



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present: Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Paddy Lightfoot, Ian Ward and Toby Wilcock.

Also Present: Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO), Lorraine Ellis (Admin) and 17 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

The majority of the Members of the Public in attendance were present to bring anti-social road use in Yaverland to members attention; Cars were congregating in the Car park and causing nuisance through noise and illegal manoeuvres with speeding on Yaverland Road, Culver Parade and Avenue Road.

Questions were asked regarding the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) on the parade, which was broken, the possibility of pinch points and a speed camera.

A community speed watch project was also discussed with the associated risks and need for effective management of such a project highlighted. Cllr Andre advised would co-ordinate the community speed watch project to ensure volunteers were safeguarded. She also advised the overflow to the carpark would be locked out of season and during wet weather. The VAS was an Island Roads asset and was being repaired.

The Mayor advised that traffic calming measures were not in the Town Council's gift but there was an active travel plan in development which looked at measure to make roads safer for bicycles and pedestrians. Island Roads also held a risk register and once added areas were monitored for future action. The Town Council would write formally to the Isle of Wight Council on the matter and Cllrs Ward and Andre who were Isle of Wight Councillors had been party to the discussion.

Mr Alan Jones requested a change in the minuting style, that minutes referenced minute numbers rather than agenda items for clarity. Officers agreed the change made sense.

Clarification was sought regarding the Bay Place Meeting to be held on the 19 September 2024 in Shanklin. The meeting was a Shanklin Town meeting, to update Shanklin Residents and not a Sandown or Lake meeting.

A written question was also received in relation to concerns about the deteriorating condition of Morton Common, in particular the lack of land management and overall air of abandonment and if there were plans to restore it to a managed state. There was discussion over where responsibility for different areas lay and it was agreed the Town Council would invite both the Environment Agency and the Trust to a meeting to update residents on upcoming schemes.

34-2024/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Ian Fletcher (Deputy Mayor) and Robert May.

35-2024/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Debbie Andre and Cllr Ian Ward declared an interest in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council. Cllr Andre also declared a pecuniary interest in the item relating to Los Altos Park as her property backed onto it.

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

No requests for written dispensations had been received.

36-2024/2025 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Brothers moved an amendment to the minutes proposing Paragraph 2 of Minute 33-2024/2025 was removed as the use of the term “inflammatory” was opinion. The amendment was duly seconded.

Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and the motion fell, with the Chair noting his disappointment that a councillor who had not attended the meeting voted in favour of the amendment the amendment:

For (4), Against (4 and Casting Vote), Abstentions (2).

A motion to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 29 July 2024 was moved. Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

For (4), Against (2), Abstentions (4).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2024 be approved as a true record.

37-2024/2025 FINANCES

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for July 2024

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for July 2024 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 (10), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the Payments and Receipts for July 2024 be approved.

2. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for August 2024

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for August 2024 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 (10), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the Payments and Receipts for August 2024 be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for July and August 2024

The verified bank reconciliations for July and August 2024 were noted.

4. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through August 2024

The expenditure against budget through August 2024 was noted.

5. Update on Football Foundation Grant

The Mayor updated Council on the progress of the Football Foundation Grant for a 2g Multi-Use Games Area at Sandham Grounds. The kick-off meeting with the Football Foundation's appointed consultant and contractor had gone well and a site visit to confirm the design, so costs could be finalised, was scheduled for the end of the month. The final decision on the award of the grant would take place once planning approval had been secured.

6. Budget Consultation and Process

Members considered the 2025/26 budget process and consultation, noting the draft poster and survey recommended by the working party. Officers also highlighted the inclusion of new questions on protection for Warm Spaces, Litter and Dog Fouling in the survey.

Discussion took place regarding the wording of the survey questions with points raised including consistency of the information provided and options offered.

It was highlighted that costs had not been included for some items, such as hanging baskets, as they would not result in a precept increase as previously budgeted. It was agreed the Solar Panel question terminology would be updated to state "Council is considering..." and increases and decreases would be highlighted. An amended draft would be recirculated prior to publishing. There were no changes to the poster.

7. Grant application from UKSA

A grant application had been received from UKSA seeking support for its "Test the Water" project.

Cllr Brothers declared an interest as a Governor of the Bay CE School whose pupils would be beneficiaries of the proposed project and left the room for this item.

Councillors noted that the previous year all Children in Year Six of the Bay Primary School had had the opportunity to participate at a cost of £42 per child and 50% of the funding for the next year six cohort across the Island had been secured through donations.

A motion to support the application was moved and, during the debate it was noted, this would include approximately 60 Sandown School Pupils, it was proposed £1,260.00, half of the funds needed to support these children, be awarded. Council requested that UKSA be

reminded to include Sandown Town Council on any literature to help publicise the contribution.

The motion was 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 a grant of £1,260.00 be awarded to UKSA to support 50% of the Bay Primary School Year 6 Pupils participation in the Test the Water project.

38-2024/2025 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Council noted the report from the Clerk who highlighted:

- The submission of a SEN Resilience Grant Application for generator and other equipment to support the emergency response teams, noting it was a last-minute submission.
- Collation of data to support the Warm Spaces Grant; and
- The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (previously circulated)

39-2024/2025 WORKING PARTY RESULTS

The report from the working party was noted. The non-confidential recommendation in the report in relation to Parking at the Broadway Centre was debated with members remarking that while a previous council had committed to selling the land to fund the building of the Broadway Centre, subsequent Councils had reversed this decision.

Clarification was provided that tickets would be at staff discretion and not automatically issued and that there was no cost to the council. The planning conditions imposed on the Broadway Centre, limiting parking to centre users and visitors was also highlighted. Reassurance was provided the terms and conditions and contract would be reviewed thoroughly before any commitment was made.

A motion, that the Council trial the NCP ticketing solution presented for 6-months, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (8), Against (2), Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED

THAT Council trial the proposed NCP ticketing solution to manage parking at the Broadway Centre for a period of six-months.

40-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

No statutory issues had been received. However, a written update on the coastal defence project had been provided just prior to the meeting which would be circulated.

41-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications were considered; no comments were returned:

[24/01370/TW](#) - 6 Park Rise, PO36 9FJ – Tree Works

[24/01367/TW](#) - Flat 1 3 Beachfield Road, PO36 8ND

[24/01355/TW | 7600, 7608, 7616, 7640, 7652, 7660, 7784, 7760, 7748, 7708, 7740; Common lime - Re-pollard. 7624; Common lime - Re-pollard and root prune. 7704, 7612, 7700, 7620, 7692, 7628, 7688, 7676, 7636, 7644, 7672, 7648, 7664, 7656, 7776, 7772, 7764, 7788, 7756, 7792, 7752, 7744, 7736, 7732, 7716, 7720, 7724; London Plane - Re-pollard and root prune. 7808, 7768, 7728; London plan - Re-pollard.](#)

Various Locations Station Avenue Sandown Isle Of Wight

A proposal to comment on the following application was debated:

[24/01234/FUL](#) - 11 High Street Sandown Isle of Wight PO36 8DA

Proposed change of use of rear ground floor to form one residential unit to include extension at first floor level and alterations

Council discussed the site and the reasons previous applications had been refused; that due to its location between two commercial kitchens, it had not been deemed a suitable site for a residential unit. A motion, that the Council return a Neutral Comment but highlight the reasons previous applications for the site have been refused, 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 (2)

RESOLVED

THAT Council return a Neutral Comment but highlight the reasons previous applications for a residential unit on the site had been refused.

42-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Heather Humby shared comments made during her regular surgeries, including holidaymakers bemoaning the state of the town. The collection of rubbish and other debris in the lightwells and basement areas of the derelict hotels was of particular concern and she requested the Town Council contact the local authority regarding the matter.

Cllr Baldry advised members a site visit was due to take place regarding cleaning of the war memorial.

Cllr Betts drew attention to the Exxon Mobil proposals for a CO2 pipeline across the Island, Highlighting that while the proposed sites were not in Sandown the Island as a whole would be effected due to its impact on ancient woodland which could not be reinstated, the biosphere and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She also highlighted the risks of the pipelines bursting and damage to the environment and tourism. Details of the current petition against the project were shared, encouraging Councillors to sign.

Cllr Hicks asked for an update on the Shops Heritage Project and was reminded that she had volunteered to undertake the project as a working party meeting.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot advised members the Repaint the Esplanade Railings project was nearly complete. Details of the final session would be shared when confirmed. He also voiced concerns regarding the Exxon project, as he did not consider the technology had been proven to be reliable.

The Mayor echoed Cllr Betts and Lightfoot's comments noting Exxon had answered very few of the questions posed and noting the tunnelling would destroy the land it went through. The Mayor also informed members that when the consultation for revised Dog Orders was

launched he would be campaigning for the ban on beaches to be time specific from 10am to 6pm similar to other costal areas such as Cornwall.

43-2024/2025 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion, under 21.1(vi) that Public Question Time be bought forward on the agenda, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Public Question Time be bought forward on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Alan Jones expressed that he considered the Exxon Project to be about profit rather than the environment. He also asked questions in relation to misuse of the Broadway Centre carpark and was advised as private land, it was not possible to simply clamp or remove the vehicle.

44-2024/2025 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cllr Brothers argued the installation of wooden activity should be discussed in public session but was advised the financial aspects of the proposal, which were commercially sensitive, would need to form part of the debate.

A motion 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 (1), 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 11, minute number 46-2024/2025 on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 7, and 14 as 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.

45-2024/2025 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion, under 9.13(i) that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes, 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 (1), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

46-2024/2025 LOS ALTOS WOODEN ACTIVITY TRAIL

Cllr Andre, who had declared a pecuniary interest left the meeting.

Council considered the proposal to install an eight-piece wooden activity trail in Los Altos Park, noting that £9,724.00 of funding from the Isle of Wight Council and a National Lottery

Community fund grant had been secured. Since equipment was unique to the manufacturer, each of the three quotes presented for Consideration, included slightly different equipment. The equipment would be sited along the sunshine trail.

Concerns were raised regarding the equipment increasing antisocial behaviour in the park or being vandalised with some members suggesting the park should be left as an open space. The lack of provision for children in the ward (Sandham Grounds being in the adjacent ward) was highlighted. When the matter of consultation was raised members were also reminded the project was within the scope of the Bay Place Plan which had involved extensive consultation.

Members also discussed the status of the Park as a council asset, noting the License to Occupy expired on 31 March 2025. In order to proceed with the project:

- The Isle of Wight Council will need to give permission, as the Licensor, for the equipment to be installed.
- Planning permission will also be needed.
- As the licence is due to expire, the project would need to be supported by an additional agreement by the Isle of Wight Council that the equipment could remain in situ but owned, insured and maintained by Sandown Town Council who will also make arrangements for it to be removed, and the site made right at the end of its viable life.

A motion, that subject to the necessary approval and agreements, the contract for provision of a wooden trail in Los Altos to Caledonian Play and the relevant safety surfaces be included in the order, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED

THAT the Council award the contract for provision of a wooden trail in Los Altos to Caledonian Play and the relevant safety surfaces be included in the order.

Meeting Closed 9:30