



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 17th March 2022 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Palin, Hendry, Love, Walker

Clerk: S Chilton, **Assistant Clerk:** C Gale, Cllr Kirkwood-Slack and Cllr Walter (Whippingham Parish Council), Daniel James (Plan Research Ltd)

Also present: 5 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public requested an update on the Trinity House wind wane. The Clerk will contact Mark MacNeill at the Classic Boat Museum.
- A member of the public stated that a Community Beach Clean will take place on Sunday at 4.30pm. All welcome.
- A member of the public requested information about the town map. It was noted that these have been installed on notice boards around the town.
- A member of the public presented a map showing a suggestion for improving the traffic flow in East Cowes. The Clerk will forward this to Chris Ashman (Director of Regeneration IWC for information).

Meeting opened at 6.10 p.m.

28/22 ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR

Following the uncontested election Cllr Simon Walker signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, duly witnessed by the Clerk.

29/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillor Webster who was unwell.

30/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor and as a member of the East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association. Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

31/22 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 17th February 2022 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 17th February.

32/22 LCWIP – DANIEL JAMES, PLAN RESEARCH

Daniel James of Plan Research presented the first draft of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The final document will be ready at the end of March. 537 households took part, mainly from East Cowes, as well as some from Whippingham. Safety was the biggest issue that came out of the consultation. Three main options are put forward for the Whippingham to Newport section and eight options within East Cowes with some alternatives. Specific walking improvements were identified as being needed in Old Road, especially near Holy Cross Primary School, Crossways Road and Beatrice Avenue, and near the Floating Bridge and Red Funnel Ferry terminal including Castle Street.

Daniel James then took questions from Councillors and members of the public. The next stage is for the final report which has a deadline of 31st March, to be presented for adoption by the East Cowes Town Council and Whippingham Parish Council. The final document will incorporate more of the responses gained. Councillors were asked to get final comments to Daniel by 25th March at the latest. Next steps - the LCWIP can be incorporated in the intended Neighbourhood Plan for East Cowes. Daniel James has already put forward a proposal via Alec Broome at IWC to Sustrans for East Cowes to be included in the National Cycle Network route, which currently runs from Reading to Shanklin. The Plan is in the format required for accessing future funding streams. The next central government Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy for the next four years is due in spring 2022. The Whippingham Parish Councillors were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

33/22 FACILITIES OFFICER

6.1 The Clerk presented a report prepared by the Facilities Officer. The Town Council noted the report and thanked the Facilities Team for their continued hard work. It was noted that IWC have installed some posts on the Esplanade near the toilets to prevent people driving over the grass.

6.2 The Council considered the cost of upgrading the CCTV, fire alarm system, telecoms, and data at the Town Hall to ensure compatibility with the community hub. The Clerk advised that there are sufficient funds in the current year's budget to cover these costs.

6.3 **Resolved:** To agree to the works at a total cost of £13,046.99.

34/22 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES

7.1 The Council considered who would fill vacancies on Council committees.

7.2 **Resolved:** Cllr Palin was nominated to serve on the Human Resources Committee. Cllr Walker was nominated to serve on the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee and the Planning Committee. Cllr Reardon was nominated to serve on the Grievance Committee as and when required.

35/22 EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS NOMINATIONS

8.1 The Council considered who would represent the Council on External Organisations where vacancies had arisen.

8.2 **Resolved:** To agree Cllr Walker would serve as IWALC Deputy representative.

36/22 FINANCE

8.1 The council considered the payments made, including by Direct Debit and BACS, as presented for January/February 2022.

8.2 The Council noted and approved the bank reconciliation for February 2022.

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

37/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

It was noted that the Floating bridge is now out of the water in Falmouth for its 5year MCA inspection. No further comments have been made by IWC due to the ongoing mediation process. A question was raised about safety procedures on the floating bridge as no data is collected about the number of passengers on board. The Clerk will raise with IWC.

38/22 POLICY REVIEW

11.1 The council reviewed the Dispensation Policy and the Grants Policy. The Clerk explained changes to the Dispensation policy included adding other costs than hall hire, annual review of dispensations granted for events held more frequently than annually, the list of evidence required. Amendments to the Grants policy were put forward to exclude political parties and to enable donations to local/national charities to be assessed on an individual basis.

11.2 **Resolved:** To approve the Dispensation Policy and Grants policies as amended.

39/22 COMMUNITY HUB

12.1 The Clerk gave an update on progress with the community hub build. Regular meetings continue to take place with the contractor and architects. Next week will see the installation of underfloor heating pipes and floor screeding, delivery of Osborne Road windows, the new electrical connection. The toilet doors have been delivered. Plaster boarding will go ahead as soon as the roof is complete. The planning application revision is due to be decided by 4th April. The build is still on track for completion by early June. An official opening is recommended beyond this date when all interior elements are complete.

12.2 The Council considered a name for the hub that might incorporate reference to the Platinum Jubilee.

12.3 **Resolved:** To invite local residents and councillors to put a name forward for consideration.

40/22 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's Report.

There was no Clerks report as all matters were already covered.

13.2 Mayor's report

The Mayor's report was noted.

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love noted that covid numbers are still increasing locally and urged everyone to take up the booster. The electric vehicle points that have been installed by IWC are not live yet. A competitive island wide provider is being sought. Cllr Love expressed thanks to the Mad-Aid charity and all local people who had supported the efforts to send supplies to the Ukraine. The Jubilee Garden design will be discussed at the next Facilities Projects and Events Committee. IWC is raising concerns over the delivery of the PFI road contract.

Cllr Hendry stated he had received a response from Cllr Jordan (IWC member for Transport) regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders which will be published on the Town Council's website. There is a meeting next week to discuss legal matters relating to phase 4 and 5 of the Saunders Way road.

13.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Palin's report was noted. Cllr Packham stated that at a recent meeting with Red Funnel it was noted that 12 electric vehicle charging points are to be installed in the Well Road Car Park.

41/22 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 8.15pm

Signed:

Dated: