



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 the **East Cowes Town Council** held at East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes
Thursday 21st November 2024 at 6pm

Present

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

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

Also present: 3 members of the public

Public Forum

A member of the public commented on the condition of the handrails on the two sets of steps down to the beach at the gabion end of the Esplanade. The first rail on the first set of steps is completely rusted through, and the concrete repair is breaking up. The sea has removed the fixings on the second handrail, and the rail is now wobbly to hold on to. The Clerk will notify the IW Council Coastal Management Team.

126/24 HEALTH CHECK OUTREACH – EAST COWES

1.1 Councillors received a proposal to hold a Health Check outreach at the East Side Curve from Glenn Smith, Clinical Director/Chief Executive Officer, and Malcolm White, General Manager, The Lighthouse Clinic. The aim is to target those people who may not normally have a regular health check due to personal circumstances. The health checks are key to the prevention of strokes/heart attacks and diabetes or can provide an early warning that recipients should get further medical advice. It is envisaged that the service would provide a less formal environment which would be more appealing to recipients. The Council felt that this would be a very beneficial service to the community and were pleased to give their support.

Resolved: To begin a monthly session from December 3rd in the Curve

127/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lake, who is on sick leave.

128/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest in the East Cowes Community Partnership and the East Cowes Business Association. Cllr Love declared a non-pecuniary interest in the East Cowes Community Partnership, East Cowes Business Association and as an IWC Ward Councillor. Cllr Hendry declared a non-pecuniary interest as an IWC Ward Councillor

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received

129/24 MINUTES

3.1 The council approved the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting on the Tuesday 29th October 2024

Resolved: To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting on the Tuesday 29th October 2024

130/24 COWES 200

5.1 The Council discussed nomination of a representative for the Board of Cowes 200. Meetings would take place on a Fridays at 10.00am. Councillors agreed that it would be a landmark event and that it was important that they take part as the event may well include East Cowes. After some discussion it was agreed that the seat should rotate between councillors, and that a deputy could if councillors were unavailable. Councillors were asked to inform the Deputy Clerk of their availability for the next 3 meetings. The first meeting was taking place on the 13th December and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would attend and provide a report to the next council meeting.

Resolved: Councillors to attend meeting on a rotation basis and advise the Deputy Clerk of future availability. Deputy Clerk to attend the meeting on the 13th December and report to December Full Council.

131/24 FLOATING BRIDGE

6.1 The Council reported on a recent meeting with Phil Jordan, senior officers of the IW Council and Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Cowes Town Council, to discuss the procurement of a replacement bridge. Officers of the IWC informed the meeting that they were in the process of procuring consultants to undertake a consultation on what was required from the replacement bridge. Councillors expressed the view that the process of replacement was being unnecessarily delayed when the IWC had already employed consultants who had specified what was required. They felt this to be a misuse of public money and was unacceptable. A full and frank discussion then ensued. The Mayor reported that at the conclusion of the meeting she considered that things were hopefully moving forward.

132/24 WATERFRONT REGENERATION UPDATE

7.1 The Clerk read an update from Ross Edmunds and Gino Wooldridge regarding the Heritage Funding Expression of Interest which had been submitted. They are awaiting feedback which, if positive, a full application will be submitted. The fund covers upfront costs and not future upkeep. Feedback had been provided on the public realm design from councillors which has been noted by GW and RE. GW is awaiting feedback from Southern Water before the scheme is submitted to planning. An IWC and ERM meeting is planned to consider how the final suggested changes might then be incorporated. The Barracks works are progressing well, with the piled foundations for the new shower block currently going in now.

7.2 A request that the Town Council reconsider paying for the current years slipway cleaning costs retrospectively once works on Albany Green had been completed had been received from the IWC. Councillors discussed the request and agreed that if a definite date for completion of the Albany Green project could be given they would consider the request.

Resolved: To request a definite date for completion of the Albany Green project from the IWC and defer a decision on slipway cleaning until December

133/24 FINANCES

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

8.2 Councillors noted the bank reconciliation for October 2024

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

134/24 CASUAL VACANCY OSBORNE WARD – CO-OPTION

9.1 The Clerk informed the council that the required number of signatures calling for an election had not been met and co-option could begin. A schedule for the casual vacancy for Osborne Ward was considered. Cllr Hendry proposed that interviews happen before the December Council meeting so the cooptee could attend in December.

Resolved: The schedule was agreed with Cllr Hendry's amendment

135/24 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Clerk informed the Council of some further changes that had been deemed necessary by the IW council before the Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) licence could be issued for the Panto.

Resolved: The council agreed to ratify the revised Safeguarding Policy

136/24 REPORTS

11.1 Clerk's report – The Environment Officer reported the number of dog fouling and fly tipping notices issued and other duties completed in the town. The Youth Club reported that from January 2025, they have been offered

the use of the former Studio School to deliver youth activities. The school is perfect for activities such as sports and dance, cookery classes, plus relaxing and wellbeing activities. They are aware that current youth sessions at Parkside are mainly (and successfully!) attracting ages 8 – 13. But their last consultation with local young people showed that ages 13 + were asking for sessions such as basketball, boxing, modern dance – activities the club would struggle to deliver at Parkside. The Clerk reported that, following a meeting of the East Cowes working together group, a suggestion had been for a Tea Dance and a Luncheon club in the Town Hall on days that were available (Tuesday and Thursday). Other groups were also planning luncheon clubs on different days around the Town so that at least three meals a week could be available for those who may be in need. The Tea Dance would need to employ a Lead for dance, and it is hoped that the H&IOW Community Foundation may be able to fund this. The Council were very supportive of both initiatives but felt that the servery would require investment for hot lunches to be available. Clerk will report back on further progress. The charge for grounds maintenance from IWC 25/26 had seen a small increase. The Community Capacity Grant had been investigated and was felt to be inappropriate for the Town Council to apply. However, it was agreed that this grant should be signposted by the Council as much as possible.

11.2 Mayors report – The Mayors report had been circulated and there were no questions.

11.3 IW Ward Councillors reports:

Cllr Hendry had nothing to report

Cllr Love reported on the staffing changes at Red Funnel and that he believed that the planning application had been scaled down and the hotel and retail units were no longer included. The planning application is due to be presented to committee early next year. He believed that the delay was due to highways. It was suggested that the Clerk should make enquiries to the planning authority about rumoured changes to the application. The Norris Castle date for appeal has now lapsed. There is speculation that an approach may be made to the Town Council in the future.

Holy Cross school has written to Cllr Love requesting that he takes on the role of IWC Representative on the governor's board. Cllr Love spoke about the general decline in intake numbers across the island and that the current IWC closure review may well include other schools in the future. He gave an update on the recent dog attacks in the area and that the police were dealing with this matter. He has recently met with the IWC Tree Officer regarding tree planting in Victoria Grove and is awaiting a report as to the proposed locations. There are plans for some overhanging trees in York Avenue, some of which need to be removed, and others need to be topped, some trees need attention on the Esplanade.

11.4 Town Councillors reports

Cllr Packham reported that the Environment & Sustainability Forum meeting he attended had focussed on sediment in the Medina Estuary. There are 16 sample sites that are showing an increase of 54% in microplastic since 2016. He also attended the Remembrance service at St James.

Cllr Brimble-Brennan spoke about Cowes 200 and that it was a very exciting project, and she hoped to attend in future. She attended a Sustainability Event which lots of East Cowes companies had attended.

Cllr Palin reported that Queensgate school had received a "Good" Ofsted report. He had attended the Remembrance service. He will be meeting the Barratts contract manager next week to discuss various issues. He reported that there were 60 tickets left for the Panto. He is hoping that a mid-year event can be discussed at the January Theatre committee meeting. He stated that the Christmas Event had gone very well. He is investigating the possibility of a post box for the Sauders Rd estate. He requested that the Clerk email IW Cllr Julie Jones-Evans to ask about the funding status for the Film Studio.

137/24 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

Meeting Closed at 8.20 pm