



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 10 MARCH 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 10 MARCH 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, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby, Paddy Lightfoot, Ian Ward.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

The Mayor invited members of the public to speak.

Reverend Willaims thanked Council for considering the grant application from the PCC for Breakfasts at the Bay School, reassuring members the PPC was the vehicle for the grant application, but all funding would go to the project.

Mr Alan Jones raised concerns that branding the project as “Breakfast in Bay” would lead to confusion, and affect donations, to the existing initiative of the same name delivered to primary schools across the Bay but otherwise supported the project. Reverend Williams responded that the issue with the name would be taken on board.

Ms Linda Marriot of the Public asked Council to consider the planning application relating to the phone mast on Perowne Way, in particular the impact on bats and the honeybee colony at the Wild Heart Sanctuary. The Mayor responded that it was on the agenda for consideration under the Planning Applications item.

66-2024/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sue Betts, Emily Brothers, Robert May and Toby Wilcock.

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 and had a pecuniary interest in the Carnival Association. She also noted that her property backed on to Los Altos Park should it be relevant to discussions regarding planning matters. Cllr Andre also declared an interest in the grant application for Breakfast at the Bay School as a co-opted member of the PCC, and advised she would recuse herself from the discussion and vote.

Cllr Ian Ward declared an interest as member of the Isle of Wight Council and advised, having made a comment on the planning application relating to the mast, that he would not be participating in the debate or vote on the matter.

Cllr Jenny Hicks declared the same.

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

Members noted comments had been received in advance of the meeting from Councillors Emily Brothers and Paddy Lightfoot, and, as such, the draft minutes being considered had been amended. A motion to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 10 February 2025 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 (0), Abstentions 0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2025 be approved as a true record.

69-2024/2025 ELECTION COSTS

Central Government had now confirmed that the 2025 Town and Parish Council Elections would still take place on 1 May 2025. However, the Isle of Wight Council Elections had been postponed resulting in the full cost of the election needing to be met by local councils. These costs were unbudgeted and estimated costs for the election were not available. Examples of potential costs had been provided ranging from £2,500 - £4,500 for 500 – 3000 electors, depending on different factors such as the number of polling stations and the issue of poll cards. There was agreement, that as costs were unknown, the Mayor should be given delegated authority to incur these costs on the Council's behalf.

Members debated if poll cards should be issued, noting a saving of approximately £3,500 (Based on an electorate of 5,448 - March 2024) could be made if poll cards were not issued. It was agreed that while they acted as a reminder, other activities within the community could be undertaken to raise awareness at less cost to the taxpayer, including posters, leaflets and social media posts.

A motion to delegate authority to the Mayor for costs relating to the election without poll cards being issued was moved. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the Mayor have delegated authority regarding costs relating to the election, but that poll cards not be issued.

70-2024/2025 FINANCES

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for January 2025

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot drew members attention to the receipt for interest on the council's monies, noting it was reflective of actively managed reserves. A motion to approve the January 2025

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the January 2025 payments and receipts be approved.

2. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for February 2025

A motion to approve the February 2025 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 (8), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED:

THAT the February 2025 payments and receipts be approved.

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for January and February 2025

The verified bank reconciliations for January and February were noted.

4. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through February 2025

The expenditure against budget through February 2025 was noted.

5. Update on Football Foundation Grant

Members were updated on the progress of the Football Foundation Grant, noting that while a decision in relation to the discharge of planning conditions had been made, the decision letter was not yet publicly available. The grant application had been completed and submitted subject to provision of final costings. Further updates would be circulated when available.

6. Station Phone Box

Cllr Debbie Andre provided members with an update on a project to install a community defibrillator in a refurbished red phone box at Sandown Station which had begun some time ago. Since the project had been proposed, Southwestern Railways had installed defibrillators at all its stations, including Sandown, as a matter of policy. The monies allocated for this project could therefore be reallocated to the original budget line.

The phone box itself was considered a heritage asset by many, and as such discussions had taken place to save the phone box. The Railway would be happy for the Council to take the asset and a suitable location at the Broadway Centre had been identified which could be funded from the Place Plan/Town Improvement Budget.

A proposal to that effect was tabled 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 (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the monies for the defibrillator be reallocated to the original budget; and the Place Plan/Town Improvement budget be used to fund the relocation of the phone to the Broadway Centre for community use.

7. Grant Applications – Breakfast at the Bay School

A grant application for funding for a project to deliver Breakfasts at the Bay School, which provided a free breakfast to 100-150 students at the High School was considered. Members noting Lake Parish Council and Shanklin Town Council has also been approached for grant monies and that the Rotary Club had recently awarded £500 of funding to the project.

The grant request was broken down into three parts:

- £1,400 funding for the remainder of the school year (which was similar to the amount left in the 2024/25 Grant Budget);
- £4,000 for the 2025/2026 school year; and
- Annual funding thereafter.

During the debate the positive impact of this, and similar initiatives, on behaviour and learning outcomes was considered as well as the success of Warm Spaces which provided a comparable offer for adults. Members agreed it would be appropriate for the reserves to be used to fund such a project, though appreciated this would impact on next years precept.

Three separate motions in support of the applications were moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

For (7), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT £1,400 be awarded from the 2024/2025 Grants Budget.

For (7), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT £4,000 be awarded from the 2025/2026 Reserves.

For (7), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the £4,000 grant be included in the 2026/2027 Budget Consultation.

71-2024/2025 TOWN CLERK REPORT AND URGENT ITEM

Members considered the written report from the Town Clerk. Updates were provided on projects which had moved forward since the report was published.

The incident at the Broadway Centre continued to impact on centre users and staff workloads; steps had been taken to secure the building, health and safety risks had been addressed and the insurance claim was being progressed with the loss adjuster due to visit the site on Wednesday, 12 March 2025.

An update on the progress of the reprovision of Yaverland Toilets was also provided with members noting the toilets should be open before Easter.

72-2024/2025 URGENT ITEM - SIGNATORIES

Members were asked to consider an urgent item, to reaffirm the Authority of the Accounts Signatories to satisfy the CCLA and Rugby and Hinkley account application requirements following the decision to apply to these financial institutions at the 10 February 2025.

A motion to this effect 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 (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Patrick Lightfoot (Accounts Signatory), Richard Priest (Clerk) and Jennifer Armstrong (RFO) be approved as signatories until new signatories are appointed by the new council.

73-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

None received.

74-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications were considered; no comments were returned.

[25/00296/HOU](#) 51 Culver Way, PO36 8QJ
Proposed single storey side/infill and rear extension.

[25/00314/LBC](#) The Old Rectory Yaverland , PO36 8QW
Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement windows.

[25/00219/LBC](#) The Old Rectory, Yaverland Road, PO36 8QW
Listed Building Consent for Demolition of orangery, porch and plantroom structure; Proposed single storey side & rear extensions, new veranda, external alterations including new render and new roof covering and roof mounted solar panels on pool house.

The following applications were discussed and resolutions passed:

[5/00251/FUL](#) 11 High Street, PO36 8DA
Proposed alterations and change of use of rear ground floor offices to form one residential dwelling.

This was a new application on the site. Council had submitted comments on previous applications. There was discussion regarding the difference between this and other High Street sites which had been refused a change of use to residential, with members observing there was planning permission in place for the conversion of the High Street frontage to be used as a launderette. The reduction in the number of rooms proposed and removal of the intrusive rear extension were also noted.

Members were mindful of the quality of the accommodation and felt that previous comments to this effect should be restated and that the need for compliance with pre-application advice should be highlighted.

A motion 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 (6), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT a neutral comment be submitted drawing attention to the Town Council's previous comments and seeking assurance that pre-application advice would inform the decision.

[25/00184/16APA](#) Land Adjacent, 1 Perowne Way

Prior approval for proposed 20m monopole supporting 9 no antenna apertures, 2 no 0.3m dishes to include ancillary 6 no cabinets.

Cllr Baldry advised members he had received representation from residents which had been circulated. During debate members recognised both the need for the most given technological advancements and residents' concerns in relation to wildlife and the environment, though were alarmed by the misinformation in the community regarding the impact on public health. They did note that expert comment had not been submitted on Environmental matters, which could be expected given the nature of the application. Questions were also raised in relation to the appearance of the mast and if it could not be more in keeping with the area.

A motion 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 (6), Against (0), Abstentions (2).

RESOLVED

THAT a neutral comment be submitted but highlight the need for expert opinion on Environmental matters to ensure sufficient information was available to decision makers and to question if a design more in keeping with the area could be utilised.

Sandown Town Council Applications

Council noted but did not comment on applications submitted by officers on it's behalf.

[25/00311/ADV](#) Sandown Library, 119 High Street, PO36 8AF

Wall mounted outdoor digital advertising screen

[25/00290/CLPUD](#) Los Altos Park

Lawful Development Certificate for installation of play equipment and associated impact absorbing surfaces beneath the play equipment

75-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Debbie Andre provided an update on the Esplanade Hotel which had been served a Section 215 Notice. The owner was in extremely poor health; the family had been unaware of the issues with the building or the 215 notice. They were now engaging with the Planning Enforcement officer. The order would remain in place until significant improvements have been made.

Cllr Andre also referred to the Community Resilience Plan, noting the Emergency Flooding annex would benefit residents of Riverside Court.

Cllr Heather Humby reported on issues raised at her Thursday surgeries at the Library, noting it had been less busy. The complaints were generally still in relation to the state of the seafront/high street hotels.

Cllr Jenny Hicks updated members on her activities, noting she felt there was an air of positivity in the town.

Cllr Ian Ward informed members he had been invited to the Island Planning Strategy Inspection, during which the Tourism Accommodation Policy was inspected, and

recommendations had been made in respect of hotel accommodation. The report was presented to Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, who had supported Cllr Ward's request for the Isle of Wight Council to formally review the policy, incorporating the recommendations from the Inspector, which sought to allow for better redevelopment of seafront hotel sites.

Cllr Debbie Andre recused herself from the debate.

Cllr Ward asked that Sandown Town Council also formerly support the review of the policy in relation to hotels, and request the relevant directors and cabinet members incorporate the recommendations made during this process in this review, stating where action could be taken to regenerate Sandown should be taken.

Members debated the matter, noting the successful change of use application by the owners of the Esplanade Hotel.

A motion 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 (7), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT Sandown Town Council formerly support the review of the policy in relation to hotels and request the relevant directors and cabinet members incorporate the Planning Strategy Inspectors recommendations in this process.

76-2024/2025 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 (8), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Public Question Time be bought forward on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Adrian Whittaker attempted to raise matters relating to the Bay Place Plan but was reminded he was not a Sandown Resident nor was the Plan a matter for Council.

Alan Jones spoke in support of releasing the hotels from the tourist related planning restrictions, suggesting there were no longer sufficient visitor numbers to justify the restriction.

Mr Jones then offered, as the Council had opted not to send poll cards, to work with Council on a reduced size Sandown Guide which could include voter information.

77-2024/2025 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

A motion to Exclude the public and press was moved to exclude the public and press.

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

For (8), Against (0), Abstentions (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 77-2024/2025 on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 7, and 14 as 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.

78-2024/2025 BEACH LITTER

Members considered the offer from beach litter contractor, which represented a reduction in service, and the management of litter over the 2025 Summer Season as well as the wider litter provision from Yaverland to the promenade and out of season arrangements.

Following discussion, which noted increasing litter over recent years and issues with the rings and bags on the beach due to sand levels in the previous season, it was agreed an alternative solution should be explored with the Local Authority, to increase capacity. Members also noted officers were working with the Isle of Wight Council on a campaign to encourage people to take litter home.

A motion was moved accordingly 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 (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the offer from the existing beach litter contractor be declined and an alternative way forward, which would also help address out of season issues, would be explored with the Isle of Wight Council.

Meeting Finished 20:32