

SANDOWN TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2019 at the
Broadway Centre Sandown at 7.0pm.

Present:

Mayor of Sandown Cllr Gary Young

In attendance Locum Clerk Val Taylor

39 Residents of Sandown were present. 4 Non-Residents also attended.

1. The minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 30th April 2019.

Minutes of meeting were duly signed.

**2. Annual Report from the Town Mayor for 2018/19 Cllr Jacquie Mereweather
Cllr Young read out the Mayors report:-**

Year 2017/18 was a very difficult year but thanks to very careful budgeting this year our finances have improved so that we were able to reduce the town's precept while still maintaining our assets. We also received the VAT refund.

This year has been a moving forward year with many hurdles to be overcome. However I am pleased that we have worked through the difficulties.

This year saw the opening of the Broadway Centre. Not just Town Council offices but a venue for local organisations while providing good community facilities. This year has seen a huge increase in regular bookings from training sessions, Diabetic Eye Clinic, conferences, to Citizen Advice outreach and Alzheimer Cafe and many more. We are pleased to welcome them to Sandown.

The Rainbow Playground was our first priority and we thank Morrison's and the Jenkins family for their contribution to the refurbishing of the whole playground. This is now a first class facility for our young people, together with the Skate park and MUGA for the older ones.

The War Memorial has now been granted Grade II listed status and has been cleaned and inscriptions tidied up. The Remembrance Service was very well attended again and is now the second largest service on the Island.

The toilets have been repainted for this season and a refurbishment is being planned using the VAT refund.

We held a Public Consultation for the first time and although attendance was disappointing we hope many more will attend in the future. The public were able to put their ideas and gripes to Council members and every one of the comments have been studied and where possible will be acted on. Many of the observations related to IW Council and they have been passed on to them.

The Town's Newsletter has been reinstated with Town Council information. The Green Towns have taken on the floral displays in the town and we thank the volunteers for their hard work.

Regeneration of Sandown is slowly taking place with a new Hotel, a refurbished 5 star hotel underway. The White City complex is also underway. Heritage UK has expressed their faith in Sandown by building

the best Crazy Golf amenity on the Island. We thank them for their trust in the Town Council in building this wonderful facility and we look forward to the next phase at Sandown Gardens.

This year Sandown has been honoured with two Beach Awards. The Best Beach Award from Countryfile Magazine and the Seaside Award from Keep Britain Tidy. You will see the Seaside Award flag flying over the beach and we hope that the Best Beach Award will find its home in the Broadway Centre.

I was delighted that the Bay Councils (Sandown, Lake and Shanklin) have worked closely together for the World War 1 celebrations. We have built up a good relationship with the Bay Councillors and I hope this will continue for the good of the whole Bay.

Finally, my thanks to Town Councillors who have given much of their time over the last year and to the Town Clerk for keeping us within the rules.

3. To receive reports from the Isle of Wight Ward Councillors

Councillor Ward reported on the range of deliverable improvements for the area over the next 5 years. The IW Council is supporting regeneration activity in Sandown that does not hit headlines. Various projects will go towards achieving his aim of enhancing Sandown as a great place to live and to make Sandown a Tourist Destination.

Derelict Buildings have been a problem for many years and now we are seeking to implement compulsory purchase orders on those owners who are not complying with planning conditions. The Council will now consider to compulsory purchase of properties or land where the owner is making no effort to refurbish or build on the site.

Empty properties and Council Tax now are having measures to discourage homes being left empty for years. Empty Properties for 2-5 years owners will pay 200% and so it will increase to more than 10 years pay 400% Council Tax

Expired Planning Permission will not be renewed automatically.

IW Council Investments in Sandown. A large amount of money is being invested by the IW Council. The upgrading of the Heights Leisure Centre is costing £705,302. The future investments are:-

Dinosaur Isle £119,250 to turn it into a more attractive Tourist Destination.

Sandown Middle School site £3,000,000, to be an independent living complex of 82 new homes with shared community facilities. This should generate about 35 new jobs.

Sandown Town Hall £2,200,000 looking at developing 12 small flats probably for rent. The main hall will remain a community space.

Sandown Civic Centre £1,500,000.

Totals spend in Sandown £7,524,552

Coastal Revival Fund Sandown

Received £50,000 from the Government Grant for the Battery Gardens Project. A feasibility study into a possible micro -brewery in the High Street is also funded.

Commercial Investment

Heritage GB Leisure at Sandham Gardens has invested in the new adventure golf, new Go Kart track, the refurbishment of the toilets and the park drainage system and a planned High Rope option is being evaluated as well as planning application for new beach huts has been submitted.

Wight City Building works underway for 47 homes and commercial ground floor premises which is phased over a 3 year period.

Premier Inn Sandown sea Front Planning permission granted for 100 bedroom hotel to be completed in 2020

Ocean Hotel and Kings Bar is big refurbished but it is delayed due to investigation into structural problem.

Savoy Court now has planning permission for 12 dwellings including parking.

Other actions. Plans to curb utilities digging up roads as the IW Council is going to charge them by the day to hopefully encourage the utilities to carry out the repairs quickly.

Highways Safety and Improvement Register. This has been reviewed and we have now recruited more staff to deal with issues.

Request for Double Yellow Lines on Road. Island Roads have no authority to install them. The IW Council only installs them for a significant safety reason.

Island Line Update. Discussions have taken place between Dft and SWR no reason has been given for continued delay in accepting the plans submitted for the refurbishment of Island Line.

Cllr Andre reported that she was proud to live in Sandown as it is a fantastic community. She reported it had been a difficult year for everyone. She commented that she liked to work individually and that she is concerned with things that affect her and policies that affect different people in different ways. She reported there were lots of changes and more work to do.

Residents commented to the IW Councillors about Civic Centre, Pier Street Toilets and Rates going up on beach huts. The IW Councillors were asked about the middle school site homes being restricted for Isle of Wight Residents. They were also asked about signs to direct visitors to the car parks. It was suggested that Sandown had a multi storey car park.

4. To receive questions from the electorate.

The following questions were asked:-

Questions regarding the Town Council's administration were answered.

Questions asked relating to the Town :

- Since the town was an alcohol free zones what about the two benches at St Johns Road. The questionnaire was informed that in the past the benches had been removed but our elderly residents complained as they stopped there to rest after shopping on their way back home ,so they were reinstated.
- Do the residents know how many police were on duty in Sandown for them then to be informed by a member of the public that only 6 Police serve from Ventnor through to Sandown and on a Saturday night after 8pm no 999 calls are being answered. It was asked if the Council needs to sit down with the Police regarding this matter.
- How much the Sandown Council tax payers pay for policing and how much is actually spent on policing in the town.
- The toilets at Eastern Gardens –could bins could be put on the right and left side of the loos as there was enough space and could bags for sanitary towels be made available. The questionnaire was informed that they were not provided as toilets have in the past been deliberately blocked up by them.
- Why was the CCTV in the town not monitored overnight. The meeting were informed it was an Island Roads decision.
- It was suggested that all this antagonism is stopped and put an end to and move forward.

The Mayor closed the meeting and thanked people for attending.

Signed

Date