



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

---

### Present

**Chair:** Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

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

**Also present:** Andy McDonald (District Inspector for North-East Wight), 6 members of the public

### Public Forum

- A member of the public noted recent hurtful criticism on social media of the Town Council and expressed thanks for all the time and effort they put in as Town Councillors trying to take the town forward.
- Andy McDonald gave a policing update. There has been 1 further arson attack on a vehicle and the investigation continues. A public drop in session was held recently in conjunction with the Fire Service and mobile camera support has been requested from the IWC Community Safety Team. Cllr Hendry offered his assistance in supporting this request. Crime statistics for East Cowes show the most incidents reported are domestic violence, anti-social behaviour is down 26% and there have been 2 burglaries since February 2022. The perception of crime seems to be higher than the reality. Information had been shared with the Town Council following damage to a wall on Town Council property on the Esplanade.

Meeting opened at 6.20pm

### 26/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### 27/23 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. Cllr Priddle declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the East Cowes Business Association.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

### 28/23 PLANNING APPLICATION 22/01051/OUT

The Council considered the planning application for outline planning permission for 25 new dwellings (including 35% affordable housing), new structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, surface water flood mitigation and attenuation, primary vehicular access off Millfield Avenue and associated ancillary works on land adjacent Holy Cross Catholic Primary School and North of Millfield Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight. Cllr Hendry abstained.

**Resolved:** To object to this application on the grounds that it would generate a significant increase in traffic onto the road through the junction of Old Rd and Millfield Avenue. The development would adversely affect highway safety

and put pedestrians, pupils going to and from the local school, and other road users at increased risk. The Town Council consider that this application should be refused because it is contrary to planning policies SP7 (Travel) DM2 (Design Quality for New Development), DM13 (Green Infrastructure) and DM17 (Sustainable Travel) of the Island Plan Core Strategy. It is also considered contrary to the aims of policies SP7 (Travel), applications should give priority to pedestrians and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with the neighbouring areas. The Council fully support the comments made by Island Roads.

#### 29/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

#### 30/23 RECISSION OF RESOLUTION & NOTICE OF MOTION

The Council considered the notice of motion to Rescind a Resolution signed by Cllrs Reardon, Priddle, Hendry, Webster and Packham.

**Resolved:** To resolve to adopt the notice that the resolutions passed by Full Council on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023, Minute No. 09/23 and by the F, P&E Committee on January 12<sup>th</sup>, Minute No. FO07 be rescinded: "To hold a volunteers open house event on 12 or 26 March" and "To hold a drinks reception with music in the Town Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council" and to adopt the motion that: "The Council hold a combination of events to celebrate the Coronation, Volunteers Thankyou and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council" on the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023".

#### 31/23 CORONATION WEKEND EVENTS

6.1 The Mayor shared a basic plan for the area of land on the corner of Well Road and York Avenue. Offers of voluntary help for clearing the area have been received. It is necessary to contact Island Roads to seek approval for the plan. The Council considered a range of events to celebrate the Coronation, the work of volunteers in East Cowes and to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council.

**6.2 Resolved:** To seek quotations for the Coronation Garden scheme subject to the approval of Island Roads. To host a live screening of the Coronation in the Town Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, to run a whole day event including The Big Picnic, stalls and entertainment and to screen the concert from Windsor on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Jubilee Recreation Ground and to host a Big Help Out event at the Town Hall to include music and refreshments.

#### 32/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

No updates had been received from Chris Ashman at IWC.

#### 33/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

The monthly statistics were noted. The Floating Bridge is undergoing it's annual MCA inspection during March. Concerns were noted about the accessibility and inadequacy of the launch provided when the Floating Bridge is out of service. There has been no response from Isle of Wight Councillor Cllr Andre to the request to provide shelter and a bus for bad weather when the launch is in use.

#### 34/23 FINANCES

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

9.2 The bank reconciliation will be available for the next meeting.

9.3 **Resolved:** To approve and ratify payments including Direct Debit and BACS.

#### 35/23 CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE

The Clerk read out the 7 commitments of the Civility and Respect Pledge. Councils can apply for Foundation, Quality or Gold Awards. Most of these criteria are already met. The Council needs to put in place a formal training programme for councillors and staff.

**Resolved:** To sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge and to aim for the Gold Award.

## 36/23 REPORTS

### 11.1 Clerks report

The Clerk read out information provided by the East Cowes Town Crafters who provided amazing displays in the Town for autumn, Remembrance and Christmas. Plans are currently underway to provide a display to celebrate the Coronation in May. They also held a group coffee morning in The East Side Curve in November to spread awareness of their work. The Mayor thanked the Town Crafters for all the time and continued commitment to arranging displays in the town. A letter of thanks was received from Alistair Sims at the IWC Strategy & Partnership Team advising that the Town Council contribution to the VCSE Project would not be taken up as they had not reached the total funding figure required to run the project.

### 11.2 Mayors report

There was no Mayor's report.

### 11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

There were no Ward Councillor reports.

### 11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Palin advised that the Skate Park Consultation would be going ahead at Easter with designs and images to follow. The Clerk stated that they could share the results at The Big Picnic on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Packham attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum which had received a presentation about a scheme in Scarborough aiming to be carbon neutral by 2040 by using electric vehicles, car clubs, e-bikes and e-scooters. It was noted that there is good uptake of these modes of travel on the Isle of Wight.

## 37/23 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 grant and staffing matters.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Dated: