



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2022** 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, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Heather Humby, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Ian Ward.

Also Present: PCSO Ash Webb, Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO) and 2 members of the public and press.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

PCSO Webb provided an update on antisocial behaviour in Sandown and provided details of recent initiatives including Operation Sceptre, recent activities to tackle speeding and other motoring offences, joint working with the local resilience team at the railway station and with the Isle of Wight Council regarding Public Space Protection Orders.

A question was raised regarding Cllr Toby Wilcock's attendance at meetings over the past six months. The Clerk indicated Cllr Wilcock had attended a meeting of the Engagement and Communications Working Party as detailed in the report but that he would revert to the monitoring officer for further clarification.

26-2022/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Toby Wilcock.

Cllr Debbie Andre raised concerns regarding Cllr Wilcock's absence from meetings and suggested council disqualify him on the grounds of persistent absence. The clerk reiterated Cllr Wilcock had attended a meeting of the Engagement and Communications Working Party as detailed in the report but that he would revert to the monitoring officer for further clarification

27-2022/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

28-2022/2023 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Debbie Andre indicated she had not received a copy of the minutes. Officers reminded members that the draft minutes were published on the council's website shortly after the conclusion of meetings and that they were included in the reports pack on the website, the link for which had been circulated to all members the previous week.

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 (6), Against (0), Abstain (5)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022 be approved as a true record.

29-2022/2023 FINANCES

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

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

For (10), Against (0), Abstain (1)

RESOLVED

THAT the payments and receipts for September 2022 be approved.

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

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

For (10), Against (0), Abstain (1)

RESOLVED

THAT the payments and receipts for October 2022 be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for September and October 2022

The verified bank reconciliations for September and October 2022 were duly noted.

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

The expenditure against budget through October 2022 was noted.

5. Costs for approval and budget virements

Members reviewed the costs and movements within the budget presented.

The repairs to the skate park were debated with some councillors suggesting no repairs should be made as issues with the surface and lighting had been raised by the resilience officer. Councillors were advised that the repairs were necessary for the park to remain open and there was a budget for maintenance which the quote of £3,476.75 would not exceed. Clarification was also provided that while the lighting and surface were not suitable for professional level sports they were sufficient for public use of the park. It was also noted that replacing the Skate Park would be costly and this was not budgeted for a number of years. Officers were also working with the Resilience Officer on a potential project around the Multi-Use Games Area and older children playground.

In relation to the works at Eastern Gardens, members were reminded that the block has been re-sited following comments from Southern Water and the securing of the site was in response to Police comments relating to the new location.

The following virements were noted:

- £1,694 is transferred from the Beach Safety Base budget to Lifeguard Equipment.
- £1,000.08 is transferred from the Town Improvement Budget to fund the additional week of beach safety service.
- £1,736.51 is transferred from the Town Improvement Budget to fund the repair of the decorative lighting.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the costs proposed be approved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (1), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

- THAT monies be allocated for the works to install electricity in the lifeguard bases.
- THAT monies be allocated from the beach safety budget to fund the fencing and gate for a storage area at Eastern Gardens.
- THAT repairs to the skate ramps and surfaces be undertaken.

6. Reserves and Investments (Paper G)

Council considered the Reserves and Investments policy presented. A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that policy be adopted. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the Reserves and Investments policy be approved.

7. Yaverland Business Rates (Paper H – Confidential Paper)

Officers advised that preparation of the information for the item has highlighted matters which would be discussed could be commercially sensitive and it was therefore recommended that the item be considered in confidential session.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the item be considered following the decision on the exclusion of the public and press. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

RESOLVED

THAT the item on the Yaverland Business Rates be moved to after item 12 on the agenda to allow it to be considered as a confidential matter.

For (11), Against (0), Abstain (0)

8. To receive the results of the budget consultation and options for the draft budget including Broadway Centre Hire Costs and Terms and Conditions (Papers I)

Members discussed the results of the 2023/2024 Budget Consultation and noted the information provided in the covering report. It was noted that the Isle of Wight Council's budget could impact on what the Town Council needed to make provision for, and that the final decision regarding the budget would not be made until February 2023.

Members suggested while they were mindful of the cost of living and energy crisis, not increasing the precept was not good practice. A proposal was made that a single draft budget resulting in a 5% precept be drawn up. This was withdrawn following debate.

An alternative proposal was moved and duly seconded, that two draft budgets be presented in line with options b and c in the report. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (1), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT a budget be drafted on the basis that the precept increase be in line with increased costs and impacts on services; and
- (ii) THAT a budget be drafted on the basis that the precept increase cover all identified cost pressures and meet priorities outlined in consultation.

The proposed changes to the terms and conditions of hire and pricing for the Broadway Centre, to be implemented from 1 January 2023, were presented and a proposal to approve them was moved and duly seconded,. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the terms and conditions of hire and pricing for the Broadway Centre be updated as proposed from 1 January 2023.

30-2022/2023 HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY

Consideration was given to the issues raised by residents in relation to Houses of Multiple Occupancy in Sandown following the Two Saints/Isle of Wight Council community meeting on 5 November 2022. Clarification was provided that while the town council had no direct powers in this area council could put forward residents' views.

The key issues highlighted in the discussions were around the location and concentration of HMO's in the Bay area (23% of all Island registered HMO's) and residents' concerns over the management of behaviour with some residents fearing to leave their homes. It was noted that the Isle of Wight Council had the power, when it commissioned services to include requirements in relation to location, and this could be included in the Island Plan.

Members agreed a letter would be written to the Isle of Wight Council regarding then points raised.

31-2022/2023 TOWN CLERK REPORT

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

- The model Civility and Respect – Councillor/Officer protocol will be circulated
- Discussions were taking place regarding the telephone box at the station being utilised and added to the asset register.

The Clerks request to expand the scope of the social media policy was discussed with members noting not all road closures and similar information would be shared; that the premise was for public service information such as the suspension of statutory services due to adverse weather, information on warm spaces or flood information to be disseminated.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded that policy be amended. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the Social Media policy be amended to include reposting of Statutory Agency posts relating to urgent issues.

32-2022/2023 WORKING PARTIES

Members received the written update from the working parties, noting that in addition to the work outlined in the report that the hearing loop in the main hall had been replaced and the wireless conference system had been installed.

33-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

No issues had been received from statutory agencies. Council noted that a briefing regarding the multi-million pound Yaverland Coastal Defence project has been received prior to the start of the formal meeting.

34-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

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

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>
22/01901/1AAPA	2 Yaverland Close, PO36 8QF
22/02082/RVC	Wight City Leisure Centre, 37 Culver Parade, PO36 8AT
22/01996/FUL	Adjacent 1 Crescent Road, PO36 8AX
22/01998/CLPUD	Civic Centre Broadway, PO36 9EA
22/01977/HOU	2 Auckland Mews, 44 Fitzroy Street, PO36 8HW

35-2022/2023 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM

1. Town Councillors

Cllr Brothers provided an update on her activities as an IWALC representative including:

- Attendance at meetings with the Isle of Wight Council Cabinet and MP.
- A topic meeting had been on Road Safety.
- Representing IWALC at the Health and Wellbeing Board where key issues were access to pharmacy and dental services.
- Attendance at the Bus and Rail Users Group meeting.
- The IWALC open day has been a success and the facilities at the Broadway Centre has been appreciated though it was disappointing the council did not have a stand.

- There would be an open session on 24 November 2022, from 18:00 – 19:00 on the cost of living.

Cllr Andre advised members of her recent activities including attending the showing of two films made by Island students on the Biosphere and biodiversity. The films would be shown at Quay arts.

Cllr Andre also advised that she had attended a meeting of Dinosaur Isle stakeholders to discuss how to take the facility forward, utilising the museum and the collection.

Cllr Fletcher advised he has been working with clerks on additional signage for the centres car park following incidents of speeding and unsafe driving.

Cllr Hicks advised she had attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum and advised that beavers had now been classified as an endangered species but had not yet been introduced to the Island. She has also attended the Living Well event in the library.

Cllr Ward provided an update on the Ocean Hotel; Officers from the Isle of Wight Council had attended the appeal from the owners in court in Durham. However, the judge had deferred the case as they were unhappy with the quality of the case presented. Cllr Ward also advised that he had been in conversations with the MP for the Island following residents contacting him after being made homeless when their landlord had sold the property they rented. The sale was the result of changes to the law and the MP had suggested this was unfortunately an unexpected consequence of changes to the law.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot updated members on the IWALC open day which he had attended, advising it had been interesting with attendees advising they preferred the format which had allowed councils to showcase their activities and network. He echoed Cllr Brothers disappointment that the council had not had a stand noting the majority had been provided by the IWALC representatives.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot has also spent all day at the in person budget consultation and advised that the Communications and Engagement working party would need to consider the format of face-to-face consultation activities prior to next year's budget as despite being advertised turnout was disappointing.

The Mayor updated members on a stakeholder resilience project noting that the project has been led by Julian Wadsworth and that three years funding for community resilience had been secured. Youth work had produced real results and there was work with other age groups also being undertaken. The Bay Mayors meeting has also discussed HMO's, the Bay Place Plan, as well as crime and disorder.

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Dinosaur Isle stakeholder events along with the Deputy Mayor and advised that the recommendation from the stakeholder group was that Dinosaur Isle remain in its current location, operated by a trust with a commercial arm. A report/outline business case would be prepared by the consultants running the stakeholder event would be preparing a report / outline business case to presented this preferred option to the Isle of Wight Council for decision.

The Mayor then updated the meeting on the situation with the closure of the Post Office. Cllr Andre commented that she had looked into the matter and post offices were franchises anyone could apply to run and that she hoped a local business would chose to run it. The clerk had contacted the Royal Mail and a response had been received just

before the meeting, stating that there had been no interest from other Sandown businesses to take on the franchise. Cllr May informed the meeting that Shanklin post office was not in a position to take on the additional business from Sandown as the profit margins were not sufficient. He also informed members that while the supermarkets (Tesco, Co-op etc) were not closing their post offices, they were not sufficiently profitable for them to take on more and a statement had been issued to this effect. It was noted that there was a post office in Lake.

Finally, the Mayor informed members that the High Street Task Force project had progressed with a derelict building's expert visiting the sites to provide ideas for alternative uses. The next steps were key with a meeting for business owners being facilitated as there was no Business association in Sandown, highlighting the importance of ensuring the correct stakeholders were included.

2. Outside Bodies

The Sandown Forum meeting has been chaired by Cllr Andre in Cllr Humby's absence. Attendance had been limited with representees from the football club, the carnival/hub, the 50 plus club, Christ Church and Green Towns Volunteers being present.

36-2022/2023 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 6 February 2023.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Due to the recommendation that the public and press be excluded for the remaining items, public question time was moved forward on the agenda. No questions were asked.

37-2022/2023 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members questioned the confidential nature of the item on regeneration and were advised that the information to be discussed included the Sandown Conservation Area Management Plan which had not yet been published and other information which was commercially sensitive for the Isle of Wight Council.

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

For (9, Against (1), Abstain (1)

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 items of business, namely Agenda Item 13 on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 7, and Agenda Items 4(7) and 14 on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined as

defined in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10, 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.

38-2022/2023 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A proposal to extend the meeting by 30 minutes as provided by standing order 9.1.3(i) was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

39-2022/2023 STAFFING MATTERS

Following discussion regarding the matters outlined in the confidential report, including the provision of back-office support to Lake Council and the appointment of an administrative assistant to ease capacity issues, a proposal in relation to the matters discussed was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements and a named vote was requested by Cllr Brothers; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7)

Alex Lightfoot, Frank Baldry, Ian Fletcher, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Ian Ward, Paddy Lightfoot.

Against (2)

Debbie Andre, Emily Brothers.

Abstentions (2)

Sue Betts, Heather Humby.

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT Sandown Town Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Lake Parish Council to provide back office support.
- (ii) THAT an administrative assistant be appointed.

40-2022/2023 REGENERATION

Members considered the draft Sandown Conservation Area Management Plan and the proposed comments from the council which had been returned to the relevant Isle of Wight Council officer. During debate a point of order was raised regarding the time.

41-2022/2023 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A proposal to adjourn and reconvene the meeting as provided by standing order 21.1 (xvi) was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the meeting be adjourned and reconvened within 14 days.

RECONVENED MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council begun on Monday, 21 November 2022 reconvened on **MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022** at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present (confirmed verbally for accessibility): Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Alex Lightfoot (Deputy Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Ian Fletcher, Heather Humby, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Ian Ward.

Also Present: PA to Councillor Brothers, Richard Priest (Clerk).

42-2022/2023 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Toby Wilcock.

43-2022/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

The Chairman read a short statement to Councillors concerning Councillor conduct. Cllr Brother requested a copy of the statement.

44-2022/2023 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A proposal to adjourn and reconvene the meeting as provided by standing order 21.1 (xvi) was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (11), Against (0), Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the meeting be adjourned and reconvened within 14 days.

RECONVENED MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council begun on Monday, 21 November 2022 reconvened on **MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2022** at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present (confirmed verbally for accessibility): Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Alex Lightfoot (Deputy Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Toby Wilcock.

Also Present: PA to Councillor Brothers, Richard Priest (Clerk).

The Mayor noted the meeting was a continuation of the meeting held on Monday, 21 November, reconvened on 29 November 2022 and again adjourned.

Members also confirmed that the decision at the original meeting to exclude the public and press for the remaining items on the agenda.

45-2022/2023 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Cllr Brothers suggested, understanding order 21.1 (xii) that Cllr Wilcock should be disqualified from the meeting due to his failure to attend a council meeting during the previous six-months.

The Clerk noted that Cllr Wilcock had attended a meeting of the working party on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 and was at the launch of the budget consultation with other town councillors.

The Clerk also confirmed that he would forward his response to a residents question and Cllr Andre and Brothers request for disqualification of Cllr Wilcock due to non-attendance at meetings, to the Isle of Wight Council's monitoring office after the meeting concluded and prior to the next meeting of full council.

Cllr Andre challenged the position taken by the Clerk, and said she had taken guidance from the Monitoring Officer, and that Cllr Wilcock should be disqualified. The Clerk responded that no correspondence had been forwarded by Cllr Andre from the Monitoring Officer and restated his decision citing section 7.13 of Arnold Baker:

The Clerk continued that providing a full response could take over 20 hours and result in significant legal costs in the future.

Cllr Andre then asked Cllr Wilcock if he still lived in Sandown, and Cllr Wilcock confirmed accordingly.

Cllrs Brothers then stated again that Cllr Wilcock should be disqualified as attendance at other meetings was not covered Local Government Act 1972, and that attendance at IWALC did not qualify as attendance as a town councillor.

The Mayor drew the matter to a close and advised that the Clerk would provide a full response at the next meeting and would forward his response to the Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot joined the meeting.

46-2022/2023 APOLOGIES

The clerk had advised both Isle of Wight Council Ward Members prior to the meeting that matters under discussion would present a conflict of interest with regard to their roles as Isle of Wight Council members. Therefore, Cllr Ward had advised that he would not be attending the meeting

Apologies were also received from Cllrs Ian Fletcher, Heather Humby.

47-2022/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Debbie Andre advised that as an Isle of Wight Councillor she had declared an interest in all Isle of Wight Council issues on the agenda, which included the items relating to Yaverland Business Rates and Regeneration but was pleased to see that the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan as part of the project.

Cllr Andre left the meeting due to declaring an interest in items 4(7) and 14 on the agenda.

48-2022/2023 YAVERLAND BUSINESS RATES

Members discussed a demand from the Isle of Wight Council for yearly charges relating to non-domestic rating in 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

A proposal in relation to the matters discussed was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (7)

Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Alex Lightfoot (Deputy Mayor), Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Toby Wilcock.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

- (i) THAT the demand not be paid at until further clarification regarding the circumstances be obtained.
- (ii) THAT the Asset Management Working Party formulate a way forward.

49-2022/2023 REGENERATION

Members noted the range of regeneration projects that Sandown was leading on or involved in, alongside its core business activities as well as potential budget implications.

The Mayor highlighted the planned meeting of the Bay mayors and their deputies, the progress of the High Street Task Force and the visit from the derelict buildings consultant, Dinosaur Isle, Pier Street regeneration and other projects which would impact the town including one relating to the Town Hall that the Town Council had not been consulted on.

The Mayor and members agreed that co-ordination would help avoid raising expectations for projects that are not the responsibility of this council and that the response to the draft Sandown Conservation Area Management Plan reflected this approach; since the plan was an Isle of Wight Council document and it was for them to publish, comments from the town council had been forwarded but not published.

A request from the Isle of Wight Council for a funding contribution towards the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan, along with Lake and Shanklin was considered.

Members agreed that there was no budgetary provision and that the project also needed to be consistent with the regeneration initiatives.

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

For (7)

Paddy Lightfoot (Mayor), Alex Lightfoot (Deputy Mayor), Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Robert May, Toby Wilcock.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan needed to be part of the wider Place Plan and that funding could only be considered once the Place Plan and Bay partnership working, had been developed.

50-2022/2023 STAFFING MATTERS

Members noted the current staffing situation.

Meeting closed 18:50