



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
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Minutes of a meeting of the **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes
Thursday 20th June 2024 at 6pm

Present

Councillors: Reardon, Brimble-Brennan, Packham, Palin, Hendry

Clerk: S Chilton **Deputy Clerk:** C Jones

Also present: 2 members of the public, Paul Savill, Youth Trust

Public Forum

A member of the public asked about the status of the fire station and the planning application. Cllr Reardon explained that Cllr Love had recently attended a meeting about this and would have more information. It was understood that the building was being demolished as it was unsafe and that the fire tender would be temporarily rehoused at the RNLI in a temporary building. It was further explained that the council had no objections to the planning application. Cllr Love to provide any more details.

69/24 NEW COUNCILLOR

1.1 Cllr Reardon welcomed Councillor Brimble-Brennan on behalf of the council

1.2 Councillor Brimble-Brennan made her declaration of acceptance of office

1.3 It was agreed to appoint Cllr Brimble-Brennan as a member of the Theatre and Planning Committees

Resolved: To appoint Cllr Brimble-Brennan to the Theatre and Planning Committee

70/24 YOUTH TRUST PRESENTATION

2.1 The Council received a presentation on the work of the Youth Trust from Paul Savill, Wellbeing Lead, Youth Trust. PS stated that the trust had been set up as a charity in 1984. Its primary function is mental health provision for young people. He explained that because of Covid and the cost-of-living crisis there had been a huge demand for their services with 600 young people on the waiting list who may have to wait up to 9 months before being seen. The Wellbeing team endeavour to provide information, advice and guidance to young people before they are at crisis point. They also raise the Youth Voice and have undertaken a census as part of their work. They had 1223 responses, and it provided a great deal of useful information. The Trust were hoping to attract donations to help them further their work. They are looking at some environmental projects such as beach cleans where they could engage with the youngsters, this also involves visiting local schools. Cllr Reardon offered the beach hut for their use, as well as the Curve. Cllr Palin asked what else could the council do to help support young people. PS asked that we promote them on our social media, use posters and signpost young people who may come into the Curve. Cllr Hendry asked if other parish and town councils were providing any financial support and PS replied that they had had some donations ranging from £100 - £500. Cllr Reardon proposed that the council make a donation. Cllr Hendry proposed £500, and this was agreed.

Resolved: To make a £500 donation to the Youth Trust

71/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lake who had an urgent family matter. No apologies were received from Cllr Irwin or Cllr Love.

72/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 4.1 Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as IW Ward Councillor. Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association.
- 4.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

73/24 MINUTES

- 5.1 The minutes of the Annual Meeting and the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 were agreed and signed following the correction that Cllr Hendry's name be removed as he was not present .
- Resolved:** To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting and the Full Council meeting held on of 16th May 2024 including the correction.

74/24 FLOATING BRIDGE

- 6.1 The Council received an update on the Floating Bridge. There was no further information on the purchase of the new floating bridge.

75/24 AGAR INTERNAL AUDIT 23/24

- 7.1 The Council received and noted the Internal Audit Report and the comments regarding publishing current policies on the website and the consideration of using a gov.uk domain
- Resolved:** To accept the Internal Audit Report and the comments for action

76/24 AGAR ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 23/24 (SECTION 1)

- 8.1 The Council considered the findings of the review of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)
- 8.2 The Council reviewed and agreed the assertions in the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)
- Resolved:** To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

77/24 AGAR ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 23/24 (SECTION 2)

- 9.1 The Council considered and approved the Accounting Statement 23/24 (Section 2)
- Resolved:** To approve the Accounting Statement 23/24 (Section 2)

78/24 AGAR EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS 23/24

- The Council agreed to set the commencement date of 25th June 2024 for the Exercise of Public Rights
- Resolved:** To set the commencement date of 25th June 2024 for the Exercise of Public Rights

79/24 AGAR CONFLICT OF INTEREST 23/24

- The Council agreed that there was no conflict of interest with BDO LLP External Auditors
- Resolved:** There was no conflict of interest with BDO LLP External Auditors

80/24 FINANCES

- 12.1 The Council approved and agreed payments as presented and ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS
- 12.2 The Council noted the bank reconciliation for May 2024
- 12.3 The Council noted the Quarter 1, 2024 budget report
- Resolved:** To approve and ratify the payments including by Direct Debit and BACS as presented. To note the bank reconciliation and quarterly budget report for May 2024

81/24 PICKLE BALL COURT

- 13.1 The Council discussed the request from Mr Molyneaux to incorporate a pickle ball court in the Esplanade tennis court at zero cost to the Council as it would be marked out by volunteers. The Council agreed that this was a sport that was growing in popularity and that it was agreeable to incorporating the pickle ball court at the tennis courts. Cllr Hendry stated that this should be undertaken under the supervision of the Council's Facilities Officer, this was agreed.
- Resolved:** To incorporate a pickle ball court at the tennis courts under the supervision of the Facilities Officer

82/24 REVIEW OF STAFFING & EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

14.1 The Council reviewed the following staffing and employment policies:

- a) Dignity at Work Policy
- b) Disciplinary Policy
- c) Equality & Diversity Policy
- d) Grievance Procedure
- e) Lone Working Policy
- f) Member, Officer Protocol
- g) Training & Development Policy
- h) Volunteer Policy

Resolved: To adopt the policies as presented

83/24 WATERFRONT REGENERATION UPDATE

15.1 The Council received an update on the Waterfront Regeneration project from Gino Wooldridge. Cllr Reardon gave an update on the meeting of the Waterfront group and Cllr Palin stated that the meeting with ERM and the IW Council had been very positive and had included a conversation about the prom building. A new concept incorporating the council's ideas was being drafted by ERM.

84/24 REPORTS

16.1 The Clerk had received a report from the Youth Club Manager which included attendance figures and number of sessions over the past year. She also stated that they were now facilitating a nighttime youth club for adults with disabilities on Thursday evenings.

The Clerk reported that Mark Downer, Floating Bridge Manager, had reported back to say that staff on the floating bridge would in future be consulting with him before taking the bridge out of service, unless there was an emergency which required immediate closure.

16.2 There was no Mayors report

16.3 Cllr Hendry reported that residents at Hawthorn Meadows were unhappy with the service they were receiving from Green Belt (a mainland company) and that he was talking to residents about their concerns. He also spoke about an abandoned vehicle which had been removed but which was in fact not abandoned.

16.4 Cllr Palin reported that he had met with Barratts, and that Phase 4 was now completed and that the Section 38 agreement was in the hands of the SSE and the IW Council. The power station had signed over the land to Barratts and the IW Council were dealing with the legal side of things. Cllr Reardon stated that the Town Council should be consulted on the plans for the narrowing works. Cllr Palin spoke about the D Day Beacon lighting on the Esplanade and that it had gone very well.

Cllr Packham reported on the Environment & Sustainability Forum meeting he had attended. Solent seagrass was the subject of a presentation given. He also spoke about the mid-year Panto and how professional the production had been. He had attended the 100th anniversary of the Esplanade and reported how well it had gone and was well attended and that the Council should do more of these events.

85/24 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 & public

The confidential minutes of the May meeting were agreed and signed

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

Signed:

Dated: