



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 20th July 2023 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

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

Also present: 5 members of the public

Public Forum

- There were no questions.

Meeting opened at 6.00pm

86/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

87/23 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. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor and as a member of the East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

88/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 15th June 2023 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 15th June 2023.

89/23 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY SPD CONSULTATION

Cllrs considered a collective response to the Housing Affordability SPD Consultation. A letter was drafted on behalf of the Town Council by Planning Consultant Martha James. Cllrs did not have any additional comments. Copies were made available to the members of the public present.

Resolved: To forward the response prepared by Martha James to the Isle of Wight Council by the deadline of Friday 28th July.

90/23 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION

The Clerk drew the councillors' attention to the Consultation Protocol between IWC and Town and Parish Councils which states that consultation on planning applications will be effective, meaningful, and timely. Councillors felt that

comments from Town and Parish Councils are not given the weight they should be given. They should form part of the evaluation as to whether the decision can be delegated to case officers. IWC members can request consideration by the IWC Planning Committee. Cllr Love stated that if the Town Council objects the Ward Councillor should be alerted but this has never happened. Cllr Palin stated that due process must be followed. Cllr Webster stated the local knowledge Town Councillors have is key. Cllr Priddle stated that the criteria for objecting to licensing applications is too subjective. The Clerk advised that areas with a neighbourhood plan in place have more influence on planning as once a plan is adopted by the LPA it becomes a material consideration and forms part of the Island Plan.

Resolved: The Clerk will respond by 4th August to the consultation referring to the relevant aspects of the Protocol and reminding IWC that they should be following the process laid down. Copies of the response will be sent to IW Cllrs Paul Fuller Cabinet Member for Planning, Julie Jones- Evans Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the IWC Chief Executive.

91/23 FLOWER BOAT

Cllr Love has been donated a boat that could be positioned on Town Council land and planted up. Several locations were considered. Quotations had been received for siting the boat in the flower bed adjacent to the community noticeboard outside the Town Hall. Councillors discussed locating on ground at the Esplanade.

Resolved: Cllr Love will arrange for the boat to be painted and transported to the Esplanade and secured at the entrance to the Southern Water pumping station access road. Revised costing for installing the boat in this location will be sought.

92/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

The Council considered the latest Levelling up highlight report. Concerns were noted that the Barracks project tenders for phase 1 are over budget. There is a possibility of further levelling up money being available from the government due to increased costs. Cllr Love stated that certain principles were agreed by IWC and should be delivered.

Resolved: Cllr Reardon will feedback comments to the next Venture Quays meeting.

93/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

Operating statistics to the end of June were presented. Cllr Palin had been advised by IW Cllr Phil Jordan that the current issues with the floating bridge being out of service were because of a computer software fault. The MCA will not allow the vessel to go back into service until these have been resolved. The bridge is unlikely to be back in service this week. Cllr Love stated he was optimistic about the future as the settlement of around £4 million has been ring fenced and will be used towards a replacement vessel. An independent company is currently reviewing whether the existing vessel is fit for purpose. Even when a procurement process goes ahead it is likely to take 2-4 years to commission a replacement. It was noted that as the town has one road in and out the floating bridge is a vital link especially in emergencies.

94/23 FINANCES

9.1 The Council considered payments as presented and ratified payments made by BACS and direct debit. The list was signed and dated.

9.2 The bank reconciliations for May and June were noted. They were signed and dated.

9.3 The Clerk presented the quarterly budget report. The Clerk confirmed the outstanding monies have been received from Market Days. It was noted the community cinema income was lower than expected. This is due to a slight delay in paying the funds in as the Post Office is no longer available for this service and the NatWest bank is less convenient. Overall, there is a slight underspend to the end of the quarter.

9.4 **Resolved:** To approve and ratify payments including Direct Debit and BACS and to note the bank reconciliations for May and June and the quarterly budget report.

