



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 22nd July 2021 at 5.30pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Paler (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Chris Ashman (IWC Director of Regeneration), Keith Herbert and Laura Moran (Southern Water), Anni Adams (Cowes Town Council), 13 members of the public

Chris Ashman attended to present Isabelle Dove of Holy Cross Primary School, winner of the “To the Seafront” Mural Competition, with the prize vouchers for her school and for herself. All the entries will be displayed during the library sessions next week.

Public Forum

- One of the library volunteers thanked staff for their support in enabling the children’s summer reading challenge to go ahead.
- The Clerk read out a written question from a member of the public regarding concerns about drivers parking on the pavements to use the toilets in Osborne Road causing water main problems for residents. The Clerk will ask Island Roads why the bollards are present and enquire about measures that can be put in place to discourage this practice.
- A member of the public raised concerns about a substantial indentation in the road on the corner of Link Road near the entrance to the Red Funnel Yard. The Clerk will report this to Island Roads.
- Cllr Lake passed on thanks from the Shoreside Café owner for the recent grass cutting and provision and cleanliness of the portaloos on the Esplanade whilst the toilet repairs were being undertaken.

Meeting opened at 6.00 p.m.

80/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

81/21 SOUTHERN WATER – SEWAGE OUTFALL

The Mayor welcomed Keith Herbert (Area Manager, Southern Water) and Laura Moran (County Customer Manager (IW) Southern Water). Ms Moran gave a presentation explaining how the outfall system operates

in East Cowes. The town has a combined waste and run off water system. Sewage only stays in the system for 3 minutes before being pumped to Springhill, then Fairlee and on to Sandown. Water passes through a 12mm screen filter. Pumping out to sea only occurs when it is necessary to stop homes flooding. What is pumped out consists of 99% water and is a combination of storm water, runoff and household wastewater. It has a dilution rate of 8.5 times. Cllr Love joined the meeting.

Cllr Palin referred to recent press coverage reporting large fines imposed on Southern Water for breaches. Mr Herbert explained that none of these cases were on the island, and they related to incidents around 10 years ago. Mr Herbert stated that any departures from the permits must be reported to the Environment Agency and IWC. Southern Water publish all reports online. There is a need to reinforce public education campaigns to prevent inappropriate items entering the system in the first place. The Town Council can raise awareness in the next newsletter. It is possible that private systems discharge into the Medina. Councillors asked if all Southern Water outfalls were screened and KH said that some were not. He advised the council to make a formal request from the Environment Agency to determine where unscreened outfalls were. Cllr Love asked about Southern Water objecting to a dredging application for East Cowes. Mr Herbert offered to investigate this and respond to Cllr Love.

82/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Councillor for Osborne Ward. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Councillor for East Cowes, membership of the East Cowes Business Association, East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Heritage Centre. Cllr Paler declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Royal Agricultural Society and the Isle of Wight Society. Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of East Cowes Business Association and East Cowes Community Partnership.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

83/21 MINUTES

Cllr Hendry proposed an amendment to the minutes of the last meeting as he was not on holiday but attending a meeting of the Policy & Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills. The amendment was added, and the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th June were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 17th June with the amendment.

84/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out a statement from Alex Minns (IWC) that as there is no further information at present, officers will attend a future meeting. Statistics as requested at the last meeting accompanied the statement. Cllr Palin reported that he had attended the Floating Bridge User Group meeting and 4 digital sign boards are now in use. The group hopes to recruit more members.

85/21 MEETING THE NEIGHBOURS EXHIBITION

6.1 The Council considered a request from Cllr Paler to host a "Meet the Neighbours" exhibition in the Town Hall during the autumn. This will enable the community to meet and question local businesses and hear about employment opportunities in the town.

6.2 **Resolved:** To hold a "Meet the Neighbours" exhibition in the Town Hall during October.

86/21 LIVE STREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

7.1 The Council considered the future live streaming of council meetings. Equipment is likely to cost around £600-1000.

7.2 **Resolved:** To further investigate the cost and possibility of live streaming meetings.

87/21 ESPLANADE PADDLING POOL

8.1 The Clerk explained that paddling pool is served by the biggest pumps available, and the spinners have been replaced. However, circulation of water and debris getting stuck in the centre channel can still be problematic. To maximise the efficiency of the pool and reduce operating costs, it was suggested that the addition of 'islands' or some other structure which would reduce the volume of water to be circulated could be investigated as part of the annual public consultation.

8.2 **Resolved:** To add options for the improvement of the paddling pool to the public consultation in October.

88/21 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HUB/LIBRARY & INTERPRETATION BOARDS

9.1 The Clerk advised that demolition had been due to start on 1st July. Unfortunately, the earliest date the electricity supply could be isolated and capped off is the end of July/early August. Demolition will now begin from 4th August.

9.2 The Council considered the provision of interpretation boards to be fixed to the perimeter fencing to keep the public informed about what is happening on the site. This would cost £35 for the design and £40 to print each board.

9.3 **Resolved:** To agree to the preparation of interpretation boards for the Community Hub and Library.

89/21 HIGHWAY SAFETY & IMPROVEMENT REGISTER

10.1 The Council considered proposing additions to the Highway Safety & Improvement Register. The Old Road route to school was identified as a priority due to the lack of pavement, road markings and signage. It was noted that appropriate signage and road markings had been provided to other schools when the school reorganisation programme was carried out, but that Holy Cross had been overlooked. Width and weight restrictions were also considered necessary for Old Road, as well as other areas such as Yarborough Road. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Old Road, Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as a parent and governor of Holy Cross Primary school. Cllr Lake declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of New Barn Road. As IW Councillor for East Cowes, Cllr Love has requested the IWC complete a full review of parking and the road system in the town. A vote was taken and Cllr Hendry abstained.

10.2 **Resolved:** To apply for an emergency TRO for Old Road at the junction of Millfield Avenue and St Thomas' Road to provide 20mph signage and road markings for Holy Cross Primary School and consideration of weight and width restrictions.

90/21 FINANCES

11.1 The Council considered the list of payments including those by Direct Debit and BACS.

11.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation.

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

11.3 The Council considered funding the cost of 2 councillors to attend the Seaside and Coastal Towns Conference at a cost of £694.00 and for 1 councillor to attend the Future of the High Streets and Town Centre conference at a cost of £51.71

Resolved: To agree to fund the councillor training courses at a cost of £694.00 and £51.71.

11.4 The Council considered supporting a charity bike ride from Largs in Scotland to East Cowes in aid of the Ellen Macarthur Trust. Cllr Paler will advise the Council of the date and time of the cyclists return.

Resolved: To support the charity bike ride in the sum of £750.

91/21 ELEPHANT FESTIVAL ESPLANADE EVENT

12.1 Cllr Love requested a grant of £750 to fund the Elephant Festival picnic event to be held on the green at the Esplanade on 7th August. This will cover the cost of entertainment and hiring a generator. Cllr Love agreed to provide evidence of spend.

12.2 **Resolved:** To agree to support the Elephant Festival event in the sum of £750 form the Arts and Culture Budget and to agree to the dispensation of hire charges for use of the green.

92/21 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's report

A letter of thanks was received from a local resident for the cleaning and tidying of the seating area at the junction of Yarborough Road and Clarence Road. This has been carried by the volunteer litter pickers and Care in the Garden. The Clerk advised that Chris Flatman, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Mountbatten Hospice, had requested the use of office space for interviewing volunteers. Backstage areas or upstairs office space can be made available for this. If out of hours there is usually a keyholder fee.

Resolved: To agree to a dispensation of keyholder charges for use of office space out of hours by Mountbatten.

11.2 Mayors report

The Council noted the Mayors report.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry reported that Crossways is still on the list of active sites under the IWC Planning Policy. Cllr Hendry has requested that the current planning application is stopped, and the site is removed from the list for future possible development. The Saunders Way link road paperwork is currently with the legal department and work will start once this is finalised.

Cllr Love reported that as a cabinet member on IWC he is endeavouring to raise the profile of East Cowes. Cllr Love assisted in the housing of homeless individuals who had been living on the seafront. There are ongoing concerns with the NHS covid app and how local people, particularly those employed by the ferry companies being asked to isolate, which affects transport services for locals and visitors.

11.4 Councillors reports

The council noted Cllr Palin and Cllr Lake's reports. Cllr Palin added that he will be standing for a position at the IWALC AGM.

93/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve 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 code of conduct matters.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Dated: