



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 10 FEBRUARY 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2025** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

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

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

The Mayor invited questions from members of the public.

Neil Denley, the Lead Flourish Worker from Christ Church thanked the council for supporting the Christmas Day Dinner event which had been very successful and advised planning for the 2025 event had begun.

Mr Denley also provided details of the Church's Breakfast on the Bay initiative which had been developed in partnership with the Bay School and provided breakfast for between 100 and 150 children at the high school. The provision had resulted in a noticeable improvement in behaviour and attendance. Additional funding would be needed to ensure the offer could continue in future years. The Mayor advised that applying for a grant from the Town Council would be the best course of action.

66-2024/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Ward.

67-2024/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Debbie Andre advised she was an Isle of Wight Councillor, advised she was a trustee of Community Action, declared an interest in matters pertaining to Los Altos Park, and a pecuniary interest in the Carnival Association.

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

No requests for written dispensations had been received.

68-2024/2025 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

An amendment and question to the accuracy of the minutes were raised by a Councillor. The Chair ruled under Standing Order 9.14; that he did not consider the amendment and questions complied with Standing Order 9.9, regarding what should be considered points of accuracy in relation to the minutes of a meeting under Standing Order 21.1. Therefore, a motion to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 18 November 2024 was moved and duly seconded.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

For (8), Against (1), Abstentions (2).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024 be approved as a true record.

69-2024/2025 FINANCES

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

A motion to approve the November 2024 Payments and Receipts was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the November 2024 payments and receipts be approved.

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

A motion to approve the December 2024 Payments and Receipts was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the December 2024 payments and receipts be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for November and December 2024

The verified bank reconciliations for November and December 2024 were noted.

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

The expenditure against budget through December 2024 noted.

5. Update on Football Foundation Grant

Members were updated on the progress of the Football Foundation Grant. The application had been submitted, letters of support had been received from national sporting bodies, the planning application had been granted approval and the application to discharge the planning conditions had also been submitted.

6. Risk Register

A motion to approve the updated Risk Register 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 (1).

RESOLVED

THAT the updated Risk Register be approved.

7. 2025/2026 Budget

Council considered three budget proposals.

- The Council's Draft Budget (an increase of £37.04 per year or 15.9%).
- Council's Draft Budget with additional expenditure supporting the Isle of Wight Council's Place Manager for the Bay (an increase of £43.55 per year or 18.7%) requested by the Chair of the Bay Place Plan.
- An alternative Budget proposed by Cllrs Alex and Paddy Lightfoot (an increase of £7.67 per year or 3.3%).

It was agreed, at the request of a councillor, that the Alternative Budget proposed by Councillors Alex and Paddy Lightfoot be considered first, as an amendment to the officer drafted Council Budget.

A number of provisions were debated including:

- Budgetary allocation to join the Bay Councils joint support of the Area Place Manager for the Bay, should the Isle of Wight Council decide not to fund the Island's four Regeneration Officers due to a cut in grant monies.
- Grass cutting at Los Altos park and the future of the licence to occupy, with reassurance being provided this did not constitute a decision to renew the licence which would be brought back to Council at a later date.
- Solar Panels at the Broadway Centre.
- The removal of a general Grant Funding budget, which Councillors note would not prevent grants being awarded from other budget lines if appropriate.

Members also discussed the balance needed between ensuring the council was sufficiently funded to deliver its provisions and not placing an undue burden on residents, both in the current economic climate and future years.

A motion proposing the amendment was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the amendments to the budget found at Appendix C (attached to and forming part of these minutes) be accepted.

A motion proposing the amended budget was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the 2025/2026 budget requiring a precept of set the required precept at £625, 332 or £240.47 for a Band D equivalent presented in Appendix c (attached to, and forming part of these minutes) be approved.

8. Bay Place Plan Funding Requests

A motion to the defer the item and group the discussion with the Bay Place Plan projects included in the Assets and Projects Working Parties Report 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 (1).

RESOLVED

THAT the item be deferred and consider along side the Working Party Report appendix relating to Bay Place Plan Projects.

9. Council Reserves – CCLA

Members thanked the RFO or her work managing the Council's Reserves and in preparing such a comprehensive report outlining the recommended changes. Council noted that using different financial institutions for the reserves spread and as such reduced the risk relating to the Council's reserves.

A motion that the RFO's recommendations be approved En Bloc was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT Sandown Town Council apply to the CCLA to invest 50% of their monies in the Public Sector Deposit Fund and keep a watching brief on the funds' performance and CCLA's credit rating.
- (ii) THAT the Council move its instance access savings to Hinkley and Rugby Building Society to obtain a higher rate of interest but withdraw the monies if their rates cease to be competitive or they lose stability.
- (iii) THAT some or all of these monies be moved to a Nationwide account when they re-open applications and it retains a rating over -A.

10. Grant Applications

Grant applications from the following organisations were considered:

(a) Historical Society

Cllr Ian Fletcher declared an interest as a member of the society and as such did not vote.

The application from the society for funding to digitise the Sandown Chronicles was discussed. Clarification was provided that the previous project funded by the Council related to the preservation and storage of the hard copy issues and had included digitalization of only the most fragile of the issues.

Consideration was also given to how the digitalisation would make the collection more accessible with members noting the digital copies could be printed, enlarged and in some cases converted to a text format suitable for screen readers.

A motion to award a grant of £1,000 to Sandown Historical Society was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (6), Against (4), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT Sandown Historical Society be awarded a grant of £1,000

(b) The Operation Geranium Art Collection

The application was debated with members expressing concern that the application did not clearly outline how it would benefit residents of Sandown specifically or how it aligned with Council's aspirations.

Council did, however, note that they did have land which may be lend itself a more suitable future event and while they did not want to incur additional costs supporting such an event would be open to discussion regarding use of council facilities or land.

A motion to refuse the grant application but advise the applicant council would be open to discussion of its land or facilities where appropriate was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (9), Against (2), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the grant application be refused but the applicant be advised the council would be open to discussion of its land or facilities, where appropriate, be included in the correspondence informing the applicant of the refusal.

70-2024/2025 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Members considered the written report from the Town Clerk. Updates were provided on projects which had moved forward since the report was published. Members questioned what work had been required in relation to Business Rates on the Beach Safety Base and were advised that the Isle of Wight Council has requested it be added to the ratable list, had not applied discretionary relief and as such a business rate demand had been received.

In a previous decision, the Council had, to protect officers from being forced to use personal details, specifically national insurance details for work purposes, prohibited this practice. The Mayor advised the RFO, for the purposes of challenging the additional costs being levied against such an essential service, was prepared to use her details of Council were minded to allow this.

A motion to allow the RFO to provide her national insurance number for the purposes of challenging the business rates levied against the Beach Safety Base 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 RFO be permitted to use her personal details to undertake a valuation office "Check and Challenge" in regard to the Beach Safety Base.

71-2024/2025 WORKING PARTY REPORT

Members considered the report detailing the work and recommendations from the Working Parties. Discussion took place regarding the landscaping at Yaverland toilets (Appendix A) and the proposed Coastal Place Improvement Project (Appendix B).

A motion was moved and duly seconded that the landscaping at Yaverland be taken forward when the new toilets have been signed off. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT the landscaping at Yaverland be taken forward when the new toilets have been signed off.

Members noted that, in addition to the Coastal Place Improvements being driven by the aspirations in the Bay Place Plan (Appendix B), the steering group was asking for funding from the three Bay councils for three joint projects: £1,000 for a promotional video for the Bay, £1,000 for a Bay tourism leaflet and £3,333 for an Art's Festival.

Concerns were raised relating to the Art's festival. The key issue noted were the location of the installations, the sharing of space on the promenade and the need for licenses and permissions from the Isle of Wight Council. Reassurance was provided that a detailed proposal would need to be brought forward before the monies were awarded and the council was instead agreeing to a budget so the project could be developed.

A motion moved and duly seconded that the place plan projects be taken forward with funding drawn from the Place Plan/Town Improvement Budget if other funding could not be sourced. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (10), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT the Place Plan projects be taken forward with funding drawn from the Place Plan/Town Improvement Budget if other funding could not be sourced.

72-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

Council were reminded that the Environment Agency had undertaken a recent event relating to the Yaverland and Shanklin Coastal Defence Scheme at the Broadway Centre and that details of their upcoming consultation events could be found on the Council's website.

Cllr Andre also advised, following serious flooding in the area, that a Flood Watch group was being set-up and she would be meeting with partners and stakeholders in relation to flooding.

73-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

a) To consider any relevant planning applications.

The following applications were considered; no comments were returned.

[25/00179/TW](#) – Broadway Park Hotel Melville Street, PO36 9DJ

Tree 1 - Leyland cypress; Fell to ground level and grind stump
Tree 2 - Leyland cypress; Fell to ground level and grind stump

[25/00151/DIS](#) - Sandham Gardens, Culver Parade, PO36 8AT

Condition compliance application on 24/01658/FUL relating to conditions 3 (details of trackway, crossing points and contact details) and 4 (archaeological watching brief).

b) To receive an update on planning enforcement activities

In terms of enforcement, members noted an s215 had been served on the Esplanade and that the deadline for owners to appeal had passed. There were now 103 items to be actioned.

74-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Heather Humby reported on issues raised at her Thursday surgeries at the library. In addition to the usual comments regarding the Esplanade hotel lightwells, a number of residents had commented on dangerous paving stones. Members noted Island Roads were very responsive when these were reported via their "[fixmystreet](#)" link.

Cllr Jenny Hicks advised that, having been tasked with contacting businesses in the High Street regarding a heritage picture installation, that there had been little uptake.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot shared his visit to the Southern Water Isle of Wight Water Recycling Project public consultation; stating it would be absolutely necessary in the future, for water to be recycled, due to ever increasing demand and increasing restrictions on mainland supply. The proposed plant would recycle wastewater which would be mixed with existing supplies so that residents did not receive 100% recycled water. He reassured councillors he would be happy to drink the recycled water.

Cllr Lightfoot also updated members on matters pertaining to the Bay Place Plan; The Steering Group had been named "Building the Bay" and working groups would be "The Bay – XYZ".

An update on the Steps project was requested and members were advised that following 18 months of discussion, Island Roads had advised that the steps adjacent to the Trouville could only be painted if they were de-accrued from the network and the Isle of Wight Council were not prepared to accept the return of the asset.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot reported a meeting with Ventnor Exchnage to members. Advising, there were plans for Shakespeare in Los Altos in the Summer and a "Creative Island" project in 2026 which would include a big top in Los Altos park for one of the two weeks.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Paul Coueslant asked a question relating to where the Bay Place Plan information could be found on the website and was shown. A Bay Place plan website was being developed.

Ms Tienna Eccles asked for clarification regarding Warm Spaces funding. The Mayor responded that the funding was to ensure the provision could continue should Department of Work and Pensions funding, through the Isle of Wight Council, cease and that the Church would still need to apply for that funding in the first instance.

Meeting Finished 20:50