



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes
Thursday 15th June 2023 at 6pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Lake, Love and Priddle

Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: **Zoe Thompson and John Cattle, 2** members of the public

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

Public Forum

There were no questions from the public.

68/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Hendry who had a prior engagement, Cllr Palin who is on paternity leave and Cllr Webster who was indisposed.

69/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

All Councillors declared a potential interest in Item 5.1

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

70/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of Annual Meeting and Full Council held on 18th May 2023 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 18th May 2023.

71/23 SKATEPARK CONSULTATION

John Cattle and Zoe Thompson gave a report on the past 18 months of consultation with users culminating at the Coronation Big Lunch event. There was a broad input on what users would like to see and generally feedback had been very positive with a great deal of public support for this project. Neighbourhood Policing officers reported that although there wasn't much trouble at the skatepark, they were supportive of a more usable space for the future. ZT stated that there would always be a broad range of ideas depending on the category of user – skateboarder, bikes etc. with all wanting their own interest area catered for.

She said that there was in general a young age group using the skatepark but that was mainly because the park was not very good for the more experienced user. The aim should be to identify a facility that would appeal to a range of ages and abilities. Concrete was the universally favoured material. They felt that the project could be moved forward quite quickly because East Cowes doesn't have the same barriers (leases, site location, lack of infrastructure) that other areas are facing.

They looked at what could be achieved to attract all users, keep the cost down and be achievable. The site lends itself to a plaza type park which has less ramps and includes stairs, ledges, blocks and replicates what would be found on street and would cater for Junior, Intermediate and Advanced level users.

A set of conceptual designs were presented which outlined how the park could be used to develop skills from beginners to advanced and could be used for competitions. ZT & JC are happy to speak to "local" concrete companies to gauge interest in the project and were confident that they would get a good response, but they felt that they might still have to engage with a skatepark building company to oversee the design and build elements. They would try to get a ballpark figure for the materials. Enquiries would need to be made to the planning authority. Action points - It was agreed that ZT/JC would make their enquiries and report back to a future meeting, and the clerk would investigate the planning aspect.

72/23 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

The Council considered granting dispensation for hall hire and key holder charges for the following:

5.1 Community Spirited Café – Community Awards Evening, 18th November. Cllr Priddle stated that he believed all councillors were to be nominated for an award and that councillors who owned businesses were also nominated. The Clerk advised that being the case after declarations of interest were made there would not be a sufficient number of councillors to make a decision. It was agreed that further information be sought and the item deferred.

5.2 Holly Irwin - Children's Arts & Craft Club on alternate Mondays from 4 – 6.30 pm for remainder of the year, children aged 8 - 12 years. Councillors were aware that Holly had run a number of trial sessions which had been very successful and were very supportive of this project continuing. It was agreed that dispensation could be granted till December and reviewed in January should this be necessary.

Resolved: The clerk to investigate the Community Spirited request and defer item to a future meeting. Dispensation agreed for the Craft Club till December.

73/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

The Council received an update from Claire Elderfield on the Waterfront/LUF Regeneration Plans. There were no questions.

Resolved: To note the report.

74/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council noted the statistics from the IW Council. Cllr Love stated that he has raised enquiries about the replacement timetable for a new vessel at Scrutiny and would be following this up

The Clerk reported on a reply from Ashley Jefferies, Head of Access & Resources, I.W Council which stated that when the floating bridge is not in operation, and when the Jenny Lee cannot be deployed, an arrangement has been agreed with Southern Vectis allowing pupils to use public bus services to and from school. This includes pupils attending Cowes Enterprise College and Lanes End Primary School. Southern Vectis have been made aware. Pupils being in school uniform will be sufficient evidence to use the bus service. Southern Vectis bus provision is accessible for children with disabilities or impaired mobility. Where an eligible child has special education needs or disability (SEND), alternative transport provision will be in place.

Resolved: To note the response

75/23 FINANCES

8.1 The Council considered the payments as presented and ratify payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS

8.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for March (revised) and April

Resolved: To approve and ratify the payments including by Direct Debit and BACS. To note the bank reconciliation for March and April 2023

76/23 AGAR INTERNAL AUDIT 22/23

9.1 The Internal Audit Report was read by the Clerk and noted by Council. It was proposed and seconded to accept the internal Audit report.

