to attend catch up meetings as needed.

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry reported that Island Roads have informed him further yellow lines will be added to the Saunders Way roundabout. There is no further news on the completion of the road. Concerns have been raised about wildlife and the environment following closure of the fuel depot. He attended a Housing & Renewals site visit. New locations that fit the criteria are being considered for the Speed Watch project. The hedge at Crossways field has been cut.

Cllr Love has been in touch with the Environment Agency following the delivery of the flood barriers for East Cowes. Blocked drains in the Castle Street and Cambridge Road area and oil from the Red Funnel yard have been reported. The Esplanade and Landslip Community Group have conducted a thorough clean up on the Esplanade. He has responded to the PFI parking proposals document. Instances of drug dealing have been reported to the police. Cowes Harbour Commission has identified 3 possible locations for a new slip way. Further information will be shared by Ben Willows at a future Facilities Projects and Events meeting.

13.4 Councillors reports

Cllr Palin attended the Town Plan Forum meeting. He had met with Ian Mills who dealt with transport issues for Hull County Council in respect of the floating bridge. Cllr Palin expressed his thanks to those who had participated in the Xmas Card Competition. He had been told by Island Roads that they were awaiting government advice about pavement parking on Yarborough Road.

Cllr Webster had reported a dog waste issue in Clarence Road.

Cllr Lloyd asked about the position with the re-siting of the litter bin outside St James old church hall. This is being dealt with by the Assistant Facilities Officer.

121/20 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)).

Signed:

Dated:

Meeting ended at 8.13pm