



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

SANDOWN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES – 9 MAY 2022

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

Residents: 12 residents were present and two non-residents.

Also Present: Sandown Town Councillors - Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Sue Betts, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Alex Lightfoot, Robert May, Ian Ward. PA to Councillor Brothers, Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO).

1. Welcome by the Mayor.

The mayor welcomed residents.

2. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 25 May 2021

A resident suggested that the minutes of the meeting held in 2021 should be amended to reflect the names of the residents in attendance as they were collected due to Covid-19 arrangements and called for the minutes of the meeting to be approved by the meeting. The mayor advised no changes would be made.

3. Town Council Report

The Mayor read his annual report, attached to and forming part of these minutes, which was also available on the town council's website .

4. Public comment and question time

A number of residents raised issues during the meeting:

- A named votes during the election of Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council was requested. Those standing for Mayor were also asked to speak regarding why they sought nomination. Cllrs Debbie Andre and Paddy Lightfoot responded.
- An objection was raised regarding council's contribution to the Sandown Guide produced by the Sandown Community Association because it was a political publication. The guide was defended by other members the public who argued that it had been very well received by all but a few naysayers. Clarification was provided that Cllr Ward had paid for a page in the guide, which was clearly marked as sponsored and that any councillor or individual could do so as long as the content was not political.

- Concerns were raised that there was an element within the town that talked it down rather than recognising that good work was being undertaken.
- The number of derelict buildings was raised and a debate ensued regarding the Isle of Wight seeking additional funding from local councils in relation to taking planning enforcement action and the validity of double funding this work as residents already paid the Isle of Wight Council a precept and it was a statutory planning matter. Also highlighted during the discussion was the Isle of Wight Court action against the owners of the Ocean Hotel due to be appealed on 25 May 2022, with one resident encouraging the people of the town to protest outside the courts to ensure they were aware of how fed up residents were with the situation. It was also suggested local and national press be informed of the protest to ensure it was Widley publicised.
- Residents raised concerns regarding the lack of budget for the jubilee and as it was increasingly likely, a coronation.
- Christine Jackson from Green Towns informed the meeting that the town had been awarded South East in Boom last year and had been entered again this year. The town was also entered in Britain in Bloom demonstrating not everything about the town was negative. The judging for South East in bloom would take place on 7 July 2022 and on 2 August 2022 for Britain in Bloom.
- Holding the town meeting should be held on a different day to the town councils annual meeting was mooted to which another resident added complaints regarding the number of meetings held by the town council and the lack of attention paid to planning applications.
- An attempt to extend the meeting by 15 minutes failed due to a lack of support for the proposal.

Meeting Closed: 7.00 pm