



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 17th November 2022 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Love, Webster, Palin

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

Also present: 4 members of the public, Vicky Spencer (Flood and Coastal Risk Management Officer – Southeast Hampshire and the IW, Environment Agency)

Public Forum

- A member of the public reported concerns about a strong sewage smell in Castle Street last week around the café area and a fountain of water out of the drain in Old Road/Hefford Road/John Nash Avenue. Vicky Spencer stated this should be reported to Southern Water and the Environment Agency.

Meeting opened at 6.05pm

128/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllr Lake and Cllr Hendry.

129/22 FLOOD PREVENTION ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Mayor welcomed Vicky Spencer (Flood and Coastal Risk Management Officer – South East Hampshire and the IW, Environment Agency) who works in the Partnership and Strategy Overview Team. Vicky explained that the plan for the temporary deployment of flood barriers has been scrapped due to health and safety issues, and these have been returned to the national stock. As a result, an additional £300,000 has been secured for Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures, which are being undertaken for residential properties around the Floating Bridge and Albany Road areas. 23 properties have so far been included. Surveys for an additional 34 properties are currently being undertaken. There is no funding from the Environment Agency for business premises. Vicky employs a multi-agency approach working with IWC, Island Roads and Southern Water. A site visit to the Esplanade in March identified flap valves were missing along the sea wall. After a delay in supply, these should be fitted this month. Other works are needed such as refurbishment of the drop boards and leakage at the slipway. Sandbags have been made available temporarily. There are 300 sandbags allocated to East

Cowes, stored at Well Road. The emergency services can be deployed to ensure they are distributed. It has been noted that one property, at the recreation ground, has about 100 sandbags. Vicky will feed this information back to the IWC Risk Management Officer. Problems with the sandbag allocation can be reported on "Fix My Street". Southern Water have made some improvements to the pumping station. Surface water is an issue and Island Roads need to clear the drains of fallen leaves. A Flood Action Group is needed in East Cowes. This is a community led initiative with Environment Agency support. It is the responsibility of IWC as it can involve closing roads, but the Environment Agency can assist.

Cllr Love highlighted problems with drains on Saunders Way that need locking down, the run-off water in Old Road from Springhill where alterations to the exit from a property has resulted in water missing the gully and a combined outlet by the floating bridge which is partly buried and has gravel in front of it.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for flood alerts and the PFR programme. Vicky provided information to be displayed on the Town Council noticeboard and in The East Side Curve.

130/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 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.

131/22 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 20th October 2022 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 20th October 2022.

132/22 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

The Clerk read out the report from Martha James from the last WRG meeting. It was noted that the Markides Draft Transport report was very similar to the LCWIP noting that place making, and parking was needed. No consideration had been given to traffic displacement or the impact of red and black days when the ferry traffic is heavy. Comments have been submitted to Markides. The Council considered the design of the proposed Under Prom / Public Exhibition Space and the Pumping Station Building. The priority is to make the space work and keep within the Levelling Up fund budget. Cllr Love commented on the design of the pumping station roof and the railings around the site. Cllr Palin stated that he favoured a viewing area. The Mayor explained that this was unachievable as it could not be made accessible. Comments will be reported to ERM.

133/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the latest Floating Bridge statistics and that further planned maintenance work is expected to take place soon.

134/22 COMMUNITY MARKET

7.1 With effect from November, the Town Council has taken over running the monthly community market in the Town Hall from Market Days CIC. Stall holders will need an hour to set up and pack away either side of the market opening times. The Christmas Market will be taking place in the Well Road car park, adjacent to Kings Square, with some stall holders requiring indoor space which will be

accommodated at The East Side Curve. It was proposed to hold the market on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10 – 2.

7.2 Resolved: To run the monthly market on the second Saturday of the month from January 2023, 10am-2pm.

135/22 BUDGET PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2023

The report from the Public Consultation was presented. The attendance was lower than previous years. However, a larger proportion had completed the online questionnaire. 4 or 5 residents had come forward who were interested in starting new community activities in The East Side Curve and these would be investigated.

136/22 FINANCES

9.1 The Council approved and agreed payments as presented and ratified payments made for October including by Direct Debit and BACS.

9.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for October 2022.

9.3 The 2nd quarter budget report was presented by the Clerk.

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

137/22 REPORTS

10.1 Clerks report

The Clerk read out correspondence from a resident about the downgrading of the East Cowes Post Office to a “local” outlet at the retail counter to be run by Betterway going forward. Councillors noted that the store will be remodelled and have put forward suggestions to the manager to address the loss of privacy concerns of residents. The Clerk will respond to the concerned resident.

The Clerk read out figures from the Footprint Trust. 16 homes and 38 people in East Cowes have been assisted amounting to £5721 worth of savings. Letters of thanks for recent grants have been received from Victim Support, IW Games Association, East Cowes Town Crafters. Councillors were also thanked for their contributions to the Remembrance Service and wreath laying at St James’ Church.

Island Roads and IWC have advised that as there are no properties addressed off what is to be known as ‘Kings Square’, there is no requirement to allocate a unique postcode and a new street application is not needed. They have assigned ‘Kings Square’ on the National Street Gazetteer, and it will appear on pages linked to the national database via GeoPlace once the data filters through. The question of signage in Kings Square is awaiting a response.

10.2 Mayors report

The Mayor’s report was noted.

10.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love noted recent problems caused by a collision on Whippingham Road and flooding. There are water security issues for the island going forward. There will be a planning application in due course for a film studio at Kingston Marina. GKN are amenable to the addition of murals marking the 200th Anniversary of the RNLI to the premises in Clarence Road. Cllr Love is investigating an aluminium construction for corner at the junction at Well Road and York Avenue. The IWC has a huge budgetary challenge managing their finances in the year ahead.

10.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Packham attended the Environmental and Sustainability Forum on 15th November. Discussions included problems with ash trees, drought, and climate change. The next meeting will take place in January.

Cllr Palin stated that the voluntary sector faces a shortfall of £28,000 and are looking to Town and Parish Councils to fund it. Cllr Palin attended the opening of the new MadAid premises in York Avenue, the pre-opening of The Folly and the Remembrance Service. Cllr Palin raised questions at the IWC meeting about the need for ongoing dialogue about the future of the Floating Bridge.

138/22 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 matters.

Meeting closed at 7.43pm

Signed:

Dated: