



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
Tel: (01983) 299082 Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes **Thursday 20th April 2023 at 6pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor)

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

Assistant Clerk: C Gale

Also present: 7 members of the public

Public Forum

- A member of the public recalled that a former Whippingham councillor, Councillor Baker, along with Island Roads, had previously been looking into a public memorial to King Edward VIII and George VI at Cadets Walk. Cllr Hendry stated he would investigate the matter and report back to East Cowes Town Council.
- A member of the public asked for an update on the opening of Saunders Way. Cllr Hendry stated that fencing that has been removed recently is being reinstated and there is no further information on the opening of the road. It remains with the IW Council legal team.

Meeting opened at 6.10pm

38/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Priddle who had a prior engagement.

39/23 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 and in relation to item 5 as Chair of Governors at Holy Cross Primary School and Governor at Queensgate Primary School. Cllr Palin declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 as an employee at Queensgate Primary School. Cllr Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 as she attends the East Cowes Town Crafters group.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

40/23 MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting held on 16th March 2023 were approved and signed.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 16th March 2023.

41/23 ENVIRONMENT OFFICER REPORT

The Council noted the report of the Environment Officer. Cllr Love arrived at the meeting.

42/23 GRANT APPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council considered grant applications from Wet Wheels for £500 to provide a boating experience for up to 20 disabled people from East Cowes; from Nature Zones for up to £1560 to provide school visits to Nature Zones, Newport for East Cowes primary children; from East Cowes Crafters for £670 to continue the display of seasonal and events decoration for the Coronation and displays throughout the summer and autumn; from East Cowes Heritage Centre for £1180 for an Arts and Heritage project documenting the past use of The Heritage Centre as 'International Stores'.

5.2 **Resolved:** To approve the grants to Wet Wheels for £500 and East Cowes Crafters for £670. To reject the applications from Nature Zones for £1560 and East Cowes Heritage Centre for £1180.

43/23 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PLAN

Cllr Love reported that the slipway is being cleared. Discussions about works to Bells Landing are ongoing. The Barracks Planning application has been granted and the application for the public realm has been submitted. Further information is awaited on the Markides traffic report.

44/23 FLOATING BRIDGE

The monthly statistics were noted. Cllr Love has asked for IWC to add procurement of a replacement vessel to their agenda. There are ongoing concerns about the lack of access for pushchairs and wheelchairs to the launch vessel when the floating bridge is out of service and the lack of information about the future of the floating bridge.

Resolved: To write to Wendy Perera, IWC Chief Executive, Cllr Phil Jordan and Colin Rowlands to request a progress report, estimated timescales for a replacement vessel, assurance that the settlement money will be used for the sole purpose of funding a replacement, information about which officers will be leading the project and to offer to be part of any steering group formed for this process.

45/23 FINANCES

8.1 The Council considered payments as presented and ratified payments made for March including by Direct Debit and BACS. It was confirmed that a direct debit has been set up for future payments to Wightfibre and that the tree pits are to be installed at the Romanov Monument and the Skatepark.

8.2 The bank reconciliation for February was noted. The reconciliation for March will be available for the next meeting.

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

46/23 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

9.1 The Council considered requests for dispensation of hall hire charges for the Indonesian Independence Day celebration for one day on Saturday 19th August 2023 and for a charity night to raise funds for Angel Radio on the 22nd July 2023.

9.2 **Resolved:** To agree to the dispensation requests for the Indonesian Independence Day and Angel Radio charity nights.

47/23 REQUEST FOR PLANNING APPLICATION SUPPORT & FINANCE

10.1 & 10.2 The Council considered a request from Mr Burdett to support the planning application for the erection of the Hovercraft Propeller on land at Osborne House Stable Block fronting York Avenue and owned by Vectis Storage. It will need to be confirmed that there are no underground services on the site. Island Roads have advised that they have no objection to the propeller being sited there. Mr Burdett stated he believed installation costs would be similar to those charged for the Romanov Monument. The Town Council had provided £10,000 towards this and IWC had contributed £7,000. As the propeller is in the custodianship of the Town Council, Cllr Love stated that he would contact the Hovercraft Museum to check if they would be agreeable.

10.3 **Resolved:** To write to the Conservation Officer to ascertain whether there would be any objection to siting the propeller in this location. To add the consideration of alternative locations to the Facilities Projects and Events agenda.

48/23 REPORTS

11.1 Clerks report

The Assistant Clerk stated that there is a public information meeting on Monday 24th April in the Town Hall being run by Southern Water which all are welcome to attend. The Annual Impact report has been received from the Footprint Trust. The Council will write to thank Ray Harrington-Vale for all his work over many years and wishing him well on his retirement. The minutes of the Local Access Forum meeting on 13th April were noted. An update on arrangements for the events over the Coronation weekend was provided.

11.2 Mayors report

The Mayor's report was noted.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports

Cllr Love had visited the Power Station which is a vital component of the national grid network. Documents have been exchanged for the new film studios. There is no further news on the Frank James Hospital, but it is now in a poor condition. Ferry Road is due for resurfacing this month. Cllr Love attended an Easter event at Barton Manor organised by MadAid. Concerns have been raised about the hazard created by large lorries seen attending the Southern Water pumping station and using the access road with some difficulty.

11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Packham attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum which discussed the topic of waste reduction. Cllr Palin attended the IWC Planning Committee to speak in support of the Albany Barracks planning application, a Public Health meeting at Room 41 and the MadAid event. Cllr Palin has assisted residents with enquiries about Saunders Way.

49/23 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 legal matters.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed:

Dated: