



## 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 20th January 2022 at 6pm**

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### **Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Love (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Reardon (appointed Mayor)

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

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

**Also present:** 8 members of the public

### Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if the project at 11 York Avenue or the sustainable garden would be going ahead. Cllr Love stated that IWC had advised 11 York Avenue would be going back on the open market and that no formal proposal had been brought to the town council about the sustainable garden.
- A member of the public asked whether commercial helicopters were permitted to fly over the town. The Clerk will make enquiries with the Civil Aviation Authority and pass on any information.

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

### 01/22 ELECTION OF MAYOR

1.1 Cllr Reardon was nominated as Mayor.

1.2 Cllr Reardon's nomination was seconded. Cllr Reardon was duly elected as Mayor.

1.3 Cllr Reardon read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair

### 02/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

### 03/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 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.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

## 04/22 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## 05/22 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

5.1, 5.2 & 5.3 The nomination of a councillor to serve on the HR Committee, as deputy representative on IWALC and representative at Cowes Town Council meetings was deferred until casual vacancy is filled.

## 06/22 BUDGET 2022/2023

6.1 The Clerk advised that the IWC Tax base for 2022/2023 has increased by 20 households to 2711.9. Provision has been made in the budget for posting of notices, potential maintenance costs for the sedum roof on the community hub and a contingency. The Clerk read out the draft budget. Council considered the budget and agreed that there should be no increase in the precept as set for last year.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed the budget and set the precept at £355,283.

## 07/22 FINANCE

7.1 The council considered the payments made, including by Direct Debit and BACS, as presented for December 2021 and January 2022.

7.2 The Council noted and approved the bank reconciliation for December 2021.

7.3 The Council noted the quarterly budget report for October to December 2021.

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

## 08/22 SKATEPARK UPGRADE

8.1 Cllr Hendry stated that a sum of money was earmarked in the budget towards the skatepark project. John Cattle had advised that a major project could cost around £150,000. Consultation with user groups and the public, seeking several quotations and grant funding will all be needed to complete the project.

**Resolved:** To agree that enquiries into a programme of upgrading the skatepark may commence.

## 09/22 PADDLING POOL UPGRADE

9.1 & 9.2 This item was deferred as quotations were still awaited regarding the works needed to upgrade the paddling pool.

## 10/22 DONATION REQUESTS

10.1 The council considered a request from the Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society for a donation of £1500 towards the cost of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations.

10.2 The Council considered a request from the Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation towards their work offering free, impartial, and independent advice to anyone who needs it.

**Resolved:** To agree donations of £1500 to the Blyskawica Society and £864 to Citizens Advice Bureau.

## 11/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council had received statistics for the operation of the floating bridge and a copy of the IWC Cabinet Report dated 13<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Palin had attended the IWC Scrutiny Committee as IWALC representative and stated that mediation was expected to take place in London during March and the Gateway 5 review has strengthened the IWC case as further errors in the design have been highlighted.

## 12/22 CORRESPONDENCE RE RED FUNNEL PEDESTRAIN EGRESS

12.1 The Clerk read out a letter sent to the Town Council from Peter Geach regarding the safe egress of foot passengers from the Red Funnel terminal. Cllr Love stated that as IWC he would bring concerns to the attention of Colin Rowland and the PFI team. Cllr Lake stated that Town Council and community input into the transport plan for the town was vital going forward.

**Resolved:** To write to Red Funnel to support the concerns highlighted by Mr Geach in his letter.

## 13/22 WATERFRONT REGENERATION

The Council had received the results from the IWC public consultation on the Waterfront Regeneration Plan. Councillors considered that these results should be put in the public domain. The Clerk will request the IWC does this. Cllr Lake has requested that Chris Ashman arranges for the display board from the consultation be added to the Red Funnel fencing to raise public awareness of the scheme. Councillors emphasised the need for traffic management and parking in the town to be incorporated in the plan including the consideration of the impact of the completion of Saunders Way. Cllr Love stated that the Town Council needs to see the latest version of the Traffic Plan. The Clerk will invite Colin Rowland and Chris Ashman to attend a future meeting to discuss the traffic plan.

## 14/22 REPORTS

### 14.1 Facilities Officer report

The Facilities Officer report was noted. The Council requested the Clerk pass on their thanks for the comprehensive report.

### 14.2 Clerk's Report

The Clerk shared the Warmer East Cowes report from the Footprint Trust.

### 14.2 Mayor's report

There was no Mayor's report.

### 14.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry stated that there is a legal dispute with a third party over Saunders Way currently being dealt with by the IWC legal team. Cllr Hendry has dealt with speeding queries. The IWC is conducting a speed restriction review which should be completed by the end of 2022. Changes are unlikely due to the cost of such projects. IWC has terminated their agreement with PCP the Crossways development partner. Cllr Hendry continues to lobby to have the Crossways site removed from the planning strategy.

Cllr Love stated that the Norris Castle planning application is awaiting validation. On other planning matters the oil depot at Saunders Way is being cleaned up but there are no plans to build on the site at this time. There is only enough brownfield land on the island to accommodate 1 year's housing allocation of 360 houses. Cllr Love has challenged the Maresfield Road parking proposals due to the pressure this will cause on neighbouring residential streets. Events are being planned in August commemorating the contribution of Uffa Fox. IWC budget is currently being consulted on. Cllr Love is particularly concerned about the shortfall for adult social care.

### 14.4 Councillors reports

Cllr Lake reported that the Esplanade and Landslip Community Group has been assisting IWC with evaluating the tenders for the works and a preferred bidder had been identified and is due to begin work during February.

Cllr Palin's report was noted. Cllr Palin added that he had reported a dog fouling incident captured on Facebook to the Environment Officer.

15/22 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)).

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed:

Dated: