



## East Cowes Town Council

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

Minutes of a meeting of the **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes  
**Thursday 19th December 2024 at 6pm**

---

### Present

**Councillors:** Reardon, Packham, Lake, Palin, Pragnell, Love

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

Also present: 3 members of the public

Public Forum

There were no questions from the public

138/24 NEW COUNCILLOR OSBORNE WARD

1.1 The Mayor welcomed Councillor Pragnell

1.2 The Council received the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Councillor Pragnell

139/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hendry who was attending a meeting, and Cllr Brimble-Brennan who is on leave.

140/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest in the East Cowes Community Partnership and the East Cowes Business Association.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received

141/24 MINUTES

3.1 The council approved the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Resolved:** To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

142/24 COWES 200

5.1 The Deputy Clerk reported on the Cowes 200 meeting held at Regatta House. The main points of the meeting were:

- Regatta origination, sponsorship, marketing/PR
- Shoreside event management/PR
- Patronage & Royal Navy liaison
- Project Management

The Chair of Cowes 200 had managed to acquire specific domain names for the new website which are secured. There was discussion surrounding the 'Soft Launch' in 2025, aimed at attracting local business and partnership opportunities (local and commercial). It was resolved that the soft launch would be in the form of a workshop to be held at the Royal Yacht Squadron. Another aim was to involve Town Councils and other organisations on the Isle of Wight involved. Gary Hall and Bob Trimble would like to speak to the Town Councillors of East Cowes and West Cowes to present their ideas. The Cowes 200 meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January will be attended by Cllr Reardon. It is to be agreed who will attend the following meeting on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Resolved:** To contact the Cowes 200 Chairman and request that Cllr Pragnell be allowed to attend the January meeting with Cllr Reardon. Councillors to advise the Deputy Clerk on attendance at future meetings.

#### 143/24 FLOATING BRIDGE

6.1 The Council received the statistics for the floating bridge operations for last month. No other updates had been received.

#### 144/24 WATERFRONT REGENERATION UPDATE

7.1 The Mayor gave an update on the recent meeting she had attended with the IW Council. They are working towards issuing Heads of Terms in January for the Prom building and Albany Green. The Council considered whether they would agree “in principle” to take responsibility for the Heritage assets that would be installed in due course on Albany Green. They included the British Hovercraft propeller and pylon. Cllr Love stated that an agreement had already been agreed with the Hovercraft Museum in respect of the propeller and pylon.

**Resolved:** To agree “in principle” to take responsibility for the Heritage assets installed on Albany Green

#### 145/24 FINANCES

8.1 Councillors approved the payments as presented made by Direct Debit and BACS for November 2024.

8.2 Councillors noted the bank reconciliation for November 2024

**Resolved:** To approve and ratify the payments including by Direct Debit and BACS as presented. To note the bank reconciliation for November 2024.

#### 146/24 LUNCHEON CLUB

9.1 The Council received an update on the proposal to hold a weekly luncheon club on the main hall. The Clerk outlined the potential cost of upgrading the kitchen to enable hot food to be prepared and cooked on the premises. Persons who were involved in the preparation and production would need to hold Food safety and hygiene certificates and there would be insurance implications. The Clerk suggested that instead a warming cupboard could be installed and hot food, such as fish and chips, “brought in” from a local supplier. Councillors agreed that this would be a more appropriate way forward and the expressions of interest should be invited from all local suppliers. The meal to be offered at cost price to attendees.

**Resolved:** To purchase a warming cupboard and invite expressions of interest from local suppliers to supply a hot meal on a weekly basis

#### 147/24 HALL HIRE

10.1 The Clerk made a proposal for revising hall hire charges to a two-tier system based on numbers attending to better fit with the potential requirements of Martyns Law instead of having a community and commercial rate. This may also attract hirers that had been lost due to having to pay a commercial rate. It was suggested that the charge could be set for “up to 50 attendees” and “over 50 attendees” regardless of whether they were community based or commercial hirers. Councillors debated this and decided that they would prefer to defer this item until the January Full Council meeting

**Resolved:** To defer reviewing the charges until January Full Council

#### 148/24 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk’s report and Facilities Report – There were no questions on the reports

11.2 Mayors report – The Mayor read her report of her recent activities

11.3 IW Ward Councillors – Cllr Love reported on the resurfacing of pathways in Church Path. He spoke about the 3 boat yards in Clarence Rd and the GKN entrance needing resurfacing. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of Island Roads. He mentioned Downs House deteriorating condition. He said that the Xmas trees around the town were fantastic. He had met with the Arts Council and stated that there might be the possibility of some funding. Holy Cross school had invited him to take up a governor’s seat. He mentioned that the Red Funnel application had highways issues.

11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Palin reported on the Xmas market and event and that it had gone very well. He had been talking to residents of St Wilfred’s Drive and will be taking up various issues with Barratts. He had also been discussing opening Saunders Way as a bus route with Southern Vectis. The Xmas Panto had been a big success. Cllr Love said that if we could get

more groups using the theatre we may qualify for funding. He had attended a cheque presentation with the Mayor to the Round Table appeal.

CLlr Packham reported that he had attended the panto and that it was very good. The Environment & Sustainability Forum meeting had been cancelled. The next one is in January 2025.

#### 149/24 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  
Legal & Contractual Matters were discussed  
Meeting closed at 8.10 pm