



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
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Minutes of the **Annual Meeting of East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes on Thursday 20th May 2021

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Outgoing Mayor)

Councillors: Cllrs Love, Paler, Packham, Hendry, Webster, Palin, Lake, Reardon

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

Also present: 13 members of the public

Meeting opened at 6.00 p.m.

48/21 ELECTION OF MAYOR

1.1 Cllr Rann welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk advised that one nomination had been received for Mayor.

1.2 Cllr Paler was nominated and seconded. A vote was taken by show of hands. Cllr Paler was duly elected Mayor for one year. Cllr Webster requested that her vote against be recorded in the minutes.

1.3 Cllr Paler completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and it was sealed by the Clerk. Cllr Paler took the chair. A vote of thanks was given to Cllrs Rann, Lloyd and Walker for their dedicated and long service to the Council by the Mayor. A bouquet was presented to the outgoing Mayor Cllr Rann.

49/21 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

2.1 The Clerk advised that one nomination had been received for Deputy Mayor.

2.2 Cllr Love was nominated and seconded. A vote was taken by show of hands. Cllr Love was duly elected as Deputy Mayor for one year.

2.3 Cllr Love completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and it was sealed by the Clerk.

50/21 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

All councillors completed signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and they were sealed by the Clerk.

51/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

52/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

5.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IW Councillor, membership of East Cowes Business Association (ECBA) and East Cowes

Community Partnership (ECCP). Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of ECBA, ECCP and East Cowes Liberal Club. Cllr Lake declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of ECCP and Chair of the Esplanade and Landslip Community Project. Cllr Paler declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of IW Society, Royal Agricultural Society and ECCP.

5.2 No requests for dispensations were received.

53/21 REGISTERS OF INTEREST

Councillors were advised that Registers of Interest must be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days.

54/21 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

7.1 Facilities, Projects and Events Committee

All councillors were appointed to serve on this committee.

7.2 HR Committee (5 members)

Cllrs Webster, Lake, Paler, Packham and Reardon were appointed.

7.3 Grievance Sub-Committee (3 members)

Cllrs Hendry, Love and Palin were appointed.

7.4 Planning Committee (6 members)

Cllrs Webster, Palin, Lake, Reardon, Paler and Packham were appointed.

55/21 TO APPOINT MEMEBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

8.1 Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC)

Cllr Palin was appointed as representative, Cllr Paler was appointed deputy.

8.2 Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee

Cllr Reardon was appointed as representative, Cllr Love was appointed deputy.

8.3 Floating Bridge User Group

Cllr Palin was appointed representative, Cllr Reardon was appointed deputy.

8.4 IW Council Environment & Sustainability Forum

Cllr Lake was appointed representative, Cllr Packham was appointed deputy.

8.5 Local Access Forum (LAF)

Cllr Lake was appointed as representative, Cllr Webster was appointed deputy.

8.6 East Cowes Community Partnership (ECCP)

Cllr Love was appointed as representative.

8.7 Amey Amenities committee no longer exists.

8.8 Island Roads group no longer exists

8.9 Cowes Town Council

Cllr Palin was appointed as representative.

In addition, Cllr Reardon was appointed to the newly formed IWC Waterfront Refresh Steering Group along with Planning Consultant Martha James.

56/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Resolved: That the Council, at the time of this resolution, is eligible to use the General Power of Competence by confirming that:

- I. The number of members of the council that have been declared to be elected is equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the council.
- II. The Clerk to the council holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration, or other relevant qualification.
- III. The Clerk has completed the *relevant training*:
 - a. in the exercise of the general power

- b. provided in accordance with the National Training Strategy for parish councils adopted by the National Association of Local Councils.

57/21 INSURANCE

The Clerk advised that due to updating the asset register with additional items purchased the premium for the Town Council insurance cover had increased by £321. It was confirmed that insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks was in place.

58/21 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REVIEW

11.1 Code of Conduct

The Clerk advised that the Code of Conduct for consideration was a broader and more user-friendly document that has been devised by the Local Government Association, following a national consultation of parish councils. It has been adopted by the National Association of Local Councils and was commended to the council. The Clerk drew councillors attention to Appendix D which refers to Standing Orders para 14(e) which lists sanctions that can be applied in the event of a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Resolved: To adopt the LGA Code of Conduct as presented.

11.2 Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that these are the rules of procedure with legal requirements set out in bold type. The only amendments are to para 14(e), see 11.1 and Standing Order 27. The heading for Standing Order 27 remains in case there is a need to add temporary standing orders, as there was during the pandemic.

Resolved: To adopt the Standing Orders as presented.

11.3 Financial regulations

The Financial Regulations are unchanged.

Resolved: To adopt the Financial Regulations as presented.

59/21 ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The annual calendar of meetings was presented.

Resolved: To agree the annual calendar of meetings.

Close of Annual Meeting

Public Forum:

- A member of the public asked about the installation of the projector and screen. The preparatory work of installation of the cabling and moving the bar on the stage to accommodate the screen had been completed. The screen and projector will be ordered and installed as soon as possible.
- A member of the public asked if the Town Council will liaise with major employers in the town to promote employment opportunities. It was felt that this is the remit of the East Cowes Business Association.
- A member of the public stated that there had been a report of the discharge of sewage at Gurnard and there was local concern about how this could affect the water quality at East Cowes. The Town Council will write to Southern Water, copied to IW Council, DEFRA and Cowes Town Council. A representative from Southern Water will be invited to attend a future meeting.
- A member of the public advised the Council about a tree planting initiative for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year and asked if the Town Council would consider funding some tree planting. This will be considered at a future Facilities Projects and Events Committee meeting.
- A member of the public asked about the possibility of live streaming Town Council meetings in the future. This will be added to a future Facilities Projects and Events agenda.
- A member of the public expressed thanks for the Town Council agreeing to fund water quality testing. The beach clean on 23rd May was successful. Copies of record sheets to note how many

people are in the water when visiting the Esplanade are available from the Shoreside café if anyone would like to assist.

60/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **15th April 2021** were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 15th April 2021.

61/21 FINANCES

14.1 The payments as presented were approved and agreed.

14.2 The payments made including by Direct Debit and BACS were ratified.

14.3 The bank reconciliation was noted and signed. The Clerk advised that the total of the deposit and current accounts stands at £1,138,960.75. The high balance is due to the Public Works loan and s106 grant which is set aside for the community hub and library project.

Resolved: To agree and ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS and to note the bank reconciliation.

62/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out an update on the Floating Bridge from Alex Minns of the IW Council dated 17th May. Dates for mediation are still awaited. The report noted the hours of operation as a % of scheduled hours for January to April. The Council was concerned that scheduled hours figures do not give an accurate picture. The bridge is meant to operate 5am to midnight. There have been numerous dates where the bridge has been suspended recently including one occasion when it ran aground. The cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure, Alex Minns and John Metcalf will be invited to a future meeting.

63/21 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)).

Contractual matters were discussed.

Signed:

Dated: