



## East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R  
Tel: (01983) 299082 Email: [clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6pm**

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### Present

**Chair:** Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

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

**Also present:** 6 members of the public, Matthew Northard (Senior Environmental Health Practitioner, IWC)

### Public Forum

- A member of the public thanked the Town Council for continuing to fund the sea water testing during the winter and spring.
- There is a beach clean this Sunday.
- The Clerk is awaiting a response from the Environment Agency about the 4 year testing requirement.

Meeting opened at 6.05pm

### 114/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllr Walker.

### 115/22 AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The Mayor welcomed Matthew Northard (Senior Environmental Health Practitioner, IWC) to the meeting. Mr Northard explained that since 2000 the legal responsibility for monitoring air quality has been with IWC as the unitary authority. This includes monitoring fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxides. They prepare a report which is checked by DEFRA who then requests any measures to be put in place. Equipment is very expensive to install and monitor. It is usually placed in areas with narrow congested streets, more than 5000 vehicles per day and tall buildings. Screening and software modelling tools are also used. If an air quality objective is breached this must be declared, and an action plan to reduce levels must be put forward. This has occurred in Portsmouth and Southampton, where plans have been submitted to Central Government and charging schemes introduced. The last IWC report was completed 15 years ago.

There are monitoring tubes in Well Road. Cllr Lake stated that the congestion problems occur in York Avenue/ Link Road where there is no monitoring. Even where there is monitoring the figures are annualised, which means that the statistics for peak days are diluted. Red Funnel accounts for 8000 to 11000 cars per day on their busiest days. Cllr Lake also stated that a company had been denied permission for drone monitoring of the air quality this side of the breakwater. Cllr Palin stated that since the last report there has been increased ferry activity with the introduction of the freight sailings and more HGV movements in the yard.

Mr Northard stated that he would refer the council's concerns to his managers at IWC and advisors at DEFRA about current air quality objectives and considering monitoring around the Red Funnel terminal, including the provision of a monitoring tube in Link Road. Mr Northard provided a copy of the Isle of Wight Local Plan Air Quality Impact Assessment from 2018, the 2022 Air Quality Status Report and the 2005 Detailed Air Quality Modelling Study.

## 116/22 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.

## 117/22 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

## 118/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered planning application number 22/01749/ARM approval of reserved matters on P/00328/18 for appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale, Hawthorn Meadows, off Saunders Way.

**Resolved:** To object to the application and support the comments of Island Roads relating to junction layout.

## 119/22 WARM SPACES

The Council considered taking part in the Warm Spaces initiative to provide support to the community during the cost of living crisis and provide details to IWC to promote this.

**Resolved:** To offer The East Side Curve, subject to community activities taking place, as a warm space with hot drinks available from 1<sup>st</sup> November, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

## 120/22 WATERFRONT REGENERATION

Minutes from the East Cowes Waterfront Implementation Group meeting that took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October were presented together with a report on the Levelling Up Project and the Markides East Cowes Transport Strategy. Responding to a question from Cllr Packham, Cllr Reardon stated that the plan for the Barracks is subject to the building being taken on by UKSA. The Clerk requested any comments to be submitted to the Clerk's Office by 25<sup>th</sup> October for forwarding to IWC Director of Regeneration, Chris Ashman.

## 121/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the latest Floating Bridge statistics.

## 122/22 EAST SIDE CURVE

The Council considered and approved the opening hours for The East Side Curve as Monday to Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

## 123/22 BUDGET CONSULTATION 2023

10.1 The Council considered and approved the questionnaire for the Public Consultation.

10.2 Councillors agreed a rota for attending the consultation in The East Side Curve on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

## 124/22 FINANCES

11.1 The Council approved and agreed payments as presented and ratified payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS. The Clerk advised that £63,670 of VAT will have been reclaimed covering the period April to September.

11.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for September 2022.

11.3 The quarterly budget report for July/August/September will be brought to a future meeting.

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

## 125/22 ANIMALS IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS POLICY

12.1 The Council considered adopting the draft Animal Policy. The policy states that animals are permitted in Town Council buildings but with the right to refuse entry in particular circumstances.

12.2 **Resolved:** To adopt the Animal Policy.

## 126/22 REPORTS

### 13.1 Clerks report

The Christmas lights switch on will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December. An illuminated banner will be displayed at the Skate Park. The East Side Curve will be a designated drop off point for the Isle of Wight radio toy appeal. Two options are required by IWC to be put forward for the naming of the square outside Waitrose. The suggestions put forward are Kings Square and Kings Court. The application will come back to the Town Council for a decision in due course. East Cowes Town Council and The East Side Curve has featured in the most recent edition of "Points of Light" a NALC publication highlighting notable news stories in the public sector.

### 13.2 Mayors report

No Mayor's report was submitted.

### 13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love noted that the IWC had reached a settlement over the Floating Bridge, but the details are subject to a non-disclosure agreement. The Norris Castle development company has stated that they will be writing to all East Cowes residents. The shortfall in the funding of IWC services is dire going forward. Cllr Love had spoken to the manager of Waitrose about the possibility of relocating benches following anti-social behaviour in the square.

Cllr Hendry met with residents of Saunders Way concerned about speeding vehicles. He stated that the Saunders Way Road will be open in 2022, with a view to it being adopted in 2023. Cllr Hendry has forwarded Community Speedwatch information to Superintendent Andy McDonald.

### 13.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Webster noted that the community is fundraising to provide additional play equipment at the Bumblebee Play Park. Cllr Lake stated that there have been some issues with bikes riding along the gabions at the landslip. The Clerk stated that the PCSOs for East Cowes have visited recently, and this information will be passed on to them. Cllr Packham was unable to attend the Environment and Sustainability Forum due to it clashing with tonight's meeting.

## 127/22 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)).

**Resolved:** To exclude the press and public.

The council considered staffing and contractual matters.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed:

Dated: