



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes **Thursday 15th February 2024 at 6pm**

Present; Chair: Cllr Reardon (Mayor) **Councillors:** Packham, Palin, Love, Lake

Clerk: S Chilton

Also present: 4 members of the public

Public Forum

A member of the public raised the issue of parking in Church Path and highlighted that pavement parking was becoming a big problem. Signage restricting parking had been installed by builders but never enforced. The member of the public stated that Traffic Regulation Orders need to be enacted. Cllr Love said that he had asked Parking Enforcement that the current practice allowing pavement parking to be removed. He also stated that the TRO's had now lapsed and when IW Council bring them forward for discussion the public must be consulted on them. It was proposed that the Town Council write and ask what is happening on this matter.

14/24 INTELIPORTS – DAVID PARK, CO-FOUNDER INTELIPORTS

1.1 The Council received a presentation from David Majoe, CEO Inteliports, outlining the project and how he would like to use land at the Esplanade as a trial base for aerial drone deliveries for 3 months. This site had been chosen because of its proximity to the mainland and its seafront location. He explained how the project would bring an eco-system of innovation to the island, by deploying frontier technologies, fuelling an innovative culture on the island, and connecting to technology eco-systems. He stated that it would help to fuel economic growth by the creation of jobs in avionics and operations, increasing business activity and improving access to goods. Decarbonisation logistics would be employed by using electrification of "last mile" logistics making huge contributions to carbon goals in the UK. He outlined that the tennis court site on the Esplanade was an ideal project landing point for drone services in the future freight project which had been commissioned by the DfT. He was hopeful that it would expand across other towns on the island. He discussed the programme milestones:

- May 2024 – Deployment
- June – August – trial phase East Cowes
- September – Evaluation and expansion of project

He then requested a total of 3 – 4 months access to the tennis court site. Councillors were very supportive of the aims of the project but felt that the site that had been identified was not appropriate due to the timeframe requested and that this would adversely impact on the users of the courts and the Esplanade. There was also concern around the safety of the public. Other sites were suggested by councillors that they felt would be more appropriate and could fit the same criteria. It was agreed that these suggestions be forwarded to DM by the end of March to enable licences and permissions to be put into place.

Resolved: To forward suggestions for appropriate alternative sites to DM by the end of March.

15/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Irwin who had a previous commitment and Cllr Hendry who had a household matter to deal with.

16/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 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.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

17/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024 were approved and signed. The minutes of the F,P&E committee held on the 2nd November were approved and signed

Resolved: To approve the minutes of Full Council on the 18th January 2024 and F,P&E committee on the 2nd November

18/24 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Council received statistical data from IW Council on the floating bridge operation. Cllr Love spoke about an email he had received explaining scheduled/non-scheduled maintenance that explained that any works that had to be undertaken with 72hours notice was classified as scheduled maintenance. He suggested that the Town Council write to challenge this as it could not be seen as scheduled maintenance at such short notice. He spoke about the IWC report on the floating bridge which he was unable to speak publicly about at this time but stated that the report was relatively positive. He told the council that the cabinet can make the final decision on what is finally agreed but that this needs to happen before the IWC changes its governance structure to a committee structure. Cllr Love stated that the Town Council should be briefed ahead of publication to enable any questions to be answered. He asked that the council request a copy of the report prior to the Cabinet meeting taking place.

Resolved: To request a copy of the report "in confidence", to enable councillors to raise questions prior to a decision being made by IWC Cabinet

19/24 WATERFRONT REGENERATION PROJECT

6.1 The Clerk reported that Gino Wooldridge was providing a verbal update at the next Waterfront Regeneration Group meeting. Cllr Palin stated that when Chris Ashman was in post the Town Council had received regular updates.

Resolved: To write to GW/RE stating what had been agreed with Chris Ashman and that the Town Council requested that this be reinstated.

20/24 RESOLUTION TO BORROW

7.1 The Clerk explained that the reports and costings for the skatepark projected were still outstanding and requested that this item be deferred till the March meeting. .

Resolved: To defer the Resolution to Borrow until the March meeting

21/24 FINANCES

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

8.2 The bank reconciliation for December and January were noted

Resolved: To agree the payments as presented and to note the bank reconciliations for December and January

22/24 ESPLANADE TELESCOPE

9.1 The Council considered the purchase of a telescope for the Esplanade at a maximum cost of £5,000.00 plus installation. Councillors were in general agreement and there was some discussion about the most appropriate location. In front of the toilets at the end of the Esplanade were felt to be a good location and it was agreed that this could form part of the redevelopment project.

Resolved: To include the installation of a telescope in the PWL Esplanade Toilets Redevelopment Project

23/24 200th RNLI ANNIVERSARY & 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESPLANADE

10.1 The Council received updates on:

- The arrangements for the service of thanksgiving for the 200th Anniversary of RNLI - which is to be held on Friday 24th May at 12.30, followed by the opening of the Clarence Rd mural at 2.30 p.m. by the Lord Lieutenant. An exhibition by the East Cowes Heritage Centre will be on view in the Town Hall between 10.00 am till 4 p.m., on Saturday 25th May, Sunday 26th May and Monday 27th May. There will be a film about the

RNLI at the Town Hall at 19.00 p.m. on Saturday the 25th May. A Civic Reception (invitation only) is to be held at the Town Hall on Friday 24th May at 18.30 p.m.

- The 100th Anniversary of the Esplanade celebrations will take place on Saturday the 25th May with a procession at 12 noon starting from the Sovereigns Gate, and then New Barn Rd via York Avenue, past the Town Hall, Chain Ferry, Castle St and finishing at the Esplanade. From 13.00 hours there will be activities on the Esplanade including music, children's entertainment, and other fun events.

10.2 The Council agreed that the list of invitees for the RNLI Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 24th May should include all councillors and staff.

10.3 The Council discussed the request from the East Cowes Community Partnership for an advance payment of £600.00 from the Arts and Culture budget to buy materials for the Clarence Rd mural.

Resolved: To pay the sum of £600 to East Cowes Community Partnership to purchase materials for the Clarence Rd Mural

24/24 IWALC - ROYAL GARDEN PARTY NOMINATIONS

11.1 The Council considered nominations for the IWALC draw to attend the Royal Garden Party to be held on the 8th May.

Resolved: To nominate Cllr Reardon and Cllr Love

25/24 YOUTH & COMMUNITY GRANT 24/25

12.1 The Council considered a progress report from the Youth Club and a request to increase the youth grant by an additional £2000 per year to £14,000.00 for 2024/2025. Councillors agreed that as the youth club were running an additional session and would be taking part in other activities proposed by Cllr Palin that they were agreeable to increase the grant.

Resolved: To agree to raise the Youth Grant to £14,000.00 for 24/25

26/24 REPORTS

13.1 Clerk's report – the Clerk circulated an invitation from Cowes Chiropractic Clinic for a healthcare event. A portrait of King Charles has been ordered. Theses are being provided free of charge as part of a government scheme. A commemorative wreath which had been made by the Crafters dedicated to Margaret Webster was on display in the Gallery of the Town Hall.

13.2 The Mayors read her report and it was circulated for information

13.3 IW Ward Councillors

Cllr Love discussed the changes to Governance being introduced by the IW council from a Cabinet to a Committee. He asked if IWALC were taking an active role in the consultation and that he felt that as this was the biggest change in governance at the IWC in years there should be a wider public consultation. He talked about the recent road closures affecting the town and gave a brief update on the Umbrella Tree. There seems to be an issue over outstanding information that the IWC require. He asked that if the situation was not resolved soon could it be brought to the next meeting for discussion. The Mayor stated that she was confident outstanding issues would be resolved very soon. Cllr Love spoke about an abundance of surface water coming from Spring Hill and asked if the Clerk could contact Natasha Dix, IWC to help resolve this issue. He requested that the nominated police officer for East Cowes details be put in the newsletter and be invited to a council meeting. He congratulated Alvin, the road sweeper, on doing such a great job in East Cowes. He suggested that the IW Council need to put up more substantial dog enforcement notices on the Esplanade as the paper ones disintegrated.

13.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Packham had attended the Environment & Sustainability Forum on the 25th January which gave an update on hubs. These included Education hubs for schools, Active travel hubs linked to the Northwood and Gurnard project, Land hub event at the Garlic Farm, New housing hub at Meadow View where there will be 100 net zero houses built, an Energy hub working with SSEN and a refurbishing / housing hub – more info on this can be seen at 64 High St Newport. They will be arranging a BioSphere Festival on the 29/30th June. Coastal flood erosion was discussed and in some areas nature is being allowed to take its course.

Cllr Palin talked briefly about the Place Plan for Cowes and Northwood meeting that he and the Mayor had attended, which looked at the pooling of resources. He had joined the Education and Skills workshop where a short/medium and long term plan was developed. Various options for the Studio School were discussed which included multi university campus. They will meet again next week.

27 /24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council 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)).

Resolved: To exclude the press and public

Staffing, electoral and contractual matters were discussed.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Meeting closed at 8.45pm