SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 28 JULY 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 28 JULY 2025** 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, Ian Boyd, Liam Cregg, Leon Girling, Paddy Lightfoot, Tracy Mikich, Joan Soloman and Gary Young.

Also Present: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO), Lorraine Ellis (Deputy Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Miss Heather Humby asked that the Council act in relation to the state of the basement lightwells on the lower end of the High Street. The Mayor responded that while taking action was not in the Town Council's gift, the issue had previously been raised with the Isle of Wight Council's Enviroment Officer and Environmental Health Team and that the town council would ask the ward councillors to follow-up.

36-2025/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lee Ambler.

37-2025/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

   Cllr Andre declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council as the ward member, and declared a pecuniary interest in the Highstreet as she owned the Carnival shop.

   Cllr Girling declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council as an employee.

   Cllr Ward declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council as the ward member, and declared advised he was the Vice-Chair of the Isle of Wight Council Regeneration Committee.

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

   Members were advised a written request for a dispensation had been received from Cllr Boyd in relation to the International School of Re-Wilding item on the agenda. Cllr Boyd had a pecuniary interest and had property on the site.

   The Clerk, under delegated authority, had agreed that Cllr Boyd could speak on the matter. This was due to the wealth of information he was able to provide in relation to the project and relevant natural sciences, being important to ensure an informed debate

could take place. However, Cllr Boyd was not permitted to vote on the matter. The dispensation was granted for a period of six months

38-2025/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 2 June 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 (10), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:
THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 be approved with the proposed amendments.

39-2025/26 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (GPC)

A written report was presented which outlining the essence of GPC , the legal basis, the eligibility criteria, the risks, the financial implications and the equality and diversity, crime and disorder and biodiversity considerations. Members then debated the use the General Power of Competence as the legal basis for the Council's decision making.

A motion was moved and duly seconded, that the Council considered itself eligible to use the power. 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 all the eligibility criteria for using the General Power of Competence has been met.

A motion was then moved and duly seconded, that Council use the power. 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 Council use General Power of Competence as the Legal Basis for future decisions.

40-2025/26 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF REWILDING

A presentation (attached to and forming part of these minutes) from the International School of Rewilding Project Group was received. Support from the Town Council for the initiative and involvement in the project was sought. The key points included:

- The purpose of the school and key principles.
- The key features of the school
- The location of the school

- Restoration of Wetland and Introduction of Elks

Reassurance was provided that the initiative would not negatively impact on the Browns site or the surrounding area and that the proposed site was sufficient in terms of size, Nor would it increase the risk of flooding from the river Yar.

The development was expected to take between two to five years with the potential for phased development.

A motion was then moved and duly seconded, that Council be involved with and support the initiative. Councillors' votes, with the exception of Cllr Boyd who did not vote, were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council support and be involved with the initiative.

41-2025/26 PLACE PLAN PROJECT FUNDING

1. Artswork

   Cllr Mikich presented a request for funding from the Place Plan budget for youth arts project in Sandown. A grant of £500 would support a 6-month artist-in-residence project at Bay CE Secondary School and Forest Edge School, focusing on placemaking outcomes led by students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or at risk of exclusion managed by registered charity Artswork.

   The initiative sought to address students' concerns regarding the appearance and appeal of Sandown town. Potential placemaking outcomes included, but was not limited to, repainting murals at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, which will directly contribute to the aesthetic improvement of a key local attraction.

   The project offered significant benefits by fostering creativity, promoting civic engagement among young people, and enhancing the local environment.

   A motion was then moved and duly seconded, that £500 be awarded to Artswork to support the project. 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 £500 be awarded to Artswork to support a 6-month artist-in-residence project at Bay CE Secondary School and Forest Edge School from the Place Plan budget line.

2. Photographic Portfolio

   A request was bought forward from the Bay Steering Group for a £500 contribution from the three Bay Council's to create a photographic portfolio for use by the Business Association and Council. While many beautiful photos were taken of the Bay they tended

to be of unidentifiable sunsets and sunrises and unsuitable for use on websites and printed media.

A motion was then moved and duly seconded, that the Council contribute to funding the portfolio. 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 a contribution of £500 be made towards a Photographic Portfolio from the Place Plan budget line.

42-2025/26 GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. Isle of Wight Literary Festival

   Members considered a grant application from the Literary Festival for a £200 contribution towards the costs of the education program. The importance of reading and literacy was recognised. However, the application received did not outline how the monies would specially Sandown Children and appeared to be generic with some members commenting that the organisations core objective should include delivery within schools.

   A motion was then moved and duly seconded, that no grant be awarded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was:

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

   RESOLVED:

   THAT the application for a grant from the Isle of Wight Literary Festival be refused.

2. Summer Skateboarding Programme (ratify)

   An urgent request had been received from John Cattle Skate Club regarding funding for the delivery of skateboarding sessions at Sandown Skatepark during the summer holidays.

   Councillors votes were confirmed to meet accessibility requirements and members unanimously supported funding the sessions from the Place Plan budget line.

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

   RESOLVED:

   THAT the free delivery of summer skateboarding sessions in the Skate Park at Sandham Grounds be funded from the Place Plan budget.

43-2025/26 WORK STREAMS

A report outlining new workstreams to replace the previous administration working parties was presented. The proposed workstreams were as follows:

Derelict Buildings Task Force

The Task Force will tackle issues related to specific buildings.

Membership:

Cllr Alex Lightfoot (Chair)

Cllr Ian Boyd

Cllr Liam Cregg

Cllr Leon Girling

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot

Supporting the Task Force in their ward member capacity: Debbie Andre and Ian Ward

Young Futures

The working party would be purely focused on Youth and Young People including the Bay Youth Project, working with youth organisations, the Town Hall and engagement with Schools.

Membership:

Alex Lightfoot (Chair)

Debbie Andre

Ian Boyd

Liam Cregg

Leon Girling (schools engagement lead)

Thriving Communities

The working party would addressing local challenges, tackling anti-social behaviour, HMO issues, and vandalism as well as working with community groups like Green Town Volunteers, TWG, Warm Spaces arts and cultural activities, Carnival, Police, Sandown Town Council Public Realm. Members also request the Enviroment be included in the workstream.

Membership:

Paddy Lightfoot

Joan Solomon

Tracy Mikich

Town Centre Revival

The Working Party would be focused on the Highstreet and the seafront and economic and cultural regeneration of the Town Centre, not just the Highstreet. Christmas Funday, Sprint, Carnival, empty shops/Highstreet properties and performance spaces.

Membership:

Ian Boyd

Leon Girling

Paddy Lightfoot

Events and Engagement

The workstreams would be Remembrance Day, Christmas events, civic events, school engagement with events, markets etc.

Membership:

Frank Baldry

Joan Solomon

Gary Young

Ian Ward

A motion proposing the work streams as presented was moved and duly seconded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:
THAT the proposed workstreams be agreed and taken forward.

A second motion proposing the membership of the associated working parties as presented was then moved and duly seconded, that no grant be awarded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously agreed

RESOLVED:
THAT the membership of the working parties associated with the workstreams be agreed and taken forward.

44-2025/26 STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

Members had been presented with two documents drafted by the Together for Sandown Group relating to the Neglect of Sandown by the local authority and central government funding.

The first part of the report provided a comprehensive analysis of Sandown's current condition, drawing on census data, crime statistics, public consultations, youth surveys, and site-specific

timelines. It also highlighted the town's urgent need for targeted investment and outlines shovel-ready, community-backed proposals that align with national regeneration priorities.

A proposal relating to the second document was then moved and duly seconded, Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

(i) THAT the Town Council adopt Part 1 of the Neglect Case document and continue to improve and refine it.

(ii) THAT the Town Council lobby the Isle of Wight Council and other bodies.

The second document presented possible solutions to the issue, outlining a community-led blueprint for Sandown's regeneration, including a portfolio of practical, scalable, and visionary projects that aimed to:

- **Stimulate economic growth** through enterprise hubs, tourism innovation, and creative industries
- **Rebuild community wellbeing** by reclaiming public spaces, improving safety, and enhancing local services
- **Empower young people** through education, engagement, and leadership opportunities
- **Reverse dereliction** by transforming neglected buildings into homes, hubs, and heritage assets

Members noted that each proposal was aligned with the Isle of Wight Council's Corporate Plan and national regeneration priorities, to ensure strategic fit and funding readiness.

A proposal regarding the second document was then moved and duly seconded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council adopt Part2 of the Neglect Case document and continue to improve and refine it.

A further proposal regarding how to support the Case was moved and duly seconded, that no grant be awarded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council assign working parties to select initial the deliverable projects and identify a project per working party to bring back to full council for agreement to be made "shovel ready".

45-2025/26 HIGH STREET RENTAL AUCTIONS

Consideration was given to undertaking a project to support the Isle of Wight Council to apply for funding and progress High Street Rental Auctions in Sandown as outlined in the report supporting the agenda item.

Clarification was provided during the debate, that the costs could be reclaimed from the Isle of Wight Council who were eligible for grants from central government supporting delivery of the scheme.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the project be taken forward. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Town Council support the Isle of Wight Council to utilise the powers provided to deliver the High Street Rental Auctions scheme in Sandown and help secure funding for the scheme's delivery.

A proposal relating to delivery of the project was then was moved and duly seconded. Councillors votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirement, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

(i) THAT the Town Council proceed with land registry searches to progress High Street Rental Auctions scheme in partnership with Isle of Wight Council.

(ii) THAT the Town Council agree selected properties to request notices be issued to.

(iii) THAT the Town Council use the preferred trusted supplier lists previously used, by the Isle of Wight Council, for Newport and Ryde Highstreet Action Zone projects to undertake the required surveys.

46-2025/26 TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk presented a report updating members on the Councils projects which was noted.

47-2025/26 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

None received.

48-2025/26 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andre advised that she had taken over Cllr Humby's Thursday Surgeries at the Library. In addition, she was working with Community Speed Watch on Freshwater and hoped it would gain more traction in Sandown as a result though volunteers were still needed. Concerns had been raised with her regarding street drinking and anti-social behaviour, particularly around Eastern Gardens. The Police had been moving individuals on, however, Cllr Andre would petition the Isle of Wight Council to reinstate dry HMOs.

Cllr Ian Boyd updated members on the recent IWALC Executive Meeting noting that the County Officer was stepping down and that the post would be advertised. Much of the agenda was focused on Devolution and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Cllr Girling had submitted a written report, and highlighted community activities and engagement with young people regarding regeneration of the town.

Cllr Paddy Lighfoot informed members he had attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Members were reminded police action was data driven and instances of antisocial behaviour, graffiti etc should be reported. Additional call centres had been opened and 101 calls were now answered within two weeks.

Cllr Ward had worked with the police on speeding on Perone Way. While cars appeared to be speeding, the vast majority of motorists were not speeding. He added it was difficult to set-up community speed watch.

Cllr Solomon advised she had received complaints regarding the Eastern Gardens toilets during events. However, the mural had been well received.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Reverand Mark Williams updated members on the Breakfast at the Bay School Project, noting the positive impact on behaviour and children's wellbeing, thanking members for their continued support. He also advised members work to clean up the churchyard was ongoing but was progressing well.

Meeting Finished 20:20.