95/23 THEATRE COMMITTEE

The Council considered items deferred from the Theatre Committee Meeting.

10.1 The letter and logo design for above the stage was considered. The logo will sit in the square corners either side and lettering under the Town Council crest. Cllr Priddle offered to work in conjunction with Tressa Lambert of the Amy White Theatre to circulate a further design and prices to councillors.

10.2 The Council considered an honorarium of £100 each to the two professional lighting and sound engineers who give many hours of their time to the panto each year.

10.3 The Council considered the purchase of new radio mics for use by the Amy White Theatre,

Resolved: To award an honorarium of £100 each to the two sound and lighting engineers in recognition of their dedication to the pantomime. To continue discussions regarding the logo and microphone systems and report back to a future meeting.

96/23 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

11.1 Community Spirited applied for dispensation of hall hire charges for a Community Awards Evening taking place in the Town Hall on Saturday 18th November from 4-10pm. Cllr Hendry declared an interest as governors at Holy Cross and Queensgate Primary Schools. Cllrs were unaware as to whether they had been nominated as local business owners.

11.2 **Resolved:** To grant dispensation of hall hire and keyholder charges to Community Spirited for the event on 18th November.

97/23 PARKSIDE PAVILION YOUTH CLUB

12.1 The Council considered the response to their questions to the Youth Club and received financial information, a report on the current provision, including attendance figures, feedback from service users and a letter of support from a former youth club member. Cllrs recognised the valuable service provided and would like to see the service develop further in the future. It was noted that it would be useful to have information about the Youth Club available in The East Side Curve.

12.2 **Resolved:** To invite Youth Worker Laura Reid to an informal meeting to discuss her future vision for youth provision in the town and how the council might help support that.

98/23 AMENITY LAND HIRE TERMS & CONDITIONS

13.1 The Council considered the draft terms and charges for Amenity Land Hire. Local intelligence has identified commercial use of the Town Council's land. IWC would charge for this use. Cllr Webster stated that these are open spaces and should be available for use by the community. Cllr Love stated the charges applied should be competitive.

13.2 **Resolved:** To adopt the terms and conditions and to remove the small events for up to 50 people from the list of charges pending further consideration.

99/23 REPORTS

14.1 Clerks report

The Clerk read out some complimentary feedback from a couple who regularly attend the community cinema thanking the Council and the volunteers who have enabled this to take place. The Clerk advised that the purchase of Beach Hut no.1 is complete, the licence is currently with the IW Council for cosignatory.

14.2 Mayors report

There was no Mayor's report.

14.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love stated that the recent works to Adelaide Grove had been cancelled due to the breakdown of the sub-contractor's machinery. He has contacted IWC following the placement of fencing in the wrong location near the slipway. Cllr Love is monitoring progress on the land for the Film Studio, a planning application is awaited. There are ongoing discussions with the owner of Downs House. Cllr Priddle stated that the property is currently being marketed by mainland agents. IWC has approved a clean-up and will issue an order soon if no action is taken. Cllr Love is still awaiting replies to his queries with Southern Water and the Classic Boat Museum. Cllr Love asked members of the public to report any incidents along the seafront that may have been captured on CCTV as fines have been issued for dogs off lead and fouling recently. Additional bins are needed in Hawthorn Meadows.

Cllr Hendry stated the Saunders Way Road adoption is still going through the legal process. He has been following up on speeding incidents.

14.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Palin attended the Maritime and STEM event at Cowes Enterprise College and joined the library volunteers in hosting a representative from the Ukrainian Library Foundation, on a visit to The East Side Curve, as well as attending the dedication of the new organ at the Methodist Church.

Cllr Packham attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum which discussed the topic of non-native invasive species of which there are 2000 including 75 plants.

Cllr Webster stated that some members of the public who attended the Red Funnel consultation had been disappointed with some contradictory information they received about the new terminal.

100/23 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 contactual matters.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Dated: