



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 19th January 2023 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: 4 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public asked if there was any update on the completion of Saunders Way. Cllr Hendry stated that although it is almost physically complete there are legal issues to be resolved. He is continuing to follow this up.

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

2.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor, 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 Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

03/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 15th December 2022 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 15th December 2022.

04/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

The Council noted the minutes of a meeting held on 20th December 2022. The Planning Application for the Barracks has already been submitted and the application for the Public Realm area is expected to be submitted next week. Ross Edmunds, the newly appointed Regeneration Team Officer, IW Council, will be in touch with the Clerk in due course. Councillors commented that in future they want the slipway on the WRG agenda.

Resolved: To request that Chris Ashman include the Slipway on future WRG agendas

05/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the latest Floating Bridge statistics. Planned maintenance including the annual MCA inspection will be taking place between 20th- 31st March. Cllr Lake stated that there is no evidence of the shelter for school children near the Floating Bridge. The Clerk will chase up Cllr Debbie Andre about the shelter for children in adverse weather and the provision of a school bus service when the floating bridge was not in service.

06/23 DISPENSATION REQUEST

6.1 The Council considered a request From Mr Douse for the dispensation of hall hire and key holder charges for a meeting on Monday 24th April where Keith Herbert of Southern Water will be giving a presentation on plans to remedy combined sewer outflow issues.

6.2 Resolved: To grant a dispensation of hall hire and key holder charges for the meeting on 24th April.

07/23 BUDGET

7.1 The Council considered the draft budget for 2023-2024 which would result in a 5.2% increase which amounts to 13p per week for a Band D property. The Council considered the merits of removing the amounts budgeted for providing a soak away at the paddling pool and setting aside a fund towards improvements at the Skate Park to enable no increase in the precept. The cost of refurbishment of the Esplanade toilets was considered to be prudent as this is a well-used facility in much need of improvement and deferring the work to the following year would most likely result in higher costs. An amendment put forward for a zero increase was defeated and the draft budget was agreed.

7.2 Resolved: To approve the draft budget of £513,176 minus income and receipts of £139,700 and set a precept of £373,476.

08/23 FINANCES

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

8.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for December 2022. Cllr Hendry requested that putting money on deposit in a higher rate account should be investigated.

8.3 The Council noted the 3rd Quarter budget report.

8.4 Resolved: To approve and ratify payments including Direct Debit and BACS, to note the bank reconciliation and the 3rd Quarter budget. To investigate the potential of a higher interest bank account.

09/23 VOLUNTEERS THANK-YOU EVENT

9.1 The Council discussed holding an event to thank the volunteers in the community for their contribution to East Cowes. An open house event with displays and volunteer information, background music and tea and cake was put forward to be held on 12th or 26th March.

9.2 Resolved: To hold a volunteers open house event.

10/23 REPORTS

11.1 Clerks report

The Clerk referred to the Quarterly Impact Statement received from the Footprint Trust. 34 households and 77 people have been assisted in East Cowes resulting in savings of £12,887. The Footprint Trust will be holding regular sessions in The East Side curve shortly.

11.2 Mayors report

The Mayor's report was noted.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love stated that IWC will be voting on their budget at a meeting on 22nd February. Some reports of scam door to door sales have been reported in the town. Following reports of bikes and skateboards in the paddling pool extra signage will be displayed. Cllr Love had been advised that some local residents had refused fitting of flood resilience measures. The Clerk advised that a meeting is taking place next week with the Environment Agency and IWC's Resilience Co-ordinator regarding setting up a local Flood Action Group. Cllr Love has reported blocked drain issues

to Island Roads. Cllr Love requested that a letter of thanks be sent to local resident Brenda Brooke Webb who has been very proactive recently in keeping local streets clean and tidy.

11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Lake noted the deteriorating condition of the road at the Esplanade. A working party is needed to clear drains in the landslip area.

11/23 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 co-option and staffing matters.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

Signed:

Dated: