



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Marion Cook CILCA
Town Clerk

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandown Town Council held on Monday 12 September 2016 at 7.00pm at The Broadway Centre, Sandown

15 minutes is allocated for the Residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town matters

Alan Jones spoke to support agenda item 1376/16, suggested by Cllr. Grandchamp, for the running of some form of lottery to help fund the beach Lifeguards for next season.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Patel (Chair), Cllr. Blezzard, Cllr. Cowley, Cllr. Dupre, Cllr. Grandchamp,
Cllr. Humby, Cllr. Mereweather, Cllr. Teasdale, Cllr. Ward & Cllr. Young

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Marion Cook (Town Clerk), 2 Members of the Public and County Press

The Mayor informed Members that the meeting would be recorded.

1366/16

To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Wright (work commitment) & Stephenson

1367/16

To receive declarations of interest

Declaration of interest was received from Cllrs. Blezzard and Ward in respect of any items relating to the business of the Isle of Wight Council.

1368/16

To agree and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 15 August 2016

On a proposal from Cllr. Young, seconded by Cllr. Blezzard and agreed unanimously
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the 15 August 2016 as a true and correct record.

1369/16

To approve the schedules of payments

Payment schedules were circulated prior to the meeting, and checked by Cllrs. Cowley & Mereweather to the invoices and on a proposal from Cllr. Young, seconded by Cllr. Mereweather

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for Sandown Town Council in the sum of £20,891.72 plus a supplementary schedule in the sum of £2,599.72 and for Sandham Grounds in the sum of £3,834.74 plus a supplementary schedule of £12.00. A schedule of payments made by Debit Card was noted.

1370/16

To discuss and progress the refurbishment of the Mayoral Chain

The Clerk explained that she had tried several companies and had found a local Company in Ryde who would be able to make 5 extra links, and generally refurbish the chain for approximately £1,200. She had hoped that the firm quote would have arrived but was still waiting. Some discussion followed but it was agreed that this would be on the next agenda for a decision.

1371/16 To receive and approve the Financial Reports

Receipts & Payments

Sandown Town Council for the period 01 July – 31 August 2016

Sandham Gardens for the period 01 July – 31 August 2016

Budget Comparison 01 April – 31 August 2016

Questions on the above reports covering the periods specified, were answered satisfactorily by the Clerk and on a proposal from Cllr. Ward, seconded by Cllr.

Mereweather

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reports.

1372/16 To receive information on the sand levels on the beach in Sandown Bay

The Clerk explained she had received the information now before the Councillors (copies attached to the minutes) from Mr Arthur Dunkley who has some interest and knowledge in these matters. The sand levels on the Beach in the Bay had dropped some four foot in the last years and was in danger in future years, sooner rather than later if the weather was bad, of dropping even more and possibly in the long term destabilising the sea wall. The reasons for the drop he felt, was largely due to unlicensed dredging in the Bay. The Clerk went on to say that she had contacted the Marine Maritime Organisation and the IOW Council. The MMO had sent lists of three licenses granted, and the IOW Council had sent a map of the coastline showing erosion, but with no deeper explanation. The Lifeboat Coxswain and some of the Longshoremen in Sandown had spoken of their concerns, and it is understood there is Longshoreman in Shanklin who has tried to get some action previously.

The Clerk felt that it was now beyond her jurisdiction especially as this is an IOW function. Cllr. Teasdale said that this was a situation of great importance and pressure should be applied to the IOW Council for them to actively do something. He also said that this could affect riptides, possibly bringer danger closer to beach and sea users.

On a proposal from Cllr. Humby, seconded by Cllr. Dupre

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Blezzard and Ward would take this to the IOW Council for answers and action, and that the Town Clerk would pass their contact numbers onto Mr Dunkley, and information onto Andrew Turner MP.

1373/16 Motion for Consideration received from Cllr. Blezzard : Sandown Town Hall

Sandown Town Council recognises the potential of the Town Hall building in Grafton Street as an asset for the town for current and future generations because:

1. It is an iconic listed building close to the Town Centre, which if restored will be a major factor in the regeneration of Sandown. (The last thing Sandown needs is another major building in a state of disrepair).
2. Given its size and location it presents the opportunity for the town, through the Town Council to have a larger and potentially more desirable community facility than would be available through other options which have been discussed.
3. It will provide a secure base for the Town Council and its staff which is fit for purpose.
4. It will provide a permanent base for youth service facilities in the town, currently provided by the Central Eltham Youth project.

5. It will offer the opportunity for a community hub in Sandown along the lines of the Coastal Centre in Ventnor.

Accordingly, the Town Council is of the view that the retention and upgrading of the Town Hall must remain a serious option and therefore:

- a) Formally agrees to open negotiations with the Isle of Wight Council for the transfer of the Town Hall to the Town Council for a nominal sum and;
- b) Agrees to enter into formal pre-application discussions with the local planning authority for permission to develop the Broadway Centre site for housing with the resulting capital receipt being used to make the Town Hall fit for purpose.

Cllr. Blezzard spoke to the motion explaining his reasons behind it. He then proposed the motion and this was seconded by Cllr. Humby. Discussion followed and the concerns were expressed by Cllr. Dupre about the amounts of money involved. Cllr. Ward said there would be grants depending on the survey which he was still trying to arrange via the Coastal Community Trust.

Discussion followed about the possibilities of the Town hall being run as a Trust, but as Chris Quirk Chair of the Shanklin Theatre and Community Trust had been unable to attend this meeting at the last minute, the meeting was then brought to order to consider the proposal. Cllr. Blezzard asked for a recorded vote.

In favour: Cllr. Blezzard, Cllr. Humby

Against: Cllr. Dupre, Cllr. Grandchamp, Cllr. Mereweather, Cllr. Teasdale, Cllr. Young

Abstained: Cllr. Cowley, Cllr. Ward

1374/16

To discuss the progress of

a) Broadway Centre

With regard to discussions from previous meetings and previously in this meeting and on a proposal from Cllr. Young, seconded by Cllr. Grandchamp

It was **RESOLVED** to clear the site and build the Community Centre as the planning permission granted in April 2014.

It was further **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk powers to start negotiations with Duncan Gayler, Architect, to produce the detailed specification for the commencement of the tender process, and appoint a project manager.

It was further **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan to a maximum of £600,000 over a 50 year period, for the project for which this Council already holds £100,000 in reserves (partly paid off having been in existence since 2007)

Cllr. Teasdale said there was no reason why a project could not be followed through to make the Town Hall a hub for the Town, with a Community Trust of which the Council could be part.

b) Relocation of office

The Clerk had applied to the IOW Council Conservation Officer for permission to insert a doorway into a wall for the Kitchen at the Town Hall, and this had been refused. A compromise had been reached by installing two stud walls and a doorway to give access from the landing to the Kitchen without having to go through another room. This would possibly require Building Regulations

permission, and the Clerk had an appointment to meet the Area Engineer on site later this week. The kitchen will be installed in the next week or so.

c) Sandham Gardens

The IOW Council had sent a request asking for support from the Town Council for a catering outlet at the Dinosaur Park, serving warm and cold drinks (non alcoholic), cakes and ice creams. On a proposal from Cllr. Young seconded by Cllr. Cowley

It was **RESOLVED** to support this on the grounds it was far enough away from our own seasonal outlet, and would help keep people in the area.

Parking notices had been received and were being installed and in a couple of weeks fines would start to be issued for non-permitted parking.

1375/16

To receive an update on Public Toilets Freehold Asset transfers from IOW Council and make decisions where necessary

The Clerk reported that we had not yet received any further lease documents from IOW Council, although e-mail conversations between the Clerk and John Metcalfe had been ongoing, and in summary consisted of John Metcalfe defending the IOW Council's right to put clauses into the agreements.

Cllr. Dupre suggested calling its bluff and telling the IOW Council we would not agree and let them be shut. It was suggested that if this happened it would be viewed as the action of Sandown Town Council and not the IOW Council. Cllr. Young asked what would be kept open over the winter months and the Clerk would do some comparative costings ready for the next meeting, but the whole situation would be reviewed in January.

1376/16

To discuss and progress a suggestion by Cllr. Grandchamp to run a form of Lottery to provide funds for contributing towards the cost of Lifeguards on the beach in coming seasons.

Cllr. Grandchamp briefly outlined his ideas, and after discussion during which it was noted that when the Partnership ran a similar thing four years ago it was not viable to continue it, but acknowledging that if it was for a local good cause such as Lifeguards It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Grandchamp would work with the Town Clerk to progress the idea.

1377/16

To note:

a) verbal reports from Town Councillors

Cllr. Ward that he had visited some of the public toilets in Sandown and found them respectable.

b) reports from Councillors attending meetings on outside bodies

Cllr. Cowley reported that there would be a Charity Quiz and Curry Night on Friday 23 September, sun by the Partnership in aid of the Health Centre.

Cllr. Humby reported that the Sandown Forum had met on the previous Monday with the main item being Solent Devolution.

Cllr. Patel had attended the annual Civic Service in Newport, organised by the IOW Council.

Cllr. Humby expressed a wish that the Town Clerk write to the green Town Volunteers expressing the gratitude of the Council in maintaining a lot of the flower beds and in helping to keep the streets and beaches free from litter.

1378/16

To note written reports from County Councillors

Reports were noted and both Councillors enlarged on their reports. (Copies attached as part of the minutes)

1379/16

To note information from the Town Clerk

IOW Day Bunting. Last week Lake Parish Council had put up some bunting which had disappeared 3 days later. This morning (12 September) Clerks had received an e-mail saying permission would have to be sought by filling in an application form, providing a name of the organiser, 24 hour contact details, a risk assessment, details of location, mounting height, fixing methods and providing evidence of insurance. By the time she had left the office for the day, the Clerk had not received a reply. Sandown Town Council's bunting would be going up first thing the next morning, and if it comes down it will be replaced. On the one hand the IOW Council was saying it supported the efforts of the High Sherriff, and on the other hand was making everyone go through hoops at very short notice.

The Clerk asked Councillors to note the information regarding Mobile Library Service Changes with a feedback of views required by 30 September

Telereal Trillium the Company responsible for the old Post Office in Beachfield Road has responded to enquiries with the following information:-

1. Having taken a legal route to confirm that the IOW Council have responsibility for the frontage of the old Post Office, including the steps, repairs should happen this month.
2. Royal Mail hold a lease until 2022, with a break clause for March 2017. As at the date of the letter, 24 August, 2016, notice had not been received of Royal Mail wishing to instigate that clause.

Finally, the Clerk reported that she had sent a letter to Andrea Leadsom, Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, copied to the IOW MP, Ward member, Drainage Board, Ramblers, on behalf of the Residents of Copse End, worried about the effect that no clearance of the river at the bottom of the gardens would have in bad weather.

1380/16

To note the date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting should be 26 September 2016, but as it was only two weeks ahead and the Clerk would be away for some of that time, that date was cancelled. The next meeting of Full Council would be 24 October 2016.

Signed
Chairman

Date 24 October 2016