



## 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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6pm**

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### Present

**Chair:** Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

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

**Also present:** Andy McDonald (District Inspector North-East Wight), 3 members of the public

### Public Forum

- There were no public questions.

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

### 12/23 ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR

Cllr Priddle read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed by the Mayor.

### 13/23 POLICE UPDATE

District Inspector Andy McDonald provided an update on the arson attacks on vehicles in East Cowes that started at the end of 2022. Wheel arches are being packed with accelerant causing substantial damage and risking injury to members of the public. Evidence is being gathered with extensive patrols, house to house enquiries, CCTV and doorstep footage. A trigger plan is in place including the use of police dogs. Residents are urged to be vigilant and call 999 to report if they see anything suspicious due to the significant threat to the community. Comments on social media alone are not sufficient. The public are also encouraged to attend the East Cowes PCSOs monthly Beat Surgeries on the third Thursday of the month 10-11am at The East Side Curve. A bid for funding has been submitted for the Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force Diversion Project to run in East Cowes for young people during the summer.

### 14/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lake who was unable to attend for family reasons.

### 15/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

4.1 Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Councillors, 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 Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor. Cllr Priddle declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the East Cowes Business Association.

4.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

### 16/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### 17/23 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Council considered the draft Safeguarding Policy. Cllr Palin asked for the Hants Direct 24-hour helpline number to be added.

**Resolved:** To adopt the Safeguarding Policy.

#### 18/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

The Clerk read out the executive summary from the last meeting covering progress on the Columbine Building, Public Realm and Albany Barracks . As IW Councillor Cllr Love has raised concerns at the delay to the traffic plan which is not yet ready for public consultation and regarding the safety aspects of the recent drilling for soil samples at Maresfield car park.

#### 19/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the latest Floating Bridge statistics. Cllr Palin stated that he will be requesting sight of mediation papers at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

#### 20/23 FINANCES

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

9.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for January 2023.

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

9.4 The Council considered the additional costs of £697.00 for transportation of equipment, installation and line marking for the youth football pitch at Victoria Recreation Ground. Cllr Hendry raised the question of charging for hire of the pitch in the future.

**Resolved:** To agree to the additional cost of £697.00 for the youth football pitch.

#### 21/23 RACECOURSE PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS

The Council considered the proposed traffic alteration and safety signage required for the development of the new football ground at the Racecourse, Newport. It was noted that turning right on the Racecourse when exiting the site could be problematic.

**Resolved:** To support the proposed traffic orders.

#### 22/23 DRAFT PLANNING ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

The Council considered the IWC Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy that will form the basis of the LPA future approach to planning enforcement.

**Resolved:** To support the Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy.

#### 23/23 THEATRE COMMITTEE

12.1 The Council considered Cllr Priddle being delegated to the Theatre Committee, Facilities, Projects and Events Committee and Planning Committee pending formal appointment at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May.

12.2 **Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Priddle to the Theatre Committee, Facilities Projects and Events Committee and the Planning Committee.

#### 24/23 REPORTS

##### 13.1 Clerks report

The Clerk reported that a thank you card had been received from King Charles III for the Book of Condolence for Queen Elizabeth II. Thanks were also received from East Cowes Scouts who attended a test screening of a matinee film supported by volunteers and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The goal posts are due to be delivered. The orchard sign is expected to be ready on Friday with the installation location to be agreed by Councillors. A pilot children's craft activity was run by volunteers recently and was very popular. Representatives of the Theatre Committee met with the Supporters of Amy White Theatre and the Panto group recently. Storage space in the

basement has been cleared for their use, the stage dock doors opened and an initial review of areas needing improvement has been undertaken. The Supporters Group would like the Amy White Theatre name to be retained in recognition of Amy White who funded building the theatre. The outcome of the latest C4C grant application is still awaited.

Five councillors signed a notice to rescind resolutions passed by Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Minute no. 09/23 and Facilities Projects and Event Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January Minute no. FO07 to enable the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council and Coronation events to be combined over the early May Bank Holiday weekend.

#### 13.2 Mayors report

There was no Mayor's report.

#### 13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

CLlr Love noted that a new planning application has been submitted by the Sisters of Christ. CLlr Love has requested an order be made by IWC to clean up the old doctors surgery premises. There have been concerns from holiday park residents that they are unable to access government help with utilities as they purchase their gas and electric directly from the landlord.

#### 13.4 Town Councillors reports

CLlr Packham attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum. 2849 trees had been given away under a recent scheme. There was also a report on the Dark Skies Project where it was noted that LED lights cause less light pollution than orange lights. CLlr Palin mentioned whether the possibility of screening the Eurovision Song contest in the Town Hall could be considered.

### 25/23 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 legal matters.

Meeting closed at 7.48pm

Signed:

Dated: