



## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **Monday, 7 February 2022** at 7.00pm at The Broadway Centre, Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9GG.

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

15 Minutes were allocated for members of the public to speak on matters relating to the agenda.

Following ongoing anti-social behaviour in Sandown, the local PCSO was invited to provide an update on actions being taken and answer any questions. Reassurance was sought that a joined up approach including the local schools and attention was drawn to the different reporting mechanisms for antisocial behaviour including 101, [crime stoppers](#) and the [Hampshire constabulary website](#).

Concerns were raised regarding the level of funding allocated for Youth Provision in the budget. The mayor advised the monies had been allocated to support outreach work to establish what provision was needed and inform future funding decisions.

A question was also asked pertaining to the Old Town Hall (Grafton Street). The site was not owned by Sandown Town Council though they had nominated the property previously as a community asset and notices about the sale had been placed on the website. Cllrs Ward and Andre advised that as the owner of the site, the Isle of Wight Council was working with local organisations regarding a viable way forward.

**Present:** Cllrs Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Heather Humby (Deputy Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Alex Lightfoot, Robert May, Ian Ward, Toby Wilcock.

### 71-2021-22 APOLOGIES

None received.

### 72-2021-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non -pecuniary interests

Cllr Andre and Cllr Ward declared an interest in any matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council.

2. To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.

None Received

### POINT OF ORDER

Cllr Emily Brothers raised a matter not on the agenda as a point of order. The chairman ruled that it was not a point of order as it did not relate to any provision outlined in the standing orders. Confirmation was provided that Cllr Brothers was not under investigation, the provisions in place were to aid communication and any further discussion on the matter should be raised through the proper channels.

## **73-2021-22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Cllr Brothers again challenged the format of the minutes, specifically the inclusion of the reason a named vote was taken being recorded for each relevant item and suggested the format was discriminatory as it drew attention to their disability.

The Mayor advised that, while initially requested by Cllr Brothers, the inclusion of a named vote increased accessibility for all participants including members of the public seated to the rear of the hall and that feedback had indicated the practice had particularly benefited, and improved the experience, for those viewing the streamed meeting and the council planned to continue the practice. Since a named vote was taken it was necessary to record the method and reason.

Cllr Brothers then proposed several amendments:

- 66-2021/2022 Staffing Structure - that “and that working groups be suspended to facilitate work on the budget” be included. This was rejected as Minute 56-2021/2022 recorded the suspension of working parties for this purpose.
- 52-2021/2022(4) Engagement Working Party – that “the key points highlighted included” be amended to “the key points highlighted during discussion included”
- 68-2021/22 Motion from Cllr Emily Brothers – that the minute be updated to reflect Cllr Alex Lightfoot proposed the amendment. Councillors requested that moving forward the minutes reflect the proposer of any amendments.

Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021 be approved as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- (i) 52-2021/2022(4) Engagement Working Party – that “the key points highlighted included” be amended to “the key points highlighted during discussion included”
- (ii) 68-2021/22 Motion from Cllr Emily Brothers – that the minute be updated to reflect Cllr Alex Lightfoot proposed the amendment.

## **74-2021-22 SURVEY RESPONSES**

Members considered the results of the survey. Disappointment was expressed that it had not been possible to undertake an in-person event due to the Omicron variant. There was also agreement equality and diversity questions be included in future surveys.

## **75-2021-22 WORKING PARTIES**

A verbal update was provided on the working party projects since the last meeting:

### 1. Decorative Lighting

The lighting had been installed in time for Christmas. A faulty light had been identified which would be replaced by the lighting company under warranty and which Island Roads had agreed to install free of charge. Consideration needed to be given to when the lights would be switched on/off and members requested a proposal be brought to the next meeting.

### 2. Beach Projects

The lifeguard recruitment process had begun. Pre-planning advice had been sought in relation to the fixed base though there were delays to the process due to capacity issues at the Isle of Wight Council. Members were advised they may need to order the base before planning permission had been received.

### 3. Events

The events Working Party had met on 24 January 2022. Upcoming events included the 40 year commemoration of the Falklands War and the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Subject to the budget available, possible events for the Jubilee included:

- Competition with School
- Church Service
- Supporting local events

Members noted consideration had also been given to how best to include the older generation.

## **76-2021-22 FINANCES**

### 1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for November and December 2021 and January 2022

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

#### RESOLVED:

THAT the Payments and Receipts for November and December 2021 and January 2022 be approved.

### 2. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations November and December 2021 and January 2022

The verified bank reconciliations for November and December 2021 and January 2022 were noted.

### 3. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through January 2022

The position against budget as of 31 January 2022 was noted.

### 4. To approve the Risk Register

Members considered the Risk Register. Discussion took place regarding the sufficiency of the council's forward, strategic planning and performance management. The idea of a place plan was mooted.

The formatting of the document had slipped during conversion to PDF and would need to be amended before the final version was published.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the risk register be approved.

5. To consider the appointment of the Internal Auditor

Best practice requires the independence of the appointed Internal Auditor be reviewed every year. Members noted that while the council had used the same Internal Auditor for some years, the pandemic had made change difficult. It was also highlighted that the audit issues experience in previous year had related to the External Audit of the councils accounts rather than the internal audit provision.

There was a general sense of business returning to normal during 2022, therefore officers suggested quotations from three providers, in addition to the incumbent, be obtained to inform the 2023/2024 budget. An informed decision could then be considered for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 which members supported.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (11), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Internal Auditor responsible for the 2020/2021 audits be invited to undertake the 2021/2022 audit and;
- (ii) THAT costings be obtained to inform the 2023/2024 budget and councils' appointment of the internal auditor for the 2022/2023 accounts.

6. Update on Reserves.

Members were advised that the reserves were now generating more interest. However, the bank had informed the council the interest rates would no longer track to the base rate. Officers would explore alternative providers in an effort to secure a better rate.

7. To approve the 2022/2023 Budget

The clerk presented the budget and accompanying briefing note which provided a narrative for the proposed figures and Cllr Paddy Lightfoot moved that the budget be approved as presented which was duly seconded.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot proposed an amendment to the budget, that the Mayors Allowance be removed, and the monies added to the Town Improvement Fund, which was duly seconded and debated.

A further amendment was proposed by Cllr Paddy Lightfoot and duly seconded and debated, that the allowance remain but that the transparency around the spending be improved.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and amendment fell:

For (2), Against (10), Abstentions (0).

A voted was then taken on Cllr Alex Lightfoot's proposed amendment. A named vote was requested, the results were as follows and amendment fell:

For (5),

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Jenny Hicks, Toby Wilcock, Alex Lightfoot.

Against (7),

Cllrs Paddy Lightfoot, Heather Humby, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Robert May, Ian Ward.

Abstentions (0).

The budget was then debated. The points discussed included:

- Costs associated with Los Altos park – members were reminded the council had a lease for the park which committed them to the budgeted maintenance but this could be explored in preparation for next year's budget.
- Sandham Lighting – budgeted costs were nominal as it was not clear at the time the budget was prepared what the issues were.
- Planning/Environmental Enforcement – costs were based on those provide by IWC for additional environmental officer enforcement. No formal request for funding to support planning enforcement had been received but Town Improvement monies could be used.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (11), Against (1), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the 2022/2023 Budget be approved.

8. To set the 2022/2023 Precept

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (11), Against (1), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the Band D equivalent precept of £145.70 be set for 2022/2023.

9. To consider charges relating to council provisions.

Consideration was given to the charges relating to the council's public toilets and the Broadway Centre. Members agreed to charges should maintain the current charging structure for 2022/2023 with a consultation with groups to

be undertaken about the centre and increased charges presented for the 2023/2024 budget. Toilet charges would also remain the same and be reviewed following the completion of the Eastern Gardens refurbishment.

**77-2021-22 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED**

The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs had published the 2021 water quality data. Sandown had received a rating of excellent, therefore an application for the Blue Flag award had been submitted, which with support of the budget and assistance from Cllr Betts had included a comprehensive education programme.

**78-2021-22 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS**

The following planning application was considered. No comments were made.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>
22/00017/FUL	Grand Hotel Culver Parade
22/00106/FUL	Beach Opposite Premier Inn And Trouville Hotel
22/00108/HOU	Lark Rise Carter Street
21/02356/FUL	53A High Street
21/01422/FUL	Rear Of Grand Hotel Culver Parade

**79-2021-22 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

A proposal was moved according to Standing Order 9.1.3(i) to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

**80-2021-22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM**

1. The Town Clerk – including:

The town clerk provided a verbal update on a number of issues, which were noted. These included:

- a) Welcome Back Fund
- b) Grants
- c) The Broadway Centre
- d) Sandham Gardens
- e) Toilets
- f) Conservation Area

One member requested a written report be provided for future meetings with any change since publication provided verbally.

2. Town Councillors

Cllrs Andre and Ward provided updates in relation to the Wight Fibre works on the High Street. Cllr Andre advised issues with the signage relating to the reversal of the one way system at Pier Street had been remedied and Cllr Ward advised that following discussions with Wight Fibre, crossings to allow both sides of the road to be accessed safely would be instated.

Cllr Humby and Cllr Andre had also been liaising with Island Roads regarding St John's Crescent and images had been provided to the relevant parties.

### 3. Outside Bodies

There would be a carnival and a regatta meeting which all were invited to attend.

Green Towns had also been nominated for an award.

## **81-2021-22 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### Motion from Cllr Debbie Andre

Cllr Andre proposed the following motion which was duly seconded:

*"This Council agrees that, in order to run council business efficiently and in a timely manner with manageable agendas, a programme of ten meetings a year is necessary. From May 2022 meetings shall be held monthly, except for August and December unless otherwise decided. Consequently, Standing Order 17.1.1 shall be reworded as follows:*

*"In addition to the annual meeting of the Council, at least nine further ordinary meetings shall be held in each year on such dates and times as the Council decides."*

*Further, this Council agrees that all the Working Groups currently suspended shall be terminated to free up capacity. Future Task and Finish Groups may be considered at the right time to assist with specific deliverables."*

Cllr Betts proposed the motion be amended to remove the suspension of Working Groups. The motion was not seconded.

The points raised during the debate included discussion around allowing time for comments on planning applications, during which it was noted the council did not often comment and debate over the success of working parties in taking forward project. Members also noted an increase in the number of meetings would require budget provision which had not been put forward prior to the budget being approved.

A voted was then taken. A named vote was requested, the results were as follows and motion fell:

For (4),

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Heather Humby.

Against (7),

Cllrs Frank Baldry, Ian Fletcher, Robert May, Ian Ward, Alex Lightfoot, Paddy Lightfoot, Toby Wilcock.

Abstentions (1).

Jenny Hicks.

## **82-2021-22 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings would be held on 14 March 2022 and 9 May 2022.

## **83-2021-22 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

A proposal was moved according to Standing Order 9.1.3(i) to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

### RESOLVED:

THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A question was raised regarding returning to Zoom meetings. Clarification was provided that Zoom meetings were no longer permitted as an alternative to a physical meeting held in public, which had been a temporary legal provision during the pandemic. A member of the public also commented on the motion to increase the number of council meetings held.

## **84-2021-22 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (12), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

### RESOLVED:

THAT under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, namely Agenda item number 83-2021/22 (minute number 85-2021/22) on the grounds that there was likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **85-2021-22 CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING – POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE**

Councillors were advised the council had been approached regarding a source of funding from an associated agency which sought to benefit the community and agreed they would like further information and officers were requested to arrange a briefing with the agency in question.

Meeting closed - 21:50.