



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 October 2023 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

Councillors: Packham, Palin, Webster, Love, Lake

Also present: 3 members of the public

Public Forum

No Questions

Meeting opened at 6:01pm

113/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillor Hendry who was attending a Governors Meeting at Holy Cross RC Primary School and Cllr Lake who had work commitments. Apologies were also received from the Assistant Clerk who was unable to attend due to contracting the covid virus.

114/23 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 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.

115/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 21st September 2023 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 21st September 2023.

116/23 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

4.1 Cllr Priddle's vacancy has been noted.

4.2 BP proposed himself and seconded by MW, all in favour.

4.3 Deferral, MW proposed, TR seconded all in favour.

4.4 Resolved: BP to join theatre committee and to defer the decision of electing a member to CHC until new member co-opted.

117/23 WATERFRONT/LUF REGENERATION

5.1 TR, KL, SL attended zoom meeting on Wednesday, good news and bad news. KL felt it was a good meeting, but no resolutions were made. TR worries about under the prom building, structural engineers saying that it may not be safe to have people under the prom so need to look at options to reinforce. KL concerned about hold ups on Albany Green as it is quite a tight timescale. TR will be following up as we need to ensure the public realm section is

delivered as promised. MW worried the IW Council may run out of money if the project prolongs. TR and KL believes IW Council may get top up funding from government. KL said that the first round of expression of interest from Maresfield carpark were unsuccessful and IW council accepted there was risk due to Toxic contamination of land, KL has asked IW Council re-tender the contract.

118/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

KL review is underway, confident in those conducting the review and that this will be brought back to IW Council once completed as it is an Investigation into cost effectiveness, continued costs and how much it will cost to replace it.

KL proposed to Write to the IW Council to ask at their earliest convenience to share the report with the ECTC before going to the public domain. TR seconded this and all member in support.

MW requested we follow up on the bus passes for children travelling to and from school as agreed by the previous cabinet member with new cabinet member, Jonathan Bacon.

Resolved: Write to the IW Council to request a copy of the engineer's report prior to it reaching the public domain. Follow up on the bus passes for children previously committed to by Cllr Andre with the new Cabinet member Cllr Bacon.

119/23 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Report was noted and results discussed.

Cllr Lake arrived at 6:32pm.

120/23 FINANCES

8.1 The Council considered payments as presented and ratified payments made by BACS and direct debit. The list was signed and dated. BP/KL, all in favour

8.2 The bank reconciliation for September was noted. They were signed and dated. MW/BP, all in favour.

8.3 The quarterly budget report was noted.

8.4 The External Audit Report and Certificate 2022/2023 was received.

8.5 Resolved: To approve and ratify payments including Direct Debit and BACS, to note the bank reconciliation for September, to note the quarterly budget report and receive the External Audit Certificate.

121/23 POLICY REVIEW

9.1 The Council considered the following policies and procedures:

- Dignity at Work Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Grievance Procedure
- Lone Working Policy
- Member, Officer protocol
- Training & Development Policy
- Volunteer Policy

9.2 Resolved: To agree the policies are presented.

122/23 GRANT BUDGET

10.1 Note that the grant budget has been exhausted. TR proposed we contact Vics football club and ask them to come forward in the April round of grants, Seconded CP, all in favour.

10.2 Resolved: To contact Vics Football club asking them to apply in April.

123/23 CHILDRENS XMAS COMPETITION

11.1 TR we don't send out many Xmas cards, we should do a poster to advertise the Xmas tree light up. TR proposed a poster for Christmas tree light up. BP seconded, all in favour.

11.2 Resolved: To run a Christmas poster competition for the Xmas Tree Light up.

124/23

CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL DRAFT MOTION

12.1 CP mentioned that the IW Council has supported this Draft Bill as well as over 100 other councils, organisations, MPs, Peers and Devolved Governments.

12.2 Resolved: To support Zero Hour

125/23

REPORTS

13.1 Clerks report

It was noted that the Polling District Review information has been received from IWC if anyone wants to comment. There are no changes for East Cowes.

13.2 Mayors report

TR had a tour of the lifeboat station at Cowes by Mark Southwell which was very interesting and informative. I attended the RF consultation whilst manning our own budget consultation and took note of many of the public comments. TR attended the Harvest festival service at St James church which was lovely, and many food items were donated for their chosen charity. Yesterday TR and other councillors had a site visit at the Albany Barracks, it's great to see the work being done to preserve this historic building and bring it back into use.

Noted email with report on

13.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

KL - Small update on the Coastal path as they are trying to move towards completion. Barton manor, Norris castle and Osborne house have been the holdup but it is looking like they will get it down to the esplanade. Met with IWC about flood plans for East Cowes, exploring potential for updating update West Wight coastal plan. The IWC would look at repairing and maintaining the esplanade wall if a catastrophic event were to happen. Still concerned about highways as there has been no process made. Will be meeting with highways team at IWC about red funnels plans. There has been an IWC cabinet reshuffle. Enjoyed the opening of the 1840 event up at Osborne Stables. Spoken with the propeller people in Southsea, keeping in contact and trying to find missing parts.

13.4 Town Councillors reports

MW - Can we approach IWC about having the Red Funnel planning meeting in the Town Hall?

SL - Still being asked about new gabion baskets, attended waterfront meeting and visit, market on Saturday as well as attending the public consultation and red funnel exhibition.

126/23

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 7.47pm

Signed:

Dated: