

SANDOWN TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 30th April 2018 at 6pm at The Broadway Centre, Sandown, IW. PO36 9GG.

Present:

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor Cllr young, took the chair

In attendance: Town clerk as minute taker. Public and press

1. Annual Report from Town Mayor

In the contested elections held in May 2017, twelve councillors were democratically elected onto the Town Council by the residents of Sandown. Since then, one member resigned and a replacement Councillor recently elected.

This Town Council represents the entire population of Sandown and despite the views of a minority 2% of residents, will continue to do so for the remaining 3 years term of office.

We welcome you to the new Broadway Centre.

As you will know, the old building was finally demolished last year and has been replaced by this purpose built facility, fit for the 21st Century, that we are holding our very first meeting in today. It is the first new community centre built on the Island by a Town Council for many years.

The stone from the old building has been re-used around the base of this building and the painting of the render on the external walls will be finished when weather permits.

We are in the process of a few finishing details and are extremely encouraged by the considerable interest in booking the hall and meeting rooms. We will be holding an official open day in the near future for all residents to come and look around.

Now the building has been completed, we are in the position to start looking at the sale of the adjoining land, which has planning permission for houses.

The Town Council has had a busy year.

At Sandham Gardens, the Town Council signed a lease with Heritage UK Ltd, allowing the start of the regeneration of this area as a tourist attraction. Work will be ongoing.

The Stephen Jenkins playground had to be closed due to safety concerns regarding the surfacing but will be re-opening shortly with new surface, full repairs undertaken and equipment painted and we will all be very happy to see the children enjoying this facility again.

A new junior skatepark provided by the Community Partnership is being installed and an offer of additional equipment for the larger skatepark is being followed up. The

Council have committed to provide financial support for skateboard competitions and events in the summer holidays, which are always very popular with our youth.

The Council also gave grants to local organisations to support events including the fireworks and Christmas fun day and we provided the funding for lifeguards and beach cleaning last summer.

As you will be aware, we have had a few unpleasant surprises with VAT that led to a substantial one off increase in the precept but the matter is now in the hands of a local government VAT advisor who is helping us try to obtain a refund. There will be new challenges as we go forward, as we try to balance the provision of services with ever increasing costs.

Continuing with the transfer of discretionary services from the Isle of Wight Council, the Town Council took over the freehold of three sets of toilets at Yaverland, Eastern Gardens and St Johns Road and in the short term intend freshening them up for the summer season with longer term plans to be discussed later this year.

We continue to maintain grass cutting at Los Altos Park and provided the Green Towns with funding to carry on with their work with planting and litter picking throughout the town. We wish to record our sincere thanks and appreciation to this group of volunteers for all their sterling efforts in Sandown.

Finally, I would like to thank the majority of my fellow councillors for their support during my Mayorship and to all the Town Council staff for their hard work.

2. Reports from Isle of Wight Ward Councillors Debbie Andre and Ian Ward

Reports from both Councillors were received and questions raised and answered.

3. Public questions on Town Matters

Questions were raised on a variety of subjects including:

- Reinstatement of Pier Street toilets owned by the IWC
- Town Plan should be developed immediately
- Response to demand that a number of town councillors should resign
- VAT should be claimed back
- Need for litter bins on beach (currently provided)
- Town Meeting should be held every 3/6 months
- Complaints that meetings are always discussing toilets
- Body language

The Clerk left the meeting at 7.13pm

The meeting was closed by the Deputy Mayor

Chairman

29th May 2019.

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Raj Patel , Town Mayor .

30/4/2018
