



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present: Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Robert May, Alex Lightfoot, Paddy Lightfoot.

Also Present: Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO), Lorraine Elliss (Administration Assistant), and 2 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

No questions were asked.

44-2023/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Sue Betts, Ian Ward, Toby Wilcock.

45-2023/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Debbie Andre declared an interest in any matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council as a ward member and a non-pecuniary interest in any grass cutting at Los Altos as her property was adjacent to the park.

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

No requests for written dispensations had been received.

46-2023/2024 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members noted that although only some councillors had included attendance at the Bay Place Plan events in their Town Councillor Reports, all councillors had in fact attended.

A proposal to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (8), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023 be approved as a true record.

47-2023/2024 FINANCES

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for July 2023

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for July 2023 be approved, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the Payments and Receipts for July 2023 be approved.

2. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for August 2023

Members noted that the data for voucher #236 had corrupted during conversion to PDF; that the costs were correct and related to Biffa and disposal of general waste at the Broadway Centre.

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for August 2023 be approved, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the Payments and Receipts for August 2023 be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for July and August 2023

The verified banking reconciliations for July and August 2023 were noted.

4. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through August 2023

The Net Position Report and briefing note providing commentary to the current budget position were considered and noted. Members welcomed the clear explanation of the budget position.

Clarification was provided that:

- The overspend in relation to Pier Street Toilets related to the Cleaning of the facility and while invoices had been received for repairs, these had been successfully challenged by officers as Council had not agreed to fund repairs on the Isle of Wight Council facility.
- The £15,000 Youth Offer related to the programme of activities delivered by Julian Wadsworth (Community Action).

5. To receive an update on the external audit and public rights process.

Members noted that the auditors had confirmed receipt of the audit materials and requested a document be resent. However, no further correspondence had been received. Three members of the public had exercised their public rights. Consideration would need to be given to the process by which the public accessed the accounts in the future as documents had been removed from files and misfiled and misplaced during examination.

There was a statutory duty for Section 3 of the AGAR Due to the requirement for the Auditors report to be published by 30 September 2023 the RFO would follow-up with the auditors a week prior to the deadline.

48-2023/2024 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Council noted the report from the Clerk, who welcomed the new Caretaker, and highlighted a number of points detailed.

Questions were raised in relation to how councillors could provide support in relation to staff and contractors being abused by members of the public. Both staff and contractors had been advised not to engage.

Clarification was also sought regarding ownership of the viewing platform requiring repairs at Eastern Gardens. The Clerk advised that officers were seeking further information, including transfer of licenses for assets on the land as no details had been included in the original transfer in 2017. However, the immediate health and safety concern, of rotting decking boards, had to be addressed immediately and Sandown Town Council would bear the costs of the fencing.

49-2023/2024 WORKING PARTIES

A report had been published and circulated prior to the meeting, and the notes from the meetings circulated afterwards. Key points highlighted included:

Sandown Community Association had secured a grant of £30,000 for information boards at the library and the station. The funding had not yet been received but the match funding projects, which were Sandown Town Council projects that had already been delivered.

An update on the Station Defibrator was provided. There had been delays due to the phone box's location on Island Line property and with the adoption of the box. A way forward had now been agreed. The Community Heartbeat Trust would adopt the box and commission the electricity from BT. They would also provide the red and gold paint to restore the box. Restoration works would be undertaken by the probation service with the support of the youth offending team. The Sandown Town Council would fund, adopt, and maintain the defibrillator. A railway heritage grant had been secured for a mosaic and glass panels with designs to be from local schools.

The budget process was discussed. In relation to the consultation, members noted that most responses had been received online and that "Consultation Days" at the Broadway and the Library had not been well attended. Suggestions for improving engagement included QR codes at council assets and engaging with local community groups were discussed.

Clarification was provided regarding the Council's participation in Pride Events; Sandown should not hold its own event but participate and have a presence at the event for the Island. Activities relating to International Women's days should also be considered.

50-2023/2024 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Motion proposed by Cllr Paddy Lightfoot: Appointment of a Heritage Champion

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot moved a motion to appoint a town councillor as a Heritage Champion for the Council, presenting that the Sandown Conservation Management Plan (SCAMP) had been published by the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and that the plan had a number of actions that needed the support of both the IWC and Sandown Town Council (STC) to be delivered in a timely manner. He continued to say that the Heritage Champion role could include:

- Develop a relationship with the responsible Cllrs/ Officers at the IWC to make a plan of action and defined delivery objectives;
- raise the profile of the SCAMP within the designated zone.
- be the point of contact in Sandown for residents and businesses within the conservation zone;
- be the eyes and ears on the ground for works / development that conflict with the SCAMP

Clarification was also provided that the appointment would be for the duration of the council.

Cllr Ian Ward had volunteered for the position and an amendment was proposed and duly seconded to that effect, along with the appointment being for the term of the council to ensure continuity. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and the amendment passed.

For (7), Against (2), Abstentions (0).

Debate took place regarding the Accessibility/Inclusivity implications of the appointment with it being suggested that historic buildings were inherently discriminatory and therefore there were implications. Overall, it was not felt this was the case as members noted that STC did not own any historical buildings and equality and diversity would need to be assessed on a project-by-project basis, with the heritage champion role itself had been open to all councillors equally.

A substantive motion, to appoint Cllr Ian Ward as the Council's Heritage Champion for the duration of the council, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (2), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Cllr Ian Ward be appointed as the Council's Heritage Champion for the term of the council.

51-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

No environmental issues had been raised by the Isle of Wight Council, Environment Agency or other statutory body. Members noted that issues with individuals attacking birds and those feeding birds at the Canoe Lake had been escalated to the appropriate agencies.

52-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning applications were considered. No comments were returned.

[23/01565/FUL](#): 23 Cross Street Sandown, PO36 8BQ
Formation of new window opening on rear elevation of ground floor flat

53-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Brothers reported she had attended the Regatta and talked to consultants at the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Cllr Andre advised she had been working collaboratively with the Police and the new Community Safety Officer in relation to antisocial behaviour. Councillors were asked to focus on Sandown's positives and encourage the reporting of incidents to the relevant agencies rather than publicly sharing. Cllr Andre also advised informed members she would be requesting Yaverland and Culver Parade be included in the upcoming speed reviews.

Cllr Humby informed members she continued to hold Thursday Surgeries in the Library. Recently there had been mainly negative feedback including complaints regarding weeds in the gutters and perceived dangers on the revetment. Comments had also been made regarding audio and the streaming of the meeting. Members were reminded Cllr Alex Lightfoot filmed the meeting in a personal capacity and that council did not have the equipment to stream. A new microphone had however, been used.

Cllr Baldry commented on the professionalism of the company who installed the Esplanade War Memorial flag poles, noting the new poles were far more robust than those previously installed.

Cllr Fletcher encouraged members to read information from IWALC which had been circulated by officers on his behalf. Cllr Fletcher has also requested statistics related Police armed responses in Sandown, as there was a perception that Sandown had a disproportionate number of armed response incidents.

Cllr Hicks reported on the Sustainability and Environment Forum she had recently attended provided statistics on the decline of native species of flora and fauna. Cllr Hicks also raised concerns by the Bayshore Hotel regarding overgrown vegetation and was reminded this could be reported on FixMyStreet.com.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot congratulated the Carnival Association on delivering a successful summer events programme and updated members on the presentation to the lifeguards at the end of the season; the end of season beach safety report would be circulated in due course.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot informed members that following conversations with Sergeant Ben Sharland, a Community Case Review (previously a Community Trigger) had been triggered at the end of July and was with the Isle of Wight Council for next steps. Cllr Lightfoot also provided an update on the Bay Place Plan highlighting draft initial results from the events in the summer, such as what respondents felt should be left in the past and felt were key to the future. A first draft was expected at the end of September.

54-2023/2024 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion was moved without notice under Standing Order 21.1(vi), and duly seconded, that Public Question Time on matters pertaining to the town be brought forward; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Public Question Time be moved forward on the agenda to after Item 10.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PSCO Ash Webb provided an informal update on antisocial behaviour, noting that targeted patrols and other initiatives had resulted in a reduction in drinking and antisocial behaviour in the seafront shelters. However, there were still issues close to the HMOs. Further work would be undertaken with local shopkeepers and the Isle of Wight Council's Licensing department. Derlict Buildings remained an issue including the Ocean and the Parkbury.

55-2023/2024 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the public and press be excluded for the remaining business on the agenda. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (0), Abstain (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 12 on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 14 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.

56-2023/2024 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion was moved without notice under Standing Order 9.13(i), and duly seconded, that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

57-2023/2024 CHANGING PLACES TENDER

Council was advised that five expressions of interest, followed by three tenders for the Changing Places project had been received and opened in the presence of two councillors. The documents had then been anonymised and scored by the working party. The Working Party recommendation in relation to the changing places tender was then considered.

A grant of £30,000 had been secured for a Changing Places facility and Council had expected to match fund the project. As the project had developed it had become apparent the old toilets would need to be decommissioned and external works undertaken. While the final tender costs were higher than expected, since these additional works to bring the building into good repair would be required regardless of the Changing Places project, it was debated if they should be as part of the Changing Places development or as a separate project in the near future. The benefits of the project both in terms of accessibility, improving the area (the building was currently derelict and in poor repair) and bringing people to Sandown were examined. The general consensus was it would be better approached as a single project.

The revenue costs associated with the facility were discussed and while there were indicative costings these would be dependent on the final design. Members were advised that the additional monies for the projects capital costs, could be funded through a mixture of grants received and savings/underspending in other areas, without the council drawing on its reserves.

A motion was moved without notice, under Standing Order 21.1(xvi), that the meeting be adjourned until further costings could be obtained. The motion was not seconded and fell.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements and a named vote was requested; the results were as follows and it was:

For (8)

Cllrs Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Robert May, Alex Lightfoot, Paddy Lightfoot.

Against (1)

Emily Brothers

Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT the tender be awarded to Astor Bannerman, for works up to the value of £94,000.
- (ii) THAT the Mayor and another member of the Assets working party be delegated authority to work with clerks to take the project further.

Closed 21:15