



## 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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6pm**

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**Present; Chair:** Cllr Reardon (Mayor) **Councillors:** Packham, Palin, Love (arrived at 6.15pm), Lake (arrived at 6.15p.m), Hendry, Irwin

**Clerk:** S Chilton **Deputy Clerk:** Charlotte Jones

**Also present:** 6 members of the public

### Public Forum

Ken Wheeler (KW) presented a plaque to the Council which had originally been made for Bells Landing and was never put up. Now that the new archway has been finished it presents an opportunity to install the plaque. Angie Mathews (AM) thanked the Councillors who had spoken so well on behalf of the community on the Norris Castle planning application at the IW Council Planning Committee. Mr Burdett (DB) asked if the public forum was minuted and spoke about the graffiti on the Southern Water building at Albany Green. The Clerk informed him that Southern Water were aware. A member of the public asked for their thanks to be recorded to the Manager of the Co-op for donating food to local charities. The Mayor stated that the Council would send a letter of thanks to him. DB asked if the public were aware of the IW Council's policy to not undertake maintenance to the sea wall. The Clerk confirmed that the IW council had stated that they would "hold the line" until 2025 after which there would be no active intervention. DB asked if the council could contact the IW council Flood Defence officer and stress the value and importance of the Esplanade and that residents could be at risk. The Mayor agreed. KW informed the Council that the Friends of East Cowes would be commemorating the blitz at East Cowes Cemetery on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May at noon and invited the council to attend and lay a wreath. There would be another service at Kings Square at 2p.m by the Blyskawica Society. The Mayor confirmed that there would be a Council representative attending.

### 40/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lake had sent apologies that she would be late

### 41/24 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

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

### 42/24 MINUTES

3.1 Cllr Palin asked for a spelling error to be corrected on the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**, this was agreed and the minutes were amended, and initialled by the Mayor. The minutes were then approved and signed.

**Resolved:** To approve the minutes of Full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

#### 43/24 FLOATING BRIDGE

4.1 The Council received an update on the Floating bridge statistics. Cllr Palin stated that the Council should keep engaged with the process of the replacement by IW Council.

**Resolved:** To keep in contact with the IW Council regarding the replacement of FB6

#### 44/24 GRANT APPLICATIONS

5.1.1 The Council considered the following grant applications:

- East Cowes Crafters – Summer and Autumn Display £250.00
- Independent Arts Sing about Project – Cost of using town hall and singer for group £2730.00
- Vics Youth Football Club – Equipment and kit for 4 age groups ( U10's, U11's, U13's and U14's) teams £1604.00
- East Cowes Victoria Athletic Football Club – Cost of clear rubble and greenery from car park to create more off-street parking for the increasing numbers attending games £1250.00
- Youth Trust – A donation requested for any/all of the following - £450 to deliver a six-week course of therapy or counselling to one young person; £57 for the Wellbeing team to work in the community and run a two-hour travelling safe space session; £804 to replace a laptop used by our practitioners to securely record the work done with children and young people during therapy and counselling
- East Cowes Community Partnership – Request for £5400.00 from the Arts & Culture budget for the RNLI Bicentennial Celebrations and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Esplanade event.

5.2 The following grants were agreed: East Cowes Crafters £250.00: Vics Youth Football Club £832.00: East Cowes Victoria Athletic Football Club £750.00: East Cowes Community Partnership £5400.00) East Cowes Victoria Athletic Football Club(Arts & Culture Budget). The following application was rejected Independent Arts. The Council requested that the Youth Trust provide a presentation at the May meeting before agreeing a donation.

#### 45/24 HALL HIRE TERMS & CONDITIONS

6.1 The Council discussed the current terms and conditions of hall hire in respect of enquiries by religious/political groups. There was much discussion on this subject and examples were given in respect of schools and local authorities. Traditional restrictions on hire of the hall were considered in terms of the Council being inclusive. However, the council felt that there should be more research into how other authorities operated. It was proposed and seconded to defer this item until further information could be placed before the Council.

**Resolved:** To defer this item and bring further information to a future meeting

#### 46/24 FINANCES

7.1 The Council considered payments as presented and ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS

7.2 The bank reconciliation for March 2024 was noted

7.3 The Quarter 4 Budget report was noted

**Resolved:** To agree the payments as presented. To note the bank reconciliations for March and the Quarter4 Budget report

#### 47/24 JUBILEE RECREATION GROUND

8.1 The Council considered the request made by parents to relocate the football posts at Jubilee Recreation Ground to an area that was less boggy. The parents, who were experienced ground workers had volunteered to undertake the work. The Council considered the miscellaneous costs of £1000 for new posts and materials. It was generally agreed to arrange to move the posts, under the supervision of the Facilities Officer, and to see whether the old post holes could be capped off for future use. The Clerk confirmed that providing the volunteers were skilled ground workers the council's insurance would cover this project.

**Resolved:** To relocate the goal posts using volunteers, supervised by the Facilities Officer, and to agree the miscellaneous expenditure to a maximum of £1000.

## 48/24 IW COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

9.1 Cllr Love left the meeting at this point. The Council considered submitting comments on IWC proposal for moving from a Cabinet to a Committee system, but it was agreed that Councillors should make comments on an individual basis as some were more informed about the process than others.

**Resolved:** Not to submit a collective response to the consultation.

## 49/24 REPORTS

10.1 The Clerk reported on an update received from Island Roads in respect of the traffic regulation orders for Church Path. These would be considered as a standalone, and it was expected that proposals would be advertised before the wider review got underway. They also stated that discussions are taking place regarding the parking in Consort Gardens which may also be looked at outside the wider review. Records show that Cromwell Avenue is still under the control of the developer. Councillors agreed that Island Roads should be asked why Church Path has been singled out as a standalone TRO and not part of the overall review.

The Clerk stated that AM had copied us into an email regarding comments she had made at the Studio School consultation day. Jade Kennett had responded, and AM was happy with the response.

The IW Council had given a grant of £3096.80 from the IW Council to fund the Clarence Rd mural.

10.2 The Mayor attended a webinar about community transport which looked at the different ways in which a community bus can be set up, it was interesting, and she will continue to make enquiries to see if it could be a viable option. Councillors Palin, Love and Lake accompanied the mayor to provide refreshments for the spring beach clean and there was a great turn out, even the high sheriff joined in. She also attended another meeting to help organise the RNLI bicentennial celebrations, and the CHC meeting, most importantly the Mayor and other councillors spoke at the planning meeting for the Norris Castle development to put forward the comments and concerns of residents.

10.3 There were no IW Ward Councillors reports

10.4 Town Councillors reports. Cllr Palin stated that he had attended the Studio School consultation and had spoken to staff. He said that most questions had received positive responses. They are still planning to open in September. The community market had been well attended. Bells Landing archway was looking very good. He had been supporting the community when the flooding occurred. The beach clean had gone well. Saunders Way was still delayed as the engrossment papers had been lost in the post. Solicitors were dealing with this. Norris Castle application had been rejected and he had received positive comments from stakeholders. He stated that he believed there was a 28 day limit for the applicant to appeal.

Cllr Irwin asked if a notice board could be put in the Curve to display the art and craft work produced by the children at craft sessions.

Cllr Packham stated that the Environment & Sustainability Forum had been cancelled.

## 50/25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**Resolved:** 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)). Staffing and contractual matters were discussed

Meeting closed at 8.30pm