



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 March 2021**.

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Daniel James (Plan Research Ltd), 6 members of the public

Public Forum

- There were no questions from the public.

Meeting opened at 6.05 p.m.

27/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

28/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1. 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. Cllr Palin declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Floating Bridge Stakeholders Group.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

29/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on **18th February 2021** were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 18th February.

30/21 SOLENT WATER QUALITY AWARD

4.1 The Council thanked Mr and Mrs Douse for their hard work in gaining the Solent Water Quality Award. This covers East Cowes Seafront from the bottom of Cambridge Road to Castle Point.

4.2 The Council discussed the best location to display the signage. This will reflect the area covered by the award. It was noted that if fixing these to the sea wall permission would be needed from Coastal Management - Peter Marsden (PFI Highways Manager at IWC). This will also be publicised in the next quarterly newsletter.

Resolved: To agree one sign to be displayed on the wall of the Esplanade Toilets near the interpretation boards and one on the wall close to the old slipway on the beach where swimmers enter the water.

31/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

Documents from the IW Council Scrutiny Committee had been circulated to Councillors for information. Due to the ongoing legal proceedings and mediation process, questions put to the IWC Scrutiny Committee had not been

answered. A motion (1) was put to request that the IWC commission an independent engineer's report to look into the numerous problems with the operation and reliability of Floating Bridge 6. A vote was taken, and Motion 1 was defeated. A further motion (2) was put to ask the IWC what future plans are there to replace FB6 and if there is no replacement plan, what is their Plan B for FB6. A further vote was taken, and Motion 2 was agreed.

Resolved: To write to the IWC asking what, if any, are their plans for the replacement of FB6 and if no replacement is planned what is the IWC's Plan B for this vessel.

32/21 VOLUNTARY SUPPORT HUB

The Council noted the comprehensive report on the East Cowes and Whippingham Coronavirus Support Hub presented by co-ordinator Michael Paler. The Council thanked Mr Paler for the many hours given over the past year and his continued commitment to the hub. Thanks, were also given to Cllr Love and the team of volunteers.

Further to his report Mr Paler stated that 58% of East Cowes have now received the first vaccination and there has been a 97% uptake. Those who had their first vaccination before Christmas are now receiving the second dose and these will continue throughout April. He attends the fortnightly meetings with IWC, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Government Representatives.

33/21 TOWN PLAN

7.1 The Council welcomed Daniel James (Plan Research Ltd). Mr James reported that there had been a high level of engagement with the process and that the plan has undergone thorough consultation. It is now presented in the fourth revision. The Town Plan is stage 1. It will only be possible to progress to the Neighbourhood Plan (Stage 2) when Central Government has brought the planning White Paper into law and the new Island Plan has been completed by the IWC.

7.2 The Council considered whether the Town Plan should form the basis of a revised 5-year strategic plan for the Town Council.

Resolved: To adopt the Town Plan Version 1.4 and to defer the question of it forming the basis of a revised strategic plan until after May 2021 election.

34/21 FINANCES

8.1 The payments made 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.

35/21 REPORTS

9.1 Clerk's report

The Clerk read out a report from the Environment Officer who continues to make weekly visits to East Cowes including inspecting the beach, cemetery, and Victoria Grove Recreation Ground. It was noted that new Public Space Protection Order information is now available on the IWC website. 2 additional metal "Do Not Feed the Seagull" signs would be beneficial on the seafront where there is a break in the double yellow lines. It would deter drivers who park here from throwing food items from their vehicles to the birds. The Council noted the report of the Facilities Officer. The Clerk reported that the necessary comprehensive preparations are well in hand for the refurbishment and opening of the paddling pool around May/June.

9.2 Mayors report

The Council noted the Mayors report. The Mayor added that she had met with the Facilities Officer on the seafront regarding the positioning of the flower boat.

9.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love noted the Certas Planning application for a Depot at Whippingham. Cllr Love has contacted Alex Minns at IWC regarding the slipway at Dover Road. Cllr Love raised concerns about problems with the CCTV on the Esplanade. The Clerk advised that a meeting has already been arranged with the supplier to address this. Cllr Love continues to press for alternative parking provision for residents during the York Avenue roadworks.

Cllr Hendry noted that the oil depot planning application will be going to the IWC Planning Committee. Cllr Hendry will be meeting with the group engineer re Saunders Way next week. He has dealt with several fly-tipping incidents. Cllr Hendry has been working with Island Roads to ensure there is access to Osborne House during the York Avenue improvements.

9.4 Councillors reports

The Council noted the report of Cllr Palin.

36/21 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 contractual matters.

Signed:

Dated:

Meeting closed at 7.05pm