Resolved: To accept the Internal Audit Report

77/23 AGAR ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 22/23 (SECTION 1)

10.1 The Council considered the findings of the review of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

10.2 The Clerk read the wording of the assertions in the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) which were duly considered and agreed by Council. It was proposed and seconded to approve the Annual Governance Statement (section 1)

Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

78/23 AGAR ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 22/23 (SECTION 2)

11.1 The Council considered the Accounting Statement 22/23 (Section 2). It was proposed and seconded to approve the Accounting Statement (Section 2)

Resolved: To approve the Accounting Statement 22/23 (Section 2)

79/23 AGAR EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS 22/23

12.1 The Council considered the commencement date for the Exercise of Public Rights. It was proposed and seconded to set the date for the Exercise of Public Rights as the 3rd July.

Resolved: To set the commencement date of 3rd July 2023 for the Exercise of Public Rights

80/23 AGAR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

13.1 The Council confirmed that there is no conflict of interest with BDO LLP External Auditors. It was proposed and seconded to confirm that there was no conflicts of interest.

Resolved: To confirm that there is no conflict of interest with BDO LLP External Auditors

81/23 THEATRE COMMITTEE

14.1 The Council agreed that the Theatre Committee shall have delegated powers, regarding theatre productions funded from within available funds, and that decisions on funding not available from the theatre budget will be considered and resolved at Full Council. It was proposed and seconded to delegate powers to the Theatre Committee.

14.2 The Council agreed to adopt the Child Protection Policy for Theatre productions. It was proposed and seconded to adopt the policy.

Resolved: That the Theatre Committee have delegated powers as stated at 14.1, and that the Child Protection Policy be adopted for theatre productions

82/23 EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN THE EAST SIDE CURVE

15.1 The Council considered the purchase of bean bags, child's table and chairs and rug at a cost of £256.76, for children's activities in the East Side Curve. It was proposed and seconded to go ahead with the purchase.

Resolved: To purchase the items stated in 15.1

83/23 ESPLANADE TOILETS

16.1 The Council considered the following options for the Esplanade toilets:

16.1.1 To refurbish the existing toilets using the budget set aside for this purpose

16.1.2 To consider a major reconstruction project for 2024, and to ringfence the existing budget towards the overall cost

16.1.3 If option 16.1.2 is approved, to consider allocating £6000 from the existing budget to undertake essential maintenance and repairs in the current year

Cllr Love stated that he favoured the existing design and would rather refurbish the existing building. The Clerk pointed out that the building was of a single block construction and would continue to suffer with mould and dampness even if it were refurbished. Cllr Priddle said that refurbishment may end up costing more than starting afresh. Cllr Reardon stated that the council needed to be careful that they were not seen to be wasting public funds on a refurbishment that could end up being a false economy. Cllr Lake requested that a proper survey of the building be undertaken, and costs drafted for options 16.1 and 16.2. Cllr Lake stated that the arched wall should be kept or integrated into a new build. It was proposed and seconded to commission a survey and cost both options. It was also proposed and seconded that £6000 be taken from the budget set aside for refurbishment to undertake immediate repairs and maintenance. It was proposed and seconded to commission a survey and costings.

Resolved: To commission a survey and detailed costings for options 16.1 and 16.2. To release £6000 from the toilets budget for immediate repairs and maintenance

84/23 REPORTS

17.1 There was no report from the Clerk

17.2 The Mayor reported that her first engagement since being re-elected as Mayor was an invitation to welcome the visitors from the Coburg twinning society at Osborne house, it was lovely to meet them all and see their enthusiasm for our island. Councillor Priddle accompanied me while the deputy Mayor was on paternity leave and enjoyed chatting with Osborne's new curator about a shared interest in historical architecture.

17.3 Cllr Love asked if an item could be included in the newsletter about the adverse effect and cost to the Town of fly tipping. He has had no response to date from Southern Water about the Esplanade entrance and the Spring Hill pumping station. He has concerns about the poverty created by Covid and the rising cost of living and noted that the local community pantry now has 300 on its books. He has had good reports regarding the esplanade and its facilities but feels that better signage is required in respect of dogs on beaches and the car park. Norris Castle developers have been served with a notice to undertake essential repairs. No news on Saunders Way. He asked if Hawthorn Meadows has been adopted yet and if so, could some dog bins be installed. Could the PCSO be questioned about the recent van burning adjacent to the Cockerell Rise building and to ascertain whether it was linked to the recent spate of van burnings or a separate incident and was any damage sustained to the building.

17.4 There were no Town Councillors reports

85/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved 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)).

Confidential Minutes 18th May 2023

Contractual matters

Resolved: To exclude the press and public for the confidential item

The Council considered contractual matters.

Meeting closed at 8.04pm

Signed:

Dated: