



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
Thursday 21stth October 2021 at 6pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Paler (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Kay Smith (Community Action IW), Gerry Price (The Coastal Gardener) Annie Adams (Cowes Town Council), 7 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if it the Town Council had any information about the activities of a tanker operating in the Beatrice Avenue/ Saunders Way area. Cllr Lake had information form Cllr Hendry that Southern Water are using this to assist with sewage works and the tanker is collecting from and not depositing material at the site.
- A member of the public who represents the FAECES group thanked the Clerk for inviting interested parties to attend the sewage works visit on 4th November and requested that the invitation be extended to Bob Seeley MP.
- A member of the public raised concern about flood risk in the area related to item 11 on the agenda, 11 York Avenue.
- A member of the public asked if the Town Council knew anything about the function of the mast outside Queensgate Primary School on the corner of the old car park and the Vics Football Club. The Clerk will make enquiries.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

108/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hendry sent apologies as he was on holiday.

109/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Councillor for East Cowes, membership of the East Cowes Business Association, East Cowes Community Partnership. Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of East Cowes Business Association.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

110/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 16th September 2021 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 16th September.

111/21 JUBILEE RECREATION GROUND

4.1 The Clerk advised that the Heads of Terms for Jubilee Recreation Ground were signed last year. The IWC legal department has indicated they will be working on the lease next week. The Town Council's solicitor has been instructed. The Heads of Terms for Victoria Grove is also being drawn up.

4.2 Gerry Price (The Coastal Gardener) gave a presentation about how a possible climate change garden might look if sited at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. It could provide opportunities to educate and inspire and allow volunteers to become involved. The area identified is around 2700m square which would be large enough to make a difference but still small enough to manage. It is designed to cope with warmer wetter winters, hotter summers and flood risk. The garden would consist of trees with under planting, seating, paths between and an open area in the centre for social interaction such as markets, performances, education. GP stated that if the garden is to go ahead the ground works would need to take place in the spring ready for the planting of the first tree in June. September/October would be the best time for the main planting. Cllr Paler stated that there was interest from sponsors and volunteers.

Cllr Webster asked if dogs would be permitted. Provision would be included for dog waste to be disposed of. Cllr Love stated that much more detail was needed about all aspects of the project including the cost and funding of the project. Cllr Reardon raised concerns about how waterlogged the site becomes during the winter. The Clerk stated that there will be a question about the Jubilee Rec's development in the forthcoming public consultation. GP and AA left the meeting.

112/21 POLICY REVIEW

5.1 The Council considered the following policies.

- i. Dignity at Work
- ii. Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures
- iii. Equality & Diversity Policy
- iv. Lone Working Policy
- v. Member/Officer Protocol
- vi. Training & Development Policy
- vii. Volunteer Policy

5.2 The Council considered 2 options for an Environment Policy. Cllr Hendry had submitted an amendment to policy A.

Resolved: The Council approved the policies listed i-vii above and adopted Environment Policy option A including the amendment.

113/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

6.1 The Clerk read out an update on the Floating Bridge from Sean Newton stated that the bridge was not expected to return to service until mid-November. Cllr Love stated that the IWC will make a decision about the future of the bridge by the end of the year. Cllr Palin added that at a meeting of the IWC Corporate Scrutiny Committee, it had been indicated that a decision would be made on any changes or procurement of a replacement in March 2022.

6.2 The Clerk read out a response from Martin Goff, IWC Head of Admissions and Transport, to the Town Council's letter requesting a bus service be provided for school children whilst the floating bridge is not working and because of the unsatisfactory service provided by the Jenny Boat. Mr Goff stated that only journeys of more than 3 miles can be funded by the local authority. The IWC view is that the launch is a suitable mode of transport for the route to school. Councillors were displeased with the response.

Resolved: To write to Mr Goff expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with his response and to invite Cllr Andre (IWC Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills) and Mr Goff (IWC Head of Admissions and Transport) to a future meeting.

114/21 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A banner advertising the Public Consultation will be displayed on the front of the town hall and the details added to the website and Facebook. Amendments to the questionnaire were considered and noted.

Resolved: To approve the Public Consultation questionnaire.

115/21 FINANCES

8.1 The Council considered payments made, including by Direct Debit and BACS, as presented for September & October

8.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation.

8.3 The Clerk ran through the 2nd quarter budget document explaining any cost centres with an overspend. Overall, there is an underspend at the end of the 2nd quarter. The Council noted the 2nd quarter budget report.

8.4 The Council considered a formal request for the payment of £1250 to the East Cowes Business Association Xmas event. This has already been allocated in the budget. Cllr Love and Reardon abstained.

Resolved: To approve and ratify the payments including by Direct Debit and BACS, to approve the bank reconciliation, to approve the 2nd quarter budget and to approve the grant of £1250 to East Cowes Business Association.

116/21 11 YORK AVENUE

9.1 The Council were asked to consider a start-up donation for the Community Project based at 11 York Avenue from Cllr Paler. Cllr Paler stated that new information had been received from IWC today about the future of the building and that this item could not now be discussed

9.2 Cllr Love stated that insufficient information was available to enable discussion, including costs.

Resolved: To defer 11 York Avenue item to the November Full Council meeting.

117/21 HALL HIRE DISPENSATIONS

10.1 The Council considered a request for the dispensation of hall hire charges for the Blyskawica 80th Anniversary events to be held over 3 additional dates in May 2022, totalling £376.00.

10.2 The Council considered a request for the dispensation of hall hire charges for the East Cowes Community Volunteer Fair (Community Action IW) to be held on the 15th January, totalling £97.00.

Resolved: To agree the dispensation of hall hire charges as requested for the Blyskawica 80th Anniversary Events and the East Cowes Community Volunteer Fair.

118/21 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk read out a letter of thanks for the grant received by Hampshire and IW Victim Support

11.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor's report was noted.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love stated that news was expected next week on the IWC Levelling Up bid. The Wight Fibre works in Old Road currently taking place are due to the 92% failure rate on completing previous works to IWC requirements. They will be re-covering the whole pavement. Cllr Love noted local concern for the residents over the closure of Kingston Farm. A further consultation will be held with residents soon on parking zones in East Cowes.

11.4 Councillors reports

Reports submitted by Cllrs Packham, Palin and Reardon were noted.

119/21 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 contractual and staffing matters.

Meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed:

Dated: