



## SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, held at the Broadway Centre, Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9GG at **8.00pm** on **Tuesday, 25 May 2021**.

**Present:** Mayor of Sandown: Cllr Paddy Lightfoot  
Clerk: Richard Priest  
Residents 21 residents were present and two non-residents.

**1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR.**

The mayor welcomed residents and thanked attendees for following the Covid-19 guidance which limited attendance. Doors would be open for ventilation, chairs are socially distanced, and attendees asked to keep face coverings on until seated, when asking questions later in the meeting please use the microphone provided for issues of accessibility. The Mayor also confirmed with attendees that they were in support of the meeting being streamed.

Residents were welcomed, along with town councillors, to the first such meeting since 2019 as a result of the Covid pandemic.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THE 29 MAY 2019.**

Members present unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29 May 2019 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and the mayor signed them accordingly.

**3. TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

The Mayor read his annual report;

“Thanks to all for following the Covid guidance, and we've done all we can to enable tonight's meeting to go ahead safely with as many residents present as possible - or send a question to the meeting - and as you can appreciate we need to hold this meeting before June 1st (and next Monday is a Bank Holiday) and we are mindful that the Centre also has regular bookings now Covid guidance permits.

We would ask anyone that wishes to ask a question, to use the microphone, and also, as this a new Council at the start of a new 4-year term, I'd like to thank previous members for their contribution and welcome the seven new members.

Over the past two years, the Town Council have settled into their new home here

**Town Clerk:** Richard Priest    **Deputy Clerk:** Jennifer Armstrong  
The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG  
**Tel:** (01983) 408 287/ 300 329    **Email:** [clerks@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerks@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

at the Broadway Centre, and worked with partners to increase usage, with activities every weekday (most days and evenings), and occasional weekends.

Pre-covid new activities were being developed and we hope this will continue, and during the pandemic we were able to maintain several self-help groups supporting vulnerable residents.

During the lockdown we led the Bay's volunteer help hub, with around 100 volunteers helping deliver medication and shopping to shielding or vulnerable residents - over 5,000 trips were made, and the initiative was welcomed by all those that were supported. We also provided support for key workers.

The project also attracted grant funding, and helped fund travel costs of volunteers, and we hope to arrange a special thank you later in the year, given the contribution of all involved.

We also secured funding to provide hampers4homes for vulnerable families over Christmas, organised a special competition for school children to design posters for the library, provide the tree, and fund the market - hopefully, we can arrange for other activities this year.

Funding was also secured for a pop-up foodbank, and we have contributed to other projects in the Town benefitting vulnerable residents.

Although we could not arrange formal commemorations for 75th VE and VJ Days, and Remembrance Sunday, we did organise commemorations with the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff, and local children designed a special flag and mugs; and have worked with Rev. Williams and other leaders across the Town.

Working with the Royal British Legion we were able to help in the 2020 poppy appeal during Covid.

We were able to keep the public toilets, play park, and other activities open following Covid lockdown, and frustratingly these have been subject to continuing vandalism - this has costs and also reduced access for the community.

The Town Council are in the process of opening the new Toilets at St John's, with Eastern Gardens scheduled for re-provision over the Autumn and Winter - we can then look at the Yaverland in 2022.

An accessible beach wheelchair will be provided following a successful grant application, and we have refreshed the War memorial in this centenary year.

New equipment is on the way for Steven Jenkins, and funding has been allocated for further work in Sandham Gardens, and we have regular funding to offset costs.

We supported the filming of 'The Beast Must Die', which is streaming this week on Britbox, which has generated publicity for the Island and Sandown in particular,

boosted the economy with parts for local actors, and has enabled the centre to get a defibrillator.

Sandown has also supported the new hotel, and the opening of the Premier Inn, alongside other developments will contribute to the regeneration of the Town - however, we will continue to press for all 'building sites' to be progressed and works completed. We share the frustration of residents and will be more vocal in highlighting the concerns.

Planning has also been a concern for the council, and our recent comments regarding the proposed HMO in Leed Street has been listened to.

We continue to support Green Town Volunteers, and congratulate them on their success in South East England in Bloom and as they press for the national award, and we are delighted to have been given the prestigious Blue Flag, and more details will follow before the summer season.

Our new Clerk team of Jenn and Richard, with Viv, has repainted the Centre and hope to improve the immediate area, and they have undertaken other repairs and maintenance to keep services going.

Their work has also secured grants and funding for projects, and the news that Business rates will not be charged on Public Toilets, following a campaign supported by this Council, is good news.

We've worked with Southern Vectis to maintain services and support the 22 and 24 Voluntary Service to Yaverland.

Working with Island Roads, there are new dropped kerbs to improve accessibility, and we will continue to challenge for further road improvements.”

The Mayor added that he hoped that, with seven new members of the Town Council, there was a need to ensure councillor training was available, and that all Councillors, and residents, were welcome to contribute to working parties as projects were taken forward; and Cllr Lightfoot added that he wanted the place where he lived, and his family lived, better and all had a part to play in this.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTION TIME.**

A resident noted absence of some Town and IW Councillors: the Mayor noted that a priority had been given to residents that wished to attend due to limitation on numbers.

A resident noted that IWALC had helped secure the cancellation of business rates for the provision of public toilets and the town council should get a refund back until 2019.

A resident asked about the provision of Buoys in the Bay: the Mayor noted the

Town Council had agreed to fund the installation in June, and that the IW Council had purchased them, and in future years installation would be earlier, and also noted the buoys formed part of successful Blue Flag application.

A residents asked about the security of empty buildings: the Mayor noted this was an enforcement issue, and that the Town Council will continue to press the local authority, with and through ward members, to ensure as strong and effective actions are taken.

A resident asked about Police issues in the Town: the Mayor highlighted the level of anti-social behaviour being experienced, toilets being vandalised, as well as Sandham Gardens, and noted there was a surgery being arranged by Cllr Andre on Saturday's at Yaverland and encouraged residents to report incidents as well as attend surgery directly.

A resident asked about a Town Plan and what priorities would be: the Mayor said he hoped all members would contribute to development of a plan, but noted that there were different types of plan, and the Town needed to progress the priorities already in hand, such as St John's Toilets and Eastern Gardens for 2022, but that project will be involved due to the site and partners involved.

A resident asked about provision of toilets at Pier Street: the Mayor noted that Pier Street was the responsibility of the Isle of Wight Council, and we understood there were delays regarding the redevelopment of the site. The clerk had contacted the IW Council to ensure there was provision over the Bank Holiday weekend, and that the Town Council may need to fund the cost of provision for the remainder of half term.

A resident asked if the Town Council could provide a twice yearly newsletter for all residents: the Mayor noted that all residents were not on internet, and this may be a project for a working party in the future, but highlighted the Town Council had limited resources and a very significant agenda to take forward, and if residents wanted more staff to take forward projects there would be resource implications, including possible increase in precept.

A resident asked the Council to write to all owners of empty and derelict buildings to ask for their plans and highlight the concern residents have: the Mayor noted that he had challenged the local authority to take robust enforcement action, and the Town Council would continue to press for urgent action.

A non-resident wished to ask a question, and attendees noted that the meeting was for residents, and the Mayor offered to discuss the issues with the non-resident after the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 8.55pm