



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 15th December 2022 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Webster, Palin, Hendry, Lake

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

Also present: 1 member of the public

Public Forum

- There were no questions.

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

139/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

140/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

141/22 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 17th November 2022 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 17th November 2022.

142/22 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

No further information had been received. The recent plans have already been commented on.

143/22 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the latest Floating Bridge statistics. Alex Minns had stated that IWC Members were in discussions about the way forward following the settlement award.

144/22 FINANCES

7.1 The Council approved and agreed payments as presented and ratified payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS. Cllr Palin queried the effectiveness of the current arrangements for the newsletter delivery. This will be added to the agenda for discussion in January.

7.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for November 2022.

7.3 The Council noted the Internal Auditor's mid-year report. The Council is fully compliant with all the requirements.

7.4 Resolved: To approve and ratify payments including Direct Debit and BACS, to note the bank reconciliation and the mid-year internal auditors report.

145/22 CASUAL VACANCY

As no election has been called the Council can go ahead with the Co-option process to appoint a new councillor. The clerk explained the process and the proposed timetable.

Resolved: To approve the timetable and proceed with the co-option process.

146/22 VOLUNTEERS THANK-YOU EVENT & 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

9.1 The Council discussed holding an event to thank the volunteers in the community for their contribution to East Cowes and a separate event to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Town Council.

9.2 Resolved: To defer these matters to the Facilities Projects and Events Committee in January for further discussion.

147/22 DISPENSATION REQUEST

10.1 & 10.2 Cllr Webster declared an interest in this item. The Clerk stated that in line with the Council's Dispensation Policy the dispensation for community bingo and Amy White Theatre was due to be reviewed. The Council considered the dispensations. Amy White Theatre has contributed to improvements to the town hall facilities over the years with funds from the Pantomime. A meeting has been arranged with the group that put on the Panto and the Amy White Theatre committee.

10.3 **Resolved:** To agree to continue the dispensation for community bingo and the Amy White Theatre on the current basis until January 2024, and to bring an amended Dispensation Policy to the January meeting to include an annual review of dispensations each January.

148/22 REPORTS

11.1 Clerks report

The Environment Agency has awarded Excellent Bathing Water Quality status to East Cowes Esplanade. The British Legion collection at the Town Hall and the East Side Curve amounted to £71.98 this year. An email was received from Holy Cross Primary School thanking the Town Council for inviting the children to take part in the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony and offering to support future events in the town. A request was received from Nature Zones for a grant of £3000 to support 550 children's outdoor learning. They have been advised that grant applications are considered in April and September. The Ellen MacArthur Trust have provided their annual report which notes that they have been able to return to their full programme and run 36 trips this year for a total of 266 young people. Gift to Nature have provided an interim report. Information has been received from IWC regarding the Parking Places Order for the Maresfield Road Car Park. Charges will be imposed from the 3rd January 2023 with a grace period until 15th January.

11.2 Mayors report

There was no Mayor's report.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Hendry stated that he is continuing to monitor Saunders Way and double yellow lines.

11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Webster noted there have been problems recently with leaves on the road and pavements. Cllr Lake stated that she had attended the Remembrance Service at St James, the Christmas Market, and the Pantomime. Cllr Packham also attended the Pantomime and had received positive comments about the wonderful Christmas decorations in the town.

149/22 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 approved the confidential minutes of the meeting of 17th November.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed:

Dated: