



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 **18th February 2021 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: John Cattle, Zoe Thomson, Laura Reid (Youth Worker) and 7 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if a touring caravan abandoned on Kingston Road is being dealt with. It has been reported to Island Roads and the owner has been contacted.
- A member of the public asked if Saunders Way has been adopted. Cllr Hendry stated that Isle of Wight Council, Island Roads and Barratts had reached agreement. A consultation on the speed limit which concludes on 5th March must be completed before further work can be done.
- A member of the public raised concerns about the impact of the completion of Saunders Way on other routes and parking in the town. He will email the ward councillors with his questions for them to follow up.

One minutes silence was held in memory of the Facilities Officer Mick Collis who sadly passed away in January.

Meeting opened at 6.15p.m.

15/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

16/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Palin declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Floating Bridge Stakeholders Group. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Osborne. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as Ward Councillor for East Cowes, membership of East Cowes Business Association and East Cowes Community Partnership.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

17/21 SKATE PARK CONSULTATION

3.1 John Cattle and Zoe Thomson explained how the nature of skateparks has changed over the last 20 years. Local young people have limited experience of different types of parks. Those on the island were constructed around the same time and contain similar equipment and challenges. Practical solutions making best use of the space are needed. There is potential to introduce a variety of different Skateparks across the island. An initial consultation via a simple online survey could help with identifying trends and with future funding applications, engagement with the skating community would follow.

3.2 A site visit would be arranged for a preliminary discussion about potential options.

18/21 MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of Full Council held on 21st January 2021 were approved and signed.

4.2 The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3rd February 2021 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 21st January and 3rd February.

19/21 LANDSLIP GABIONS

5.1 Sharon Lake of the Esplanade and Landslip Community Group presented the interpretation boards to be fixed to the shelter at the front of the Esplanade toilet block. These are designed to provide information to members of the community who do have access to social media. Additional wording explaining that the project is being led by ECCP and supported by the East Cowes Town Council and Isle of Wight Council is to be added.

5.2 The Town Council will be responsible for fixing them in place.

Resolved: To approve the signage and arrange for fixing

20/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk explained that a response had been received from the Local Auditor who advised that queries could be raised when the Isle of Wight Council accounts are published. An email from Alex Minns (IWC), had nothing further to report as the Council is currently going through the legal process. Cllr Palin reported that Cllr Richard Hollis had promised a "deep dive" into the situation with the Floating Bridge at the next IWC Scrutiny Committee meeting. This may be delayed as the legal process is ongoing.

21/21 VOLUNTARY SUPPORT HUB

Michael Paler presented his report. East Cowes surgery has now completed vaccinations of 33% of the housebound in East Cowes. The 16-50 age group who are vulnerable are currently being contacted. Mr Paler will provide a further update on figures at the March Facilities, Projects and Events Committee. It was noted that the Town Council has also been awarded a grant of £5180 from the Connect4Communities Fund. To date 10 families in need due to the pandemic have been helped with the cost of food, utility bills and other essentials.

22/21 FINANCE

8.1 The payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified.

8.2 The bank reconciliation was noted.

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

23/21 SAUNDERS WAY SPEED LIMIT

The Council discussed the consultation and agreed to respond that the 40mph speed limit at Saunders Way from its junction with Whippingham Road to its junction with Kingston Road should be revoked and revert to 30mph. It was noted that so far only York Avenue had been identified as suitable for the Speed Watch Project but Saunders Way may also be a possibility. This will be discussed at the March Facilities Projects and Events Committee.

24/21 SUICIDE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION IOW

The Clerk read out a letter from SPIIOW asking the Council to consider making a donation to support their work training volunteers and patrolling known landmarks. The organisation has intervened in 55 cases in 2019, 54 in 2020 and 10 cases by 20th January this year.

Resolved: To agree a donation of £1000 to SPIIOW

25/21 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's report

Island Roads have an action log for the potholes on the seafront so there should be progress soon. The Solent Forum water quality certificate for the Cambridge Road to Castle Point section of the Esplanade is expected shortly. The Assistant Facilities Officer is currently looking into water sampling costs. IWALC will be running a subject meeting covering the local elections on 25th February. Electoral Services Officer Clive Jones will be present to answer questions. All councillors were requested to respond to an email from Cllr Ward asking for suggestions about where parking restrictions should be lifted whilst the work to York Avenue takes place.

11.2 Mayors report

The Mayor drew attention to the article on litter in her report. It was also noted that in the latest figures East Cowes has the lowest crime rate on the island. The Mayor thanked all those who continue to abide by the rules during lockdown.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

CLlr Hendry has suggested alternative parking options to Island Roads for the duration of the York Avenue roadworks and responded to the consultation on the speed limit on Saunders Way.

CLlr Love has also contacted IWC and Island Roads regarding parking during the York Avenue roadworks. Several “boy racer” incidents have been reported in the area around Maresfield Road and the Esplanade in the early hours of the morning. It is anticipated that there will be a planning application for the Norris Castle estate soon. CLlr Love has received a letter from the Planning Enforcement Team regarding the Garage premises in York Avenue. Enforcement have written to the owners. There has been no breach by Certas as the site is not operational. The Shrape swimmers have raised £400 towards the landslip project. There is no further news on the coastal path.

11.4 Councillors reports

CLlr Palin attended the IWALC Planning Training where it was noted that there are only 1500 potential brownfield sites on the island. Several covid regulation breaches have been reported to the police. It is planned that the Terracycle scheme can go ahead when the Town Hall reopens. CLlr Palin has been looking into environmental policies the Town Council could consider.

CLlr Packham reported that Island Roads have ordered a Health & Safety report into the pedestrian crossing near the Prince of Wales pub following 2 recent incidents.

CLlr Lloyd reported that Island Roads have responded to a complaint and repaired a patch of sunken concrete.

26/21 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 considered staffing matters and contractual matters relating to the quarterly newsletter.

Signed:

Dated:

Meeting closed at 8.01pm