



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes
Thursday 16th December 2021 at 6pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Love (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Webster, Lake, Reardon, Palin, Hendry

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

Also present: 8 members of the public, PCSO Stephen Hull

Public Forum

- There were no public questions.
- The Clerk read out the letter of resignation received from Cllr Michael Paler. The Town Council thanked Cllr Paler for his service and wished him well for the future. Notices of the casual vacancy will be posted in the notice boards and the local press. Deputy Mayor Cllr Love took the chair.

Meeting opened at 6.05 p.m.

134/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

135/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 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.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

136/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 18th November 2021 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 18th November.

137/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out a response to the Council's letter from Cllr Phil Jordan (IWC). It stated that the cost of works to the floating bridge to date are currently being calculated as part of the mediation process. A report will be presented to IWC Cabinet in January.

The Clerk also read out a response to the Council's letter to Martin Goff regarding the provision of buses for school children when the floating bridge and launch are not operating. There are 200 East Cowes children on the role at Cowes Enterprise College. They will be issued with bus passes to use on the number 1 and 5 buses when the launch is unable to operate. Risk assessment documents were also provided. It was noted that the restoration of the floating bridge service had been delayed further and was now not expected until 20th December.

138/21 COUNCIL POLICIES

5.1 The Council reviewed the following policies:

I Communications

- a. Communications & Media Policy. The Council amended the policy by removing the word "urgent" from 9.1 & 9.2.
- b. Communications & Media Policy.
- c. Complaints Procedure.
- d. Freedom of Information Policy.
- e. Policy for Recording, Photographing, and Filming of Meetings. The Council amended the policy to reflect that only the Clerk, Assistant Clerk or a person authorised by them can post on the Council's social media site
- f. Social Media Policy.
- g. Vexatious Complaints Policy.

II Risk Management Policy. The Clerk directed Councillors to a few minor amendments to the policy which reflect current practice.

5.2 **Resolved:** To adopt the policies as amended.

139/21 RED FUNNEL PROPOSAL

6.1 The Clerk read out a proposal from Graham Barnetson (Chief Financial Officer, Red Funnel) regarding a proposal to control the pedestrian lights at Well Road to assist with the flow of traffic disembarking from the ferry. The Council considered the proposal.

6.2 The Council responded with the following points. The scheme is not acceptable as it prioritises off-loading vehicles over the needs of residents and pedestrians. Keeping the pedestrian lights green for 4 minutes would create road safety issues with pedestrians, especially young people going to school and rushing to catch the ferry across the river, being tempted to take a chance to cross when the lights are on green. A similar scheme was tried around 2000, which caused havoc in the town. Since that date the Doctors surgery and chemist has been built, many shipyard workers are now working locally in the area, which necessitates more pedestrians using this crossing.

The area around the terminal in East Cowes is of a very different character to the Southampton terminal. Its streets are residential and much narrower. It has more residents and essential services surrounding the ferry terminal, such as the GP surgery and chemist as well as retail outlets. The roads in the area are much shorter in length and narrower, than outside of the Southampton terminal and are more restricted. The proposal would have a direct adverse effect on residents and those using local services and shops. Congestion issues are more acute with traffic coming into the town than leaving it. Councillors have observed the cross-hatching in Ferry Road being blocked and traffic not admitted to the marshalling yard.

East Cowes is very different from Southampton in that several residential roads exit onto York Avenue and can only do so when the traffic lights are on red. This would cause more congestion in those residential roads.

The assertion by Red Funnel, that if the proposal were implemented it would allow them to abandon the secondary discharge route through Seaholme yard onto Castle St, should be disregarded. The Town Council has already made it clear that use of this exit is unsafe and should not be used. Further, the Sec 106 agreement

states that this exit should not be used, and Island Roads have repeatedly stated that Red Funnel should stop using this as an exit route as it is unsafe.

The Town Council also suggested that Red Funnel should consider holding a public meeting to illustrate their aspirations, which may help everyone to better understand how the community feel on this very difficult topic.

Resolved: To send the response to Graham Barnetson at Red Funnel, copied to IWC and Island Roads.

140/21 PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2021

The Public Consultation report was noted.

141/21 JUBILEE RECREATION GROUND

8.1 The Council considered planting a tree in Jubilee Recreation Ground to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Advice on the type of tree will be gathered and a site visit will take place to identify the exact location with proposals to be brought forward at the January meeting so that permission can be sought from IWC as landowner.

8.2 The item to consider a kick start grant for the sustainable garden project was withdrawn due to the absence of supporting information.

142/21 FINANCES

9.1 The council considered the payments made, including by Direct Debit and BACS, as presented for November.

9.2 The Council noted and approved the bank reconciliation.

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

143/21 REPORTS

10.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerk stated that many positive comments had been received about the Christmas trees and light displays around the town provided by the Town Council.

10.2 Mayor's report

There was no Mayor's report.

10.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry stated that he has emailed the IWC Cabinet requesting information about what is happening with the Crossways site.

Cllr Love congratulated the East Cowes Crafters on their amazing displays in the town. The Norris Castle planning application is still awaited. The Local Government Settlement for the island has been announced by the Chancellor and disappointingly there is no island deal at this time. Following the recent flooding Cllr Love has contacted the IWC requesting information from the Environment Agency about use of the temporary flood defence equipment.

10.4 Councillors reports

Reports submitted by Cllrs Packham and Reardon were noted. Cllr Webster stated that seagulls were causing a nuisance outside the pet shop due to scraps being put out. Cllr Palin stated that he had attended the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and had been contacted by residents in Saunders Way regarding waterworks taking place there.

144/21 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 matters.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed:

Dated: