



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 6pm**

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### Present

**Chair:** Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

**Councillors:** Packham, Lake, Palin, Hendry, Love, Walker

**Clerk:** S Chilton, **Assistant Clerk:** C Gale, Izzie Tween (H & IW Wildlife Trust Beaver Recovery Project Officer), Daniel James (Plan Research Ltd)

**Also present:** 7 members of the public

### Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if the Town Council is taking active steps to secure a permanent public home for the SRN Hovercraft propeller. It is currently stored at the Classic Boat Museum and the Town Council has provided funding for a display stand to be made. It is intended that it will be displayed in East Cowes. Another member of the public queried the suitability of the propeller having a mobile stand that would include a suspended gear box.
- The Clerk confirmed that alternative traffic layout suggestions for East Cowes submitted by a member of the public have been forwarded to Red Funnel and IWC.
- A member of the public thanked the Town Council for acting as the central body for the Solent Water Quality Award which has now been given Excellent status and enabled DEFRA to take on the testing for the next year with excellent, good or satisfactory status to be awarded at the end of this period. A request was made to continue water testing alongside the DEFRA testing. This will need to be on the agenda for a future meeting.
- A member of the public reported that Kings Square has not been registered as a public place and does not appear when searching the internet and requested that the Town Council contact IWC to have it officially recorded.
- A member of the public asked if the Town Council receives information from the police about incidents in the town. The Clerk stated that the PCSO provides reports and the Town Council occasionally get requests from the police to look at the CCTV footage. Cllr Hendry stated he would provide a link to the crime map for East Cowes.

Meeting opened at 6.25 p.m.

### 47/22 HAMPSHIRE & IW BEAVER RECOVERY PROJECT

The Mayor welcomed Izzie Tween Project Officer for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Beaver Recovery Project. Izzie delivered a comprehensive and informative presentation detailing the ecology, history and island conditions and the results of a feasibility study conducted by the University of Exeter. The benefits of introducing a beaver population to the island include eco-tourism, improved water quality, flash flooding mitigation and biodiversity. The Eastern Yar already has some wildlife areas set aside at Alverstone, Sandown Meade, Morton and Brading Marshes and Newtown. Alverstone and Brading Marshes would be the most suitable locations. A licence

application to Natural England must include evidence of consultation such as this evening's presentation. It is likely that licence applications will be accepted later this year. If granted 3 or 4 breeding pairs or small families of Beavers from Scotland could be released at the earliest next year. Volunteers would be welcome to take part in surveying and observing beaver activity. The Mayor thanked Izzie for her presentation.

#### 48/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillor Webster who was unwell.

#### 49/22 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. Cllr Walker declared membership of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

#### 50/22 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> March.

#### 51/22 GRANT APPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council considered grant the following grant applications:

- Vics Youth Football Club – 2 Goal posts and nets for the youth football team £1450.00
- East Cowes Crafters – Materials for decorative projects around East Cowes £120.00
- Footprint Trust – To support the rollout of the warmer East Cowes project - £2000.00

It was noted that due to the current cost of living crisis there are many people struggling. Community Spirited has already assisted in distributing £10,000 of grant funding. Schools and other organisations can refer people to the Town Council for assistance through the remaining funds of the IWC Community Support Grant.

5.2 **Resolved:** To purchase and install goal posts at Victoria Grove at a cost of £1069.20 for use by East Cowes Vics and the public, and to purchase nets at a cost of £237.60, which will be gifted to East Cowes Vics, and for which they will be responsible for storing. To award a grant of £120 to East Cowes Crafters for the purchase of materials for summer and autumn displays on the chain arch. To award a grant of £2000 to the Footprint Trust to support their work in East Cowes.

#### 52/22 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

6.1 & 6.2 The Mayor read out the programme for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations which includes the Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail, lighting of the beacon on the Esplanade, events at the town hall and a picnic in the park at Jubilee Recreation Ground with live music and entertainment. There will also be competitions for the best dressed king and queen and the best dressed house or front garden.

#### 53/22 FINANCE

7.1 The council considered the payments made, including by Direct Debit and BACS, as presented for March/ April 2022. In response to questions from Councillors the Clerk stated that £14,000 is the full resurfacing cost for the car park and an insurance claim has been submitted for the flood damage on the Esplanade.

7.2 The Council noted and approved the bank reconciliation for March 2022.

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

#### 54/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

A brief statement was received from IWC advising that a further inspection was awaited due to the collision when re-berthing the vessel when it returned from the MCA inspection.

## 55/22 LCWIP – DANIEL JAMES (PLAN RESEARCH)

9.1 The council considered the LCWIP Version 1.1.2 and acknowledged the incredible response rate and the huge amount of work that has gone into this document. Daniel James highlighted the road safety improvements needed to increase cycling and walking in the area. The LCWIP can provide a basis for future funding bids and form part of the Town Councils Neighbourhood Plan which can follow when new the Island Planning Strategy has been adopted by IWC. Old Road, Beatrice Avenue and the Town Centre were the priority areas identified as needing improvement.

In response to councillor questions DJ explained that traffic calming in urban areas for low traffic neighbourhoods would consist of filtering and narrowing measures following consultation on a street-by-street basis. In more rural locations “quiet lane” (20mph) status can be sought following traffic surveys establishing under 1000 vehicles per day. In areas with high flow through traffic footways and cycleways need to be segregated from motor vehicles by a kerb or barrier.

Some landowners may be amenable to co-operation with the installation of paths on their land especially around schools. IWC does have the power to compulsory purchase land. Bus travel is not included in the plan but how this integrates with cycling and walking would need to be considered in any future plans.

9.2 **Resolved:** To defer the adoption of the LCWIP to allow councillors more time to consider it in detail.

## 56/22 POLICY REVIEW

10.1 The council reviewed the Health & Safety and Risk Management Policies. The Clerk advised Health and Safety policy amendments have been highlighted and that Victoria and Jubilee Recreation Grounds have been added to the Risk Management Policy.

11.2 **Resolved:** To approve the Health & Safety and Risk Management Policies as amended.

## 57/22 CLLR LOVE VISIT TO MOLDOVA

11.1 Cllr Love recently visited Moldova with East Cowes charity Mad-Aid.

11.2 **Resolved:** To ratify the payment of an additional insurance premium of £112.00 to provide cover for the civic chain of office outside of the UK; the decision to present a town council flag; and letter of thanks to the Mayors of Moldova.

## 58/22 COMMUNITY HUB

12.1 The Clerk gave an update on progress with the community hub and library build. There have been some delays on materials particularly the curtain windows. The interior designer is providing advice on design and sourcing furniture. The project is still within budget. Completion is expected in early July.

12.2 & 3 Councillors considered a list of names put forward by the community for the new building. Cllrs will email the Clerk with their top 3 names for consideration at a future meeting.

## 59/22 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 IWC were making slow progress on the new Island Planning Strategy. Debate about the Norris Castle planning application continues to feature on social media. Cllr Love thanked the Town Council for allowing him to represent the Town on his recent trip to Moldova with East Cowes based charity Mad-Aid. Cllr Love was able to visit 6 hostels, the Phoenix Centre and 3 camps set up for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. The charity is very well regarded. Now that the connection has been made it may be possible in future to twin East Cowes with a village in Moldova.

Cllr Hendry stated that the IWC has issued parking permit consultation letters to residents in the town.

13.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Lake stated that the Esplanade Landslip project plaques have been delivered to the contractor. The drains have been cleared. It is expected the works will be completed in around 3 weeks.

Cllr Palin has been involved with supporting the Mad-Aid charity and wished to pass on their thanks to all those who have volunteered.

60/22 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 9.00pm

Signed:

Dated: