



## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **Monday, 21 March 2022** (postponed from 14 March 2022) at 7.00 pm 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.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot presented three questions sent to him by members of the public unable to attend the meeting:

A question was raised in regard to Jubilee Flags flying at the war memorial and how the council would be supporting the celebrations.

The Town Clerk responded that welcome back funding had been secured to replace the flag poles at the memorial and this work was underway. However, planning conditions meant only specific flags – seaside award/blue flag, the union flag and the Isle of Wight flag could be flown at the site. In addition, in accordance with the budget allocation for Jubilee events, a tree had been planted, projects would be undertaken with the local school which included a Jubilee flag design, a church service had been organised for Saturday, 4 June 2022 and the council was supporting a local partner delivering a community event on the Sunday.

A second question was presented regarding the development of the Pier Street toilets, raising concerns that if development started in May/June as was being suggested locally, it could impact on the Green Town Volunteers entry into Britain in Bloom as their award-winning beds would be lost. Clarification regarding temporary toilet provision at the site was also sought.

The Mayor advised that while the site did not belong to the town council he had informally reached out to the relevant parties to discuss the site but had not made progress and would now initiate more formal discussions.

Finally, a request was made for signage be provided from the beach by the pier to the nearest public toilets at St Johns.

The Town Clerk advised that signage linked to St John's was linked to the cleaning and maintenance contract and an overall improvement to signage including information regarding EV charging points and if council were minded the installation of a defibrillator.

The written statement from Jean Orman was also read out. The statement raised concerns regarding the lack of budget provision for Jubilee events suggesting it equated to a lack of respect and civic pride on behalf of the council. Mrs Orman continued by reminding the council that past events had been a showcase of the towns community effort with the Rotary club working with the council to organised events. The lack of a proper proclamation, address from the mayor or community church service were highlighted.

The Mayor responded that it was not a matter of disrespect rather there was a limited budget and the impact of the pandemic. Events and activities were being organised, albeit on a smaller a scale than previously but were still at the planning stage.

**Present:** Cllrs Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Alex Lightfoot.

**Also present:** PA to Cllr Brothers.

**86-2021-22 APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Heather Humby (Deputy Mayor), Sue Betts, Robert May, Ian Ward, Toby Wilcock.

**87-2021-22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

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

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

None Received

**88-2021-22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Cllr Brothers advised she had raised a number of amendments with the clerk prior to the meeting which had been rejected. The Mayor responded that the recording of the meeting and the minutes had been reviewed in the context of the points raised and were not found to be inaccurate. The clerk also reminded councillors that the minutes provided a flavour of the discussion and formally recorded decisions but were not designed to be verbatim minutes.

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

For (5), Against (1), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022 be approved as a true record.

**89-2021-22 FINANCES**

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for February 2022

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

For (6), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the Payments and Receipts for February 2022 be approved.

2. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for February 2022

The verified bank reconciliations for February 2022 were noted.

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

The position against budget as of 28 February 2022 was noted.

4. To consider Southern Water community funding of summer educational activities and projects.

Southern Water had offered £10,000 of funding for the Sandown Community. While it was hoped that some funds would be spent in relation to the Blue Flag educational activities, there were no conditions linked to receipt of the monies and it would be at the council's discretion if Southern Water branding was used on relation to any projects funded by the monies. A briefing between councillors and Southern Water had taken place before the decision had been brought to council to address any questions or concerns.

Members noted that Southern Water, in addition to these monies, had agreed to repair and repaint the pumping station located next to the proposed site of the new toilets at Eastern Gardens.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot proposed that the monies be accepted and that the relevant working party bring back a recommendation to full council regarding how the funding would be spent.

Concerns were raised regarding accepting monies when there had been reports in the local press and complaints relating to sewage discharges into Sandown Bay by Southern Water; In particular, what would happen if there was a significant discharge if the council accepted the funding. Clarification was provided that there were no conditions relating to the monies which were to benefit the town. Members were also reminded that, while storm waters had been discharged, the water quality in Sandown had been classified as excellent by the Environment Agency.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot proposed an amendment which attempted to address concerns relating to conditions being added to receipt of the monies after it had been accepted, specifying the council's decision to accept the monies was on the basis there were no conditions,. The amendment was duly seconded.

Following debate regarding if the emailed offer was considered a written offer, Cllr Hicks proposed the motion be amended to request that Southern Water be asked to provide a formal written offer. However, the proposal could not be accepted as an amendment as it negated the original motion.

Councillors' votes on the amendment were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements and a named vote was requested; the results were as follows and it was:

For (4)

Cllrs Frank Baldry, Ian Fletcher, Alex Lightfoot and Paddy Lightfoot.

Against (3)

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Emily Brothers and Jenny Hicks.

Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the council accept the grant from Southern Water for £10,000 with no conditions attached and;
- (ii) THAT the Public Realm (Beach) Asset Management working party bring back a proposal to full council for the spend of the grant.

