



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 East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on **Thursday 17th June 2021 at 6pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Paler (Mayor)

Councillors: Love (Deputy Mayor), Packham, Webster, Reardon, Palin

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

Also present: 13 members of the public

Public Forum

- The Mayor presented a bouquet of flowers to Anni Adams and Kay Smith for their dedication in helping to deliver the vaccine programme and providing support to vulnerable people in the East Cowes community.
- In response to a question about the progress on the Waterfront Plan the Clerk advised that this will be an item on the agenda for the Facilities Projects and Events Committee on 1st July.
- A member of the public raised concerns about the traffic currently using Old Road.
- A question was asked about the conversion of the convalescent home at Osborne House to a hotel. The Clerk advised that representatives of English Heritage will be attending the Facilities Projects and Events Committee on 1st July.
- A member of the public reported that Cadet's Walk is becoming overgrown. The Clerk advised that this is in hand.
- A question was raised about whether there are plans to add landscaping alongside the new Red Funnel terminal fence. The hoardings previously on site have been replaced with fencing as this is safer in high winds. Red Funnel are amenable to community involvement with softening this temporary fence. The Mayor advised that the East Cowes Town Crafters have prepared some panels that can be displayed.
- A member of the public observed that there was little progress on the roadworks in the town and there do not appear to be any Island Road operatives on site. Island Roads are expected to complete the reconstruction phase today, with resurfacing taking place overnight but this is weather dependent.
- The water main repair in Clarence Road is being completed by Southern Water. Cllr Reardon stated that there had been a delay in reporting due to the mainland call centre dealing with the report being unable to identify Clarence Road. The Clerk will write to Southern Water. It was noted the Area Manager for Southern Water will be attending the Facilities Projects and Events Committee on 1st July.

Meeting opened at 6.15 p.m.

64/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Lake who was on holiday and Cllr Hendry who was at the Policy & Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education & Skills.

65/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared non-pecuniary interests as IW Ward Councillor and membership of the East Cowes Business Association and East Cowes community partnership.

2.2 There were no written requests for dispensations.

66/21 RESILIENCE PROJECT

Kay Smith from Community Action IW and Resilience Project Co-ordinator for the Cowes Area (East Cowes, Whippingham, Gurnard, Northwood and Cowes) gave a presentation about the project which will run for 18 months. Kay will be working in partnership with the project in West Wight and Aspire Ryde, offering services which complement existing provision. Many organisations such as Mountbatten, Southern Vectis, Age U.K and Sovereign Housing, are coming together to draw up community resilience plans supporting the vulnerable and those who have lost confidence or mobility as a result of the pandemic. They hope to build a good base of younger volunteers. Kay applauded the people of East Cowes for their support in offering transport to enable members of the community to attend vaccination appointments.

67/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on Thursday 20th May 2021 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 20th May 2021

68/21 CIVIC STATUS

5.1 Lin Kemp presented information about applying for a Civic Status award in conjunction with the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Palin offered to contact other Councils who have said they will be applying.

5.2 **Resolved:** To support the application in principle.

69/21 IW COUNCIL LEVELLING-UP BID

The Clerk read out correspondence from Chris Ashman (IWC Director of Regeneration). The email confirmed that if the funding is secured the public realm proposal would not be progressed without full consultation with the town council and its residents. The scheme is designed to improve jobs, training, and public amenity. It will be submitted on 18th June. Mr Ashman was in attendance and confirmed that the bid includes statistical data.

Resolved: To write a letter in support of the bid.

70/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out an email from Alex Minns responding to questions raised following the last Full Council meeting. It advised that there is no set definition of planned maintenance, but it is usually organised with a minimum of 2 weeks' notice. There is no maintenance currently scheduled. Dates for planned maintenance will be placed on the Floating Bridge website. In future statistics of how many days in the month the full timetable operated, how many actual hours it operated, how many hours of planned maintenance and how many hours of unscheduled works or stoppages would be supplied to the Town Council.

71/21 INTERNAL AUDIT 20/21

The Clerk presented the Internal Audit Report.

Resolved: To receive and note the internal audit report.

72/21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 20/21

The Clerk presented the Annual Governance Statement 20/21 (Section 1). Approval was proposed, seconded, and agreed. The Annual Governance Statement was then signed by the Mayor.

Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1).

73/21 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 20/21

The Clerk presented the Accounting Statements (Section 2). Approval was proposed, seconded, and agreed. The Accounting Statement was signed by the Mayor.

Resolved: To approve the Accounting Statements 20/21 (Section 2).

74/21 EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

The Clerk presented a document confirming the dates of the period for the exercise of public rights commencing on 21st June and ending on 30th July. Confirmation was proposed, seconded, and agreed.

Resolved: To set the dates for the exercise of public rights from 21st June to 30th July 2021.

75/21 FINANCES

12.1 The Clerk presented the payments for approval and ratification including those by Direct Debit and BACS. This was signed by the Mayor.

Resolved: To approve and ratify the payments by direct debit and BACS.

12.2 The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation. This was signed by the Mayor. A copy of the quarterly budget report was distributed to councillors.

Resolved: To approve the bank reconciliation.

12.3 Following the election a new third signatory is needed for the Town Council bank account. Cllr Hendry has agreed to take on this responsibility.

Resolved: To approve Cllr Hendry as third councillor signatory for the authorisation of bank payments.

76/21 LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION – ANCIENT WOODLAND, ESPLANADE

13.1 In Cllr Lake's absence the Clerk read out a statement requesting a letter of support in relation to designating the Esplanade Woodland as a local green space under the new Island Plan. Some questions were raised about the status of the woodland which has been owned by the IW Council since its formation.

13.2 **Resolved:** To enquire about the Ancient Woodland status and to write a letter in support.

77/21 ASSISTANT FACILITIES OFFICER

Cllr Webster, Chair of the HR committee explained that following the recent interviews the committee recommended the appointment of Denise Adams to the post. The Clerk confirmed that 2 satisfactory references have been received.

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Denise Adams to the post of Assistant Facilities Officer.

78/21 TRAFFIC CONSULTATION

The Clerk advised that following the circulation of the consultation plans, comments had been received from 2 councillors and 2 members of the public. The Clerk read out the comments. There was a consensus that the consultation deadline was too short and that individuals in the roads affected by the changes needed to be contacted individually for their response.

Resolved: To respond to the consultation by the deadline of 21st June, with comments received and to request that the deadline is extended and the PFI Contract Team and Phil Jordan IWC Cabinet Member for Transport organise a public consultation event for the community. Unless and until this is agreed the Council are unable to support the changes proposed.

79/21 REPORTS

16.1 Clerk's report

The Clerk advised that 10 litter picking volunteers had attended to be briefed on the project and receive their litter picking kit. There are now 6 volunteers interested in the community cinema project. The Clerk read out a letter from Keith Herbert (Area Manager, Southern Water) received in response to questions about sewage outfall at Gurnard, reported at the last Full Council meeting by members of the public. Keith Herbert will be attending the Facilities Projects and Events Committee on 1st July.

16.2 Mayors report

The Mayor's report was noted.

16.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love brought it to the attention of Mr Ashman that the flood boards need removing at Bells Landing and near the Coastguard Cottages. Cllr Love has been examining the boundary commission proposals and has responded that Cowes and East Cowes should be included in the same area due to their port status. Cllr Love has continued to communicate with Red Funnel and Island Roads over traffic issues in the town. Cllr Love also reported that due to changes to the government roadmap the Romanov Event planned for July is under review.

16.4 Councillors reports

Reports submitted by Cllr Palin and Cllr Lake were noted. Cllr Webster raised a concern about dogs swimming in the sea on sections of the beach where dogs are not permitted. A question was also raised about the positioning of the signage which needs to be improved to be effective. The Clerk will advise the Environment Officer and contact IW Council regarding the location of the signage.

Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Signed:

Dated: