



## **SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 26 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2022** (postponed from 19 September 2022 due to the period of national mourning following the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II) at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

**Present:** Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Alex Lightfoot (Deputy Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Sue Betts, Heather Humby, Jenny Hicks, Ian Ward.

**Also Present:** Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO) and 6 members of the public.

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

A question was raised in relation to the length of time allocated for Public Question Time at the end of the agenda. Clarification was provided that the provision had always been 10 minutes.

### **13-2022/2023 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Robert May and Toby Wilcock.

### **14-2022/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Frank Baldry declared a personal interest in Item 6, specifically the decision relation to the audio equipment for the Broadway Centre.

Cllrs Debbie Andre and Ian Ward declared interests as members of the Isle of Wight Council.

### **15-2022/2023 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members noted that minute 26-2022/2023 deferred matters relating to the HR Committee to the September 2022 meeting but that the item did not appear on the agenda as the legal advice relating to the item had not yet been received.

A proposal to approve the minutes 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), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 be approved as a true record.

**16-2022/2023 FINANCES**

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

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the payments and receipts list for July 2022 be approved and a named vote was requested. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (0), Abstain (1)

RESOLVED

THAT the payments and receipts for July 2022 be approved.

2. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for August 2022

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the payments and receipts list for August 2022 be approved and a named vote was requested. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (0), Abstain (1)

RESOLVED

THAT the payments and receipts for August 2022 be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for July and August 2022

The verified bank reconciliations for July and August 2022 were duly noted.

4. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through August 2022

The expenditure against budget through August 2022 was noted.

5. To receive the report of the External Auditor

The report of the External Auditor and publication dates for the Notice of Conclusion of Audit were noted.

**17-2022/2023 TOWN CLERK REPORT**

Council noted the report from the Clerk who also provided a verbal update on recent activities. These included:

- IWALC open day at the centre

- Grant funding secured to work with Church to provide warm space and other initiatives
- Launch of the 2023/2024 budget consultation
- Receipt of the Blue Flag Inspection report.
- Ceremony for Green Towns to be presented Queens Award for Voluntary Service.
- Showcase at Sandham Gardens Skatepark.

### **18-2022/2023 WORKING PARTIES**

Members discussed the update from the working parties, noting an update from the Mayor in relation to Public WiFi; industry experts had advised an unsuccessful trial had taken place on the Island and that with the roll out of 5G by providers public wifi would not bring any tangible benefits to Sandown. The matter project would therefore be removed from the public realm working parties work plan.

A proposal to accept the Public Engagement and Communication Working Parties recommendation in relation to the audio equipment at the Broadway Centre 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 (0), Abstain (1)

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT the council:

- (i) Engage Provider 3 to replace the hearing loop in the main hall and include an ambient microphone to enable the use of the loop without the need for the microphones.
- (ii) Engage Provider 3 to install a 15-microphone wireless delegate microphone system as soon as possible.
- (iii) To include provision for an ambient loop or a portable hearing loop in the meeting room in the 2023/24 budget.

### **19-2022/2023 HIGH STREET TASK FORCE AND BAY PLACE PLAN**

Consideration was given to the report from the High Streets Task Force and the letter from the Isle of Wight Council regarding the development of a place plan for the Bay. Members were advised concerns had been raised regarding the lack of local business in attendance during the high street task force visit and the key actions proposed in the report; that a vision statement be developed and an expert be engaged in relation to the derelict buildings.

In relation to the Bay plan, there was support for the initiative but members had concerns regarding the appointment process and it was suggested that any contribution would need to be linked to the councils agreement that the consultant appointed to work on the project was suitable. The benefit of the consultation opportunities that would arise from the project were also highlighted.

A proposal reflecting this position 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), Abstain (0)

**RESOLVED**

THAT the council

- (i) Support the Isle of Wight Council and other Bay councils (Shanklin Town Council and Lake Parish Council) to develop a Bay Place Plan.
- (ii) Provide a contribution of £5,000 to the project subject to their agreement regarding the consultant appointed and process.

**20-2022/2023 LOCAL TAX COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION**

Members reviewed the information provided in Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation. The cost-of-living crisis and difficult financial situation facing many residents was recognised, especially those on lower or fixed incomes. Therefore, it was proposed and duly seconded, that the options one through five be supported. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (0), Abstain (1)

**RESOLVED**

THAT the council respond to the in Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation with support for options one through five, noting the difficult financial situation facing many residents, especially those on lower or fixed incomes.

**21-2022/2023 SANDOWN SPRINT**

An email had been received from the organisers of the Sandown Sprint, consulting them on the plans for the 2023 event. Council agreed the event in 2022 has been excellent and good for the town. A proposal to express support for the event in 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 (0), Abstain (1)

**RESOLVED**

To respond to the consultation, showing support regarding the Sprint in 2023.

## **22-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED**

Cllr Humby advised a number of residents attending her surgery had made complaints in relation to the smell from the sewage works. There was general agreement that would members would be grateful if the clerk could look into the matter.

## **23-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS**

### 1. To consider any relevant planning applications.

The following planning application were considered.

Reference

Address

[22/01416/FUL](#) - Former Zanies Nightclub Esplanade

The planning application on the site of the former Zanies nightclub was discussed. Matters discussed included previous applications relating to the site, the sites current use (intermittent use for parking) with members being in agreement that the proposal would improve the site.

A proposal to support the application as it was in keeping with the adjacent developments and included parking 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 (0), Abstain (1)

### RESOLVED

THAT Sandown Town Council support the planning application for the development of five town houses on the siter of the former Zanies nightclub.

[22/01675/TW](#) - Outside 93 Station Avenue (tree fell)

[22/01652/CLEUD](#) - 21 Carter Street, PO36 8BL

[22/01636/HOU](#) - 62 Culver Way, PO36 8QL

[22/01387/FUL](#) - Surfside Diner, 23 Esplanade, PO36 8LA

Cllr Debbie Andre declared an interest in the application as ward member for the site, advising she planned to call the application in to planning committee. Discussion took place regarding the nature of the application i.e. that only internal works were proposed, that the several attempts to run a viable business from the site and attempts had failed and that the proposed use as a holiday meant the site would still be used for tourism.

A proposal to make a neutral comment indicating support of continued use of the site for tourism if matters raised by other agencies were addressed 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 (0), Abstain (1)

## RESOLVED

THAT Sandown Town Council return a neutral comment indicating support of continued use of the site for tourism if matters raised by other agencies were addressed.

### 2. To consider recent updates on the Ocean Hotel

Cllr Ian Ward provided an update on the situation relating to the Ocean Hotel. Key points discussed included:

- Despite recent press, the receiver had advised the leases had been sold when the site was purchased.
- Police patrols past the site had been increased following recent instances of vandalism.
- The relevant agencies were aware of the squatters in the building; the squatters had also fixed the fencing surrounding the site.
- The case would be heard on 4 October 2022.
- The community protection order related to the property's land registry.

## **24-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM**

### 1. Town Councillors

Cllr Debbie Andre advised members on various issues including:

- Discussions were taking place regarding the future of Dinosaur Isle; it was thought the area would remain a public space with a more ecological and environmentally friendly approach.
- Arrests had been in relation to vandalism at the Parkbury Hotel site following reports from the school regarding health and safety concerns.
- Youth Council/Youth MP very proactive, meeting with Bob Seeley.

Cllr Heather Humby provided an update on the revetment working party, advising members no ban could be applied but signage to encourage consideration was being explored.

Cllr Jenny Hicks reported that she had received a number of complaints relating to the cobbled slip way to the right of the pier and asked that the clerk contact the Isle of Wight Council regarding additional signage.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot had been invited to judge the illuminated carnival and members congratulated the Carnival Association on the success of both events. Cllr Lightfoot also attended an event at Boojam and Snark and a youth skate showcase at Sandham Gardens.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot has also attended the skate showcase and highlighted the success of the councils pump funding and work with the reliance officer. Cllr Lightfoot also highlighted the success of the beach accessibility initiatives.

## 2. Outside Bodies

Sandham Forum has met on the first Monday of the month with good attendance. Unfortunately, the secretary had stepped down due to ill health. Members noted that the football club who had attended the forum, had secured a 25 year lease for the Sandham Middle School site.

### **25-2022/2023 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 21 November 2022.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Reverend Williams advised that work would begin on restoring the Church's historic Lych Gate, during this time the pavement would be blocked but Island Roads had been informed.

Mr Alan Jones noted that the meeting had been concluded within 90 minutes unlike recent meetings as the minutes had been approved without prolonged debate.

Mrs Jeanne Jones asked for an update on the Travic 2 site. Cllr Andre advised officers at the Isle of Wight Council were preparing a section 215. The issue over insurance had been settled.

Mrs Jones also asked members be mindful of the difficult financial situations all residents faced due to the cost of living crisis when setting the council's 2023/24 budget.