**90-2021-22 WORKING PARTIES**

Members considered the written report which provided Council with an update on the work of the working parties. Key topics discussed included:

Public Realm (Assets) Working Party

The group had meet on the 8 March 2022.

The design of the new toilets at Eastern Gardens was discussed. Four options of coastal/seaside themes had been provided to choose from with grey or black doors and payment boxes. The group preferred the latter to be reflective of the colours of the theme but darker in shade to ensure they would be visible to the visually impaired. On this basis the working party recommended a coastal theme with palms, sea, sun and umbrellas with doors close to RAL 710-2, a darker shade of the blue incorporated in the design (attached to and forming part of these minutes). All councillors agreed with the working party's recommendation.

The group also considered the toilet cleaning and maintenance tender. The recommendation from the discussion would be discussed later in the meeting.

Public Engagement Working Party Meeting

The working party had also met on the 8 March 2022.

Mr Alan Jones from the Sandown Community Association had provided an example of the association proposed publication. The group had discussed providing funding for the launch of the publication in return for two pages of content in perpetuity. Mr Jones had also agreed that if the publication did not continue to a second issue the council would receive 50% of any return. This was further debated by council.

Members noted that since the budget had been approved for £1000, under the financial regulations the spending could be approved by the Mayor in conjunction with the Clerk but had been brought to council for transparency.

A suggestion was made that the council should be producing its own hardcopy publication, but this idea was rejected as there is not capacity to produce it.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot moved a proposal that the council help kickstart the Sandown Community Association publication in line with the discussed

agreement at the working party meeting which was duly seconded. Councillors' votes on the amendment were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5),

Cllrs Frank Baldry, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Alex Lightfoot and Paddy Lightfoot.

Against (2)

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Emily Brothers

Abstentions (0).

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Council provide £1,000 funding for the initial start-up of the Sandown Community Association publication in return for two pages in the publication in perpetuity. However, that's should the publication not progress to further issues, then 50% of any return will be refunded to Sandown Town Council.

The mayor then advised that the working party would be asked to undertake work in relation to the microphone system and hearing loop provision in the Broadway Centre.

**91-2021-22 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED**

None received.

**92-2021-22 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS**

The following planning application were considered.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>
<a href="#">22/00371/DIS</a>	57 - 59 High Street - PO36 8DF
<a href="#">22/00359/HOU</a>	140 Perowne Way - PO36 9DT
<a href="#">22/00348/HOU</a>	94 Culver Way - PO36 8QL
<a href="#">22/00293/FUL</a>	14 High Street (former bank) - PO36 8DA
<a href="#">22/00260/3MPA</a>	107 High Street -PO36 8AF
<a href="#">22/00218/HOU</a>	7 Foxes Close - PO36 9AF
<a href="#">22/00208/FUL</a>	Land Adjoining and Including Reservoir Villa, Old Reservoir Lane PO36 9DL

Members were informed that planning permission for the Grand had been withdrawn. IWC ward members were in contact with planning officers regarding the site and were trying to ensure the building was painted and the site tidied.

The Mayor also advised that the Ocean Hotel s.215 notice appeal period had now expired and the owners now had two months to tidy the site.

Discussion took place regarding the former bank at 14 the High Street. Members were told by the Isle of Wight Council Ward member that the decision was expected to be called into committee as it related to changes in legislation relating to permitted development. The deadline for the comments was noted as 25 March 2022.

In relation to the application relating to the Land Adjoining and Including

Reservoir Villa, the clerk advised there was no update regarding concerns relating to the property and Los Altos Park. Cllr Brothers declared an interest as she owned a neighbouring property.

## **93-2021-22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM**

### **1. The Town Clerk**

A written report updating members on the work undertaken had been provided. The Clerk added a verbal update on subsequent activities including:

- work had been undertaken in relation to the procurement of the cleaning and maintenance contract which would inform the later agenda item.
- A meeting of the events working party had taken place that morning, confirming the events which would be taken forward in relation to the jubilee.
- The Public Realm Asset Management was also due to meet the next day to review items in relation to the beach safety service.
- A bench had been received for the accessible garden.
- A number of projects with green towns were being taken forward

### **2. Town Councillors**

Cllr Hicks informed members she and Cllr Humby had attended the South Wight Health and Wellbeing Forum. Positive news had been shared regarding patient pathways at St Marys and a new ophthalmology clinic would be opened at the hospital. She had also undertaken “hug a tree” activities for remembrance.

Cllr Hicks also shared concerns from Carers regarding the closure of Culver Parade on 2 -3 April for the sprint and from residents regarding the sale of parcels of land currently forming green space off Perowne Way.

The Mayor responded that during the briefing regarding the Sprint prior to the meeting, the organisers had recognised the issues from the road closures and councillors in attendance had been reassured they were minimising the impact where possible. Members noted full details of the road closures were included in the Traffic Orders information sent by the clerk.

In relation to the land off Perowne Way, this was not a town council matter and questions should be directed to the Isle of Wight Council.

### **3. Outside Bodies**

Cllr Andre advised a report from Sandown Forum could be circulated. Concerns had been raised at the forum that they had not heard from the organisers of the community event to be held on the Sunday of the Jubilee weekend and an update had been requested. The clerk responded the organisers would be in touch but had been impacted by Covid.

Cllr Brothers added that the forum has raised concerns regarding the development of the Pier Street toilet site, particularly the timing of the development and implications for the summer.

The closure of the High Street during the Wight Fibre works had been discussed with a general sense vehicle access had not been missed. However,

councillors had received less positive feedback from businesses. Generally, it was agreed any pedestrianisation would need to include free parking.

## **94-2021-22 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### Motion from Cllr Emily Brothers

Cllr Brothers proposed the following motion which was duly seconded:

*Proposed that:*

*Pursuant to Standing Order 15, this Council resolves to:*

- 1) Dissolve the Human Resources Committee and replace it with a standing committee that has wider scope covering performance, finance and human resources.*
- 2) The Proper Officer shall bring draft Terms of Reference and any consequential amendments to Standing Orders or other pertinent policy to the Council's Annual Meeting on 09/05/22 for approval, drawing on prior e-mail consultation with Councillors to support the development process.*
- 3) The mayor and four other Councillors should be appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 09/05/22 to take forward the work of the new Performance, Finance and Human Resources (PFH) Committee.*

In opposition to the motion, it was suggested that the proposal was an attempt to circumvent the decision at the previous meeting not to increase the number of meetings by extending an existing committee. A number of areas in the motion which could be problematic were highlighted including the number appointment of five members to a HR committee, what the role of a finance committee would be and the lack of costings, time analysis or budget provisions to support the work of the proposed committee.

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.

While it was argued that a finance committee would increase transparency in relation to the councils' finances members were reminded that all payments and receipts were presented to councillors at the relevant meeting, they were also reviewed by at least two signatories prior to this presentation and that any councillor could view the finances at any time but no councillor had requested to do so in the last year.

A voted was then taken, the results were as follows and motion fell:

For (2), Against (5), Abstentions (0).

#### **95-2021-22 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

The Mayor proposed that the remaining non confidential items be moved forward on the agenda before the consideration of the exclusion of the public and press to avoid disruption which was duly seconded.

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

For (7), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT that the remaining non confidential items be moved forward on the agenda before the consideration of the exclusion of the public and press

#### **96-2021-22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 9 May 2022.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The local PCSO attended as a member of the public but asked if there was any information councillors would like brought to future meetings like antisocial behaviour or performance statistics. Councillors confirmed this would be useful. It was also noted that the police attended Cllr Humby and Cllr Andres surgeries.

The PCSO highlighted the bad lighting at Battery Gardens which it was noted was Isle of Wight Council land.

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.

#### **97-2021-22 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Members debated the necessity of the contract for the cleaning and maintenance contract being discussed confidentiality with those opposing the proposal suggesting that to discuss the procurement privately was not in line with transparency legislation and that none of the information to be discussed should be considered exempt under the relevant legislation.

Clarification was provided that transparency data was published retrospectively on a quarterly basis rather than in advance and that in order commercially sensitive information may need to be discussed during consideration of the evaluation. It was also highlighted that all councillors could have attended the working party meeting where the tenders were considered and that the full tender submissions had been available from the clerks.

Comments were also made regarding the clerk's relationship to one of the providers. Members were reminded the decision to award the contract was not on the clerk's gift and it was a full council decision, and that the clerk knew

all the contractors.

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

For (5), Against (2), 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.

**98-2021-22 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 (6), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

**99-2021-22 CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING – TOILETS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Members were reminded that the tender process followed had been agreed at previous meetings. The steps followed to reach the final scores on the evaluation matrix were explained. The logic behind applying lower scores in relation to elements of the evaluation were explained and Cllr Alex Lightfoot detailed the scoring process.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and motion was carried:

For (4), Against (0), Abstentions (3).

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the contract for the cleaning and maintenance of the public toilets in Sandown be awarded to the company who submitted Tender 2<sup>1</sup> if Shanklin Council also select that provider and if they did not.

**100-2021-22 CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING – WELCOME BACK FUNDING**

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<sup>1</sup> Following the interested parties being notified of the decision, the minutes reflect that Danfo UK submitted the second tender.

Members were updated on the progress of the Welcome Back Fund requests. Confirmation was provided that funding had been secured for two months litter picking at Sandham Gardens and new Flag Poles at the Esplanade memorial. Work had begun to install the new poles. In addition, some funding had been secured for Hanging Baskets on the high street though full details of the funding were not yet available.

Meeting Closed 21:30

DRAFT