



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 **21st January 2021 at 6pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Robin Reed (Environment Officer), Stephen Hull (PCSO) and 3 members of the public

Public Forum

- There were no questions from the public

Meeting opened at 6.05 p.m.

01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Love had sent his apologies for being late to the meeting due to an IWC meeting.

02/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Palin declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Floating Bridge Stakeholders Review Group. Cllr Rann declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4 as she lives close by in Cambridge Road.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

Cllr Love joined the meeting. An additional report was received from PCSO Stephen Hull

Stephen Hull (PCSO) reported on incidents dealt with recently in East Cowes including a report of a vehicle off road on the Esplanade. He continues to monitor the situation. ASB surveys are issued regularly to gather intelligence on drug related incidents. He will contact Cllr Hendry with possible suggestions for Speed Watch locations.

03/21 LANDSLIP UPDATE

Sharon Lake gave an update on the Landslip project. Plans, a vision and details of its execution have been submitted to IWC for consideration. The number of volunteers has grown from 6 in the first week to 26. A grant funding application has been submitted to Sovereign Housing. 450 people have joined the Facebook page of which 50 are interested in volunteering. The group are pleased to have received a £5000 grant from the Town Council to enable them to buy the gabions. Any further funding will go towards purchase of the

stone to fill them. They hope to start work in March. Members of the community, local groups and businesses will be approached to purchase sponsorship plaques at £50 each or gabion benches at £125.

04/21 MINUTES

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

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 17th December 2020.

05/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council received an update on the Floating Bridge from the IW Council which indicated the IWC is considering legal action against the naval architects and the boat builders. Following consultation with independent marine engineers they have been advised that the only viable option to solve the current problems is the installation of thrusters.

Cllrs expressed their ongoing frustration with disruptions to service and the effects on the local residents and businesses. It was requested that this latest report was made public and a full breakdown of costs since May 2017 be requested from IWC. The Clerk reported that as requested at the last meeting the District Auditor had been contacted. Neither they nor the National Audit Office have a role in investigating. They advised contacting the Local External Auditor and supplied contact details.

Resolved: To contact the IWC requesting the information discussed and to contact the External Auditor once this information has been received from IWC.

06/21 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Environment Officer Robin Reed advised that new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are now in place. Signage is currently being prepared by IWC. The Town Council would like to see signs along the Esplanade, Cavalier Quay and by East Cowes Marina to ensure dog owners are aware of the areas where dogs must be kept on leads. Maps which show these will be available on the IWC website and sent to town and parish councils.

07/21 FINANCES

7.1 & 7.2 The payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS were agreed and ratified.

7.3 The bank reconciliation and receipts list were noted.

7.4 The Council considered the payment of a £60 fee for the Solent Water Quality Awards. The Solent Forum has indicated that the fee would be returned if the Esplanade failed to achieve award status. There was discussion about the need for an ongoing water sampling regime to provide evidence to DEFRA to be designated a bathing beach. If designated the Environment Agency would complete 6 water quality tests per year.

Resolved: To agree and ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS. To pay the SWQA application fee of £60. To investigate water quality testing at the next meeting.

08/21 VOLUNTARY SUPPORT HUB

The Council noted the report from Michael Paler, Co-ordinator of the Community Support Hub. The contacts for the local and national organisations that can provide help and support will be shared on the Town Councils website and Facebook page. The Council expressed sincere thanks to all the volunteers in the team.

09/21 NATURAL ENTERPRISE

9.1 The Council noted the December report of Natural Enterprise regarding management of Castle Copse and applauded the work being done to keep this area in good order. There was discussion about the need for the ancient Springhill woodland area behind the Esplanade to undergo improvement works. This is

managed by the IWC. Some of the Landslip volunteers would be interested in assisting. The Clerk will make enquiries.

Resolved: To request that Natural Enterprise continue to manage Castle Copse. To contact the IWC re the woodland management.

10/21 ESPLANADE SLIPWAY

10.1 The Council considered a discussion document from Stuart McIntosh (Cowes Harbour Master) and Ben Willows (Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee) requesting that the Town Council be the lead body on the Esplanade Slipway Project. It was agreed that the Town Council lacks the time, resources, and expertise for a project of this magnitude. It was felt that as the IWC are ultimately responsible for management and maintenance of slipways they would be better placed to be the lead body. The East Cowes Town Plan will take into account any developments on the slipway and continue to be a major consultee. It was also noted that Cllr Rann and Daniel and Martha James are representatives on the Waterfront Refresh Plan.

Resolved: The Town Council would decline the invitation to act as the lead body on the Esplanade Slipway Project.

11/21 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's report

A letter of thanks was received from the Foodbank for the last Town Council donation. They have seen a huge increase in need due the pandemic and 3706 people have been fed by the Foodbank since April.

11.2 Mayors report

The Council noted the Mayor's report. The Mayor added her thanks to the Esplanade Landslip volunteers for the excellent progress they are making.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love has written to the MP and leader of IWC over enforcement powers and emergency plan of the ferry companies. He has also written to all ward councillors about the need for a replacement for the floating bridge. He noted a planning application has been lodged for 8 houses at Kingston Farm. He reported that the IWC had voted for a 65% reduction in the Local Council Tax Support Grant Scheme.

Cllr Hendry reported that agreement has been reached between IWC and Barratts over the adoption of Saunders Way. There have been reports of fly-tipping. These can be reported on IWC website. The "Fix My Street" app is useful for identifying the exact location.

11.4 Councillors reports

No reports were received.

12/21 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)).

Signed:

Dated:

Meeting closed at 7.38pm