



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 18th November 2021 at 6pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Paler (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: Katherine Arblaster (IWC Environment Officer), Cllr Debbie Andre, Martin Goff (IWC Home to School Transport), 8 members of the public

Public Forum

The Mayor and Clerk presented gifts from the Council and staff respectively to a retiring staff member and thanked her for her loyalty and service to the Town Council. The winner of the voucher for taking part in the Public Consultation was drawn.

- A member of the public asked whether Island Roads was responsible for dealing with dog fouling removal. This was confirmed
- A member of the public asked who was responsible for enforcement when cars park on pavements. Cllr Hendry requested further details so that he could address this as ward councillor for the area causing concern. Cllr Love stated he was acting on a similar problem on Britannia Way.
- A member of the public congratulated the East Cowes town Crafters on their display in the town and enquired about 11 York Avenue. Cllr Paler advised that the Town Council is not involved with this project.
- A member of the public remarked that it was good to see so many projects and new ideas coming forward in East Cowes.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

120/21 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Town Council welcomed the IWC Environment Officer Katherine Arblaster who explained that she covers East Cowes Victoria Grove play park, regular beach inspections and statutory duties previously carried out by dog wardens. KA works alongside other agencies to address issues such as dogs on leads, dog fouling, domestic and commercial waste, littering and fly posting. Fly tipping is dealt with by Environmental Health. KA works with Bereavement Services regarding the cemetery including monitoring anti-social behaviour and liaising with residents. KA read out a short report of recent activity in the town. KA reported that she is in

contact with the Environment Agency and Southern Water about a collapsing surface water drain at Cadet's Walk. KA answered questions from Councillors and members of the public about the cemetery, homelessness, dog fouling and fly tipping. The council thanked KA for attending and she left the meeting.

121/21 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT REQUEST

The Council welcomed Cllr Andre and Martin Goff to the meeting. They were attending the meeting in response to the Town Council's request for the provision of a school bus for young people whilst the floating bridge is out of service. MG explained that legislation states children up to 7 years are expected to walk up to 2 miles from home to school and those 8 and over are expected to walk up to 3 miles. Most East Cowes families fall within 2 miles. The use of the floating bridge or replacement launch is considered an available and suitable route. MG acknowledged the unreliability of the floating bridge and the difficulties this caused particularly during the winter.

Cllr Webster raised concerns about the accessibility of the launch, near accidents and long queues with other launch users in poor weather. Cllr Love requested access to risk assessments for the launch, what happens if the launch is unavailable and what provision was made for pupils with a disability or anxiety about using the launch. MG stated that he had received no requests for alternative provision from families with exceptional circumstances. He explained that in the case of any requests being refused there is a robust procedure in place with a right of appeal to a panel of 3 IW Councillors and a further appeal to the Ombudsman. Cllr Andre stated she had been a panel member. The Town Council could request copies of the risk assessments.

MG stated that he has a constructive relationship with Southern Vectis which has operated well even through the pandemic and in an emergency it would be possible to access buses. Cllr Hendry commented that East Cowes children having access to the cross-Medina route was essential to them attending Cowes Enterprise College which was rated good. Cllr Lake stated that the small capacity of the launch meant children sometimes had to wait for 3 or 4 crossings before being able to travel with no covered area to wait.

122/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

123/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

4.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor, 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. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor. Cllr Webster declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

124/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 21st October 2021 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 21st October.

125/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out an update from Sean Newton about the floating bridge. Current works are expected to be completed in early December with the service being available to the public in mid-December. A member of the public stated that he was waiting for a response from the Information Commissioners Officer for further information. Cllr Love stated that reiterating the press release information was insufficient for the Town Council and more information was needed particularly about the cost of works to date. East Cowes businesses and residents have been disproportionately affected by the unreliability of the floating bridge

and should be compensated. Cllr Palin stated any compensation paid as a result of the mediation process should be ring fenced to go towards the repair or replacement of the floating bridge.

Resolved: To write to IWC requesting provision of a shelter in the launch waiting area and to write to ICO's Office in support of the request for information to the Information Commissioners Office.

126/21 FINANCES

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

7.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation.

7.3 The Council noted the interim internal audit report and checklist. The Clerk stated that the Risk Management Policy will be presented for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

Resolved: To approve and ratify the payments including by Direct Debit and BACS, to approve the bank reconciliation.

127/21 VICTORIA GROVE

8.1 The council considered the Heads of Terms from IWC for Victoria Recreation Ground. This does not include the Parkside Pavilion. The Town Council has to accept the IWC grounds maintenance contract but this does not include bedding planting. Work on the lease is expected to begin after Christmas.

8.2 **Resolved:** To agree and sign the Heads of Terms for Victoria Recreation Ground.

128/21 DISPENSATION REQUEST

9.1 Cllr Webster left the meeting for this item. The Mayor read out a dispensation request from the community bingo group for the keyholder charge and caretaker charge on their weekly hall hire. Cllr Hendry stated that this can be considered under the Town Council's dispensation policy.

9.2 Resolved: To agree the dispensation of the keyholder fee and caretaker fee for the community bingo group from 25th November 2021.

129/21 BANNER REQUEST

10.1 The Clerk read out a request from the Communication and Engagement Officer at IWC to erect a 1metre x 2metre banner on the exterior of the Town Hall advertising the Levelling Up Fund Public Consultation due to take place in the columbine Building in East Cowes during December.

10.2 **Resolved:** To agree to the display of the Levelling Up Fund Public Consultation banner outside at the Town Hall.

130/21 STREET TRADING POLICY CONSULTATION

11.1 & 11.2 The Council considered the revised Street Trading Policy from the IWC. Cllr Reardon asked whether the IWC could reinstate the street trading licence for Lower York Avenue. The Clerk will write to IWC. The Clerk will also request clarification on the revision to the document. Cllrs will respond to the Clerk with their comments before the deadline of 8th December.

131/21 COMMUNITY HUB ARTWORK FOR WINDOWS

12.1 The Council considered images for the glass manifestations for the windows of the community hub.

12.2 **Resolved:** To approve the outline drawings showing Beach Huts, Cowes Regatta, Venture Quays, Osborne House, Norris Castle, Hovercraft and the Saunders Roe Flying Boat.

132/21 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk read out a letter of thanks from the Largs to East Cowes Cyclists for their donation. In total they raised £8085 for cancer charities.

13.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor's report was noted.

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love reported that along with Cllr Webster he had met with Kevin Burton to look at the location on the corner of York Avenue/Well Road as a possible site for the Platinum Jubilee sculpture. It should be possible to agree a licence with IWC for the area and take over the maintenance from island Roads. Cllr Love has also met the sculptor on site. Cllr Love noted that Wightfibre has failed to reach the standard required by IWC on 96% of the reinstatement works. Cllr Love requested a letter of congratulations be sent to Wight Shipyard and Teemill on being presented with their recent Queens Award. The Clerk will add this to the Full Council agenda for December. Cllr Love has contacted Kevin Burton about Red Funnel using the Castle Street exit and been advised that Red Funnel have been told not to use this.

13.4 Councillors reports

Reports submitted by Cllrs Packham, Lake, Palin and Reardon were noted. Cllr Lake added that she had received a call from Chris Ashman (IWC) advising her that the tender documentation for the East Cowes Landslip Project was prepared and would be advertised by 29th November.

133/21 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 7.43pm

Signed:

Dated: