



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 17 JULY 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 17 JULY 2023** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present: Frank Baldry, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Robert May, Alex Lightfoot, Paddy Lightfoot, Toby Wilcock.

Also Present: Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO), Sergeant Ben Sharland, and PCSO Alex Stewart and 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Sergeant Sharland and PCSO Stewart provided an update on policing in the Bay and specifically Sandown. Crime in Sandown over the previous 12 months represented around 12% of crime across the Island compared to 22% - 29% in other towns. The top five issues were Concern for Safety, Public Disorder, Assault (non-injury), Anti-Social Behaviour (community) and Shop Lifting.

Operation Spider, in 2022, had targeted antisocial behaviour in young people and had been successful in reducing instances. However, there had been an increase in adult anti-social behaviour in 2023 as the weather got warmer. Street drinking and drug use were particular issues. Data was being used to target patrols.

Discussion took place regarding street drinking and members noted a positive meeting between the police and housing providers had taken place as part of a holistic approach. Inclusion services had also accompanied officers on patrol. District teams were now touching down in Sandown to support local teams.

Work was also underway to reduce traffic offences including noisy and dangerous vehicles and speeding offences which had increased following the loss of a dedicated roads policing team but were now a priority.

A question was raised by a member of the public in relation to cycling offences and electric scooters. Reassurance was provided that cyclists and E-Scooter riders were challenged and action taken though this was not always publicised. A second member of the public suggested there could be an issue with bikes being used for drug related activity in the Foxes Bridge area.

A member of the public recommended that the new owner of the Kings Bar should be praised for starting tidy-up work promptly. The Mayor said it was worth considering, and that while the progress was positive he looked forward to projects being completed.

31-2023/2024 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Debbie Andre, Ian Fletcher and Ian Ward.

32-2023/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot declared an interest in the Age Concern Grant item as he qualified for support due to age.

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

No requests for written dispensations had been received.

33-2023/2024 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Brothers moved a proposal to amend minute 27-2023/2024. Since the matter had not been raised prior to the meeting it was not possible for it to be verified and the proposal was not seconded.

A further proposal to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (1), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 be approved as a true record.

34-2023/2024 FINANCES

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

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for May 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 May 2023 be approved.

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

Clarification was provided that the payments to Brighstone Landscaping were part of a framework agreement with the Isle of Wight Council who owned the beach and reassurance was provided the monies had been budgeted. Members also noted that businesses could choose their water provider and Business Stream was one such provider. The costs for Yaverland were high due to misuse of the water provision but this was in hand.

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for June 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 June 2023 be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for May and June 2023

The verified banking reconciliations for May and June 2023 were noted.

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

The expenditure against budget through June 2023 was noted. A number of questions were raised regarding spend against budget. It was expected the difference would be the result of miscodes, however members were advised, that since the information needed to inform the detail, was on the accounting system it could not be accessed during the meeting.

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

Members noted that three members of the public had requested to examine the councils accounts during the period of public rights. Follow-up questions had been asked by two of the three people and duly answered.

6. To Consider Grant Requests from:

(a) Age Concern

Members considered the grant request from Age Concern. It was suggested more detail be displayed during the meeting. However, the Mayor responded this would be resource intensive and made it clear that councillors had a duty to prepare for the meeting and were provided with information, which was published in advance for this purpose. Key points discussed included:

- The organisation was a large national entity and the funding being requested was for operational costs.
- Though statistics provided included Sandown residents, funding had not been requested for Sandown specific activities.

Members agreed that the organisations work was impressive but agreed the funding bid did not meet the council's criteria of specifically benefiting Sandown residents.

A motion that the grant be declined, 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 grant request from Age Concern be declined as it was not Sandown focused and the funding was for operational costs.

(b) Citizens Advice

Members considered the funding request from Citizens Advice, noting that a grant form had not been completed and accounts had not been provided. Members noted the request was for support for operational costs and did not detail targeted benefits for Sandown residents.

A motion that the grant be declined 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 grant request from Citizens Advice be declined as the correct process had not been followed, it was not Sandown focused and the funding was for operational costs.

35-2023/2024 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Council noted the report from the Clerk who highlighted the impact of recent antisocial behaviours and public rights on resource. The RFO also advised emergency works required to the roundabout and the small spinner, reassuring members that the equipment had been made safe.

Questions were raised in relation to appropriateness of officer's involvement in instances of anti-social behaviour. Members were reminded that the public often contacted the council rather than the appropriate agency to report anti-social behaviour and in some cases the officers had a duty to share the information appropriately.

Clarification was provided that while a demand has been received for business rates at Units 1 and 2, Station Road which had been leased by the council many years ago. This had been robustly defended by the RFO and had been resolved.

Reassurance was provided that while a grant of £30,000 had been secured for the Changing Places project no works would be undertaken until full costings had been approved by the council. This also tied in with the beach mat project.

36-2023/2024 WORKING PARTIES

A report had been published and circulated prior to the meeting, and the notes from the meetings circulated afterwards. The RFO updated members with the progress of the tender; the deadline for the expression of interest was the 14 July 2023. 10 Expressions of Interest had been received, three site visits had taken place and one company had withdrawn. The deadline for submission of the tender was 14 August 2023 and they would be opened on 15 August 2023 and reported to council on 18 September 2023.

Members noted that the workstreams had been agreed by Council previously and the report was providing an update. It was suggested the council should not recognise Armistice Day and questions were raised regarding items on Public Transport. The Clerk highlighted that the activities around Armistice Day involved the school and had limited or no cost to the council. Similarly, the council supported the Community Buses

Partnership (No. 22 and 24) and the Sand Hopper Bus through the Community Rail Partnership but with no direct cost to the council. It was also clarified There was no plans to undertake any work towards taking over the beach at this time.

37-2023/2024 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN SEAFRONT SHELTERS

There had been numerous complaints had been received from residents regarding antisocial behaviour in the town, especially on the seafront and around Fort Street and while it was encouraging that Inclusion was involved with addressing the anti-social behaviour as many of the individuals involved were vulnerable, there were action the council could take.

It was suggested that the town council write to the Isle of Wight Council to formally request they resolve the issues with the signage regarding alcohol consumption on the seafront and consider their responsibilities in relation to anti-smoking legislation in the seafront shelters.

Members were also advised that any member of the public could call 101 and request a "Case Review" formerly a "Community Trigger". This would result in a meeting between the Police, Housing, the Isle of Wight Council and Health partners. Cllr Paddy Lightfoot would contact Sergeant Sharland regarding any potential action.

A motion to formally write to the Isle of Wight Council regarding alcohol consumption signage on the seafront and their responsibilities in relation to anti-smoking legislation in the seafront shelters 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 Sandown Town Council formally write to the Isle of Wight Council regarding alcohol consumption signage on the seafront and their responsibilities in relation to anti-smoking legislation in the seafront shelters.

38-2023/2024 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 were advised that concerns raised by residents regarding an offensive odour around the car park had been shared with the relevant agency.

39-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

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

[23/01159/HOU](#): 35 Culver Parade, PO36 8AT - Proposed first floor and single storey rear extensions

[23/01001/HOU](#): 100 Culver Way, PO36 8QG - Proposed dormer window on rear elevation

[23/01069/RVC](#): 2 Auckland Mews, 44 Fitzroy Street, PO36 8HW - Proposed dormer window on rear elevation

40-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Brothers reported she had attended a film about the history of Sandown and taken part in a guided historical walk. She had also attended some of the Bay Place Plan meetings.

Cllr Humby had attended Sandown Forum and noted there was a change to format with quarterly meetings, chaired by a different person each time and with a guest speaker. She also provided an update on the Revetment Working Party – confirmation of Shanklin’s contribution, which Cllr May confirmed had been agreed, was needed to progress the proposed signage.

Cllr Humby continued to hold Surgeries in the Library with the majority issues raised being Isle of Wight Council matters which were duly shared with ward councillors and reported back to residents. Cllr Humby had also reported a number of overhanging hedges.

Cllr Brothers asked for details of the Revetment Working Party recommendations. These had been presented at a meeting she had attended during the Bay Place plan but would be re-circulated.

Cllrs Baldry, Betts and Wilcock had also attended the Bay Place Plan events and the positive energy during the event was noted. A timeline for the final report had not been confirmed but it was expected a draft report with further consultation would be circulated in the Autum.

Cllr Hicks informed members of a recent business exposition she had attended in Ryde and highlighted the upcoming Sustainability Meeting.

A number of councillors had attended the re-opening of the Church Lych Gate and the church thanked for the councils support in the project were noted.

41-2023/2024 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion was moved without notice, 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).

42-2023/2024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot, as the council’s representative on the Bay Place Plan provided a more detailed update on the success of the event which had been well attended. Cllr Lightfoot also informed members of proposals discussed at a recent Co-Creators meeting regarding the land adjacent to Culver Parade including Dinosaur Isle and the Brown’s Golf site which all three Bay Mayors had been invited to. There was a strong education theme to the proposals presented and it was clear that members wanted much of the site to remain open to the public:

- The Dinosaur Isle collection would be managed by the National History Museum and entirely located in Sandown with a higher education offering on the site. Hampshire Cultural Trust would run the commercial arm.
- Artecology proposed running masters level course with a Campus.
- The Wildheart Sanctuary proposed Glamping to encourage tourists to the Bay and educational offering with Campus similar to that offered by Jersey Zoo.
- Swim the Wight proposals included a tidal swimming pool, which the Environment Agency were considering, with a research programme run by Southampton University who were keen to have a local site.
- A beach sports facility

Members hoped that the Bay Place Plan would inform proposals but appreciated some projects would progress before it was finalised.

43-2023/2024 UPDATE ON PIER STREET TOILETS

The Planning application on the site had expired. However, the Isle of Wight Council had advised that discussions with the developer were still ongoing and a new application would be submitted.

Remedial works would be undertaken, funded by the Isle of Wight Council to allow the toilets to open for the summer holiday and Sandown Town Council would support the cleaning costs during this period.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public made representation in relation to the proposed plans for Brown's and Dinosaur Isle, requesting that communication be improved and the public be kept informed.

Closed 21:10.