



**SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – FINANCE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES
17 NOVEMBER 2025**

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council Finance Committee held on **MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2025** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present: Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Debbie Andre, Ian Boyd, Liam Cregg, Paddy Lightfoot and Tracy Mikich.

Also Present: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO) and Lorraine Elliss

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

No members of the public were present.

20-2025/26 APOLOGIES

None.

21-2025/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

1. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non -pecuniary interests
Cllr Andre declared an interest in any matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council, the Carnival Association and Los Altos.
2. To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.
None Received.

25-2025/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 October 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 unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2025 be approved.

26-2025/26 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

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

A motion to approve the Payments and Receipts presented for October 2025 was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Payments and Receipts for October 2025 be approved.

1. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations through October 2025

The October 2025 Banking Reconciliations were noted.

2. To receive and note the Expenditure against budget through 31 October 2025

The Expenditure against budget through 31 October 2025 was noted.

27-2025/26 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members considered the updated Financial Regulations. A small number of amendments were agreed:

Paragraph 18: Strike through “may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document”.

Appendix 1, Paragraph 4: Add “Emails shall remain unopened until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract. They shall be opened at the same time by the Clerk/RFO and at least one member of the Council”.

Appendix 1, Paragraph 6: Replace “original decision making process was undertaken” with “tender was scored”.

A motion to propose the draft Financial Regulations, with the agreed amendments, to Council, was moved and duly seconded. Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the draft Financial Regulations be recommended to Council.

28-2025/26 2026/2027 BUDGET

The committee discussed the results of the 2026/2027 Budget Consultation and other matters potentially impacting the budget. The Clerk outlined the process used for setting budget and highlighted the different types of income and expenditure and how these and the level of reserves impacted the precept and the future of the councils assets.

Members noted a request for funding for the Help Centre in Ryde, which was originally a satellite version of the offer at County Hall. Noting that those using the Centre could live anywhere in PO36 and not just in Sandown and based on the location of the service there was no appetite for recommending Council Consider contributing to the service as better value could be achieved from a local provision.

Charging for use of the toilets was explored with members noting that closures to branches and changes to HR policies following recent incidents at the toilets, had increased the staff resource needed to collect and bank monies. The Nayax units on the oldest sites were also in need of upgrading. It was accepted there could be an increase in antisocial behaviour and vandalism but this could be monitored.

A motion relating to a recommendation Council regarding the basis on which the budget was drafted was moved and duly seconded. Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Finance Committee recommend that the budget be drafted with 6 months reserves and capital provision in line with previous Council decisions
- (ii) THAT the current 4.1% rate of inflation be applied to the relevant budget lines.
- (iii) THAT Council budget to invest in a Community Benefit Society if one comes into being.
- (iv) THAT Council consider making the toilets free to use in 2026/2027.

29-2025/26 YAVERLAND LANDSCAPING

Officers had bought forward a proposal to complete the landscaping works around the new toilet block at Yaverland. Members debated how the space could best be brought into use and how outsourcing all elements of the works as a single project rather than individual elements would create a more cohesive space.

It was agreed a budget of £30,000 would be proposed to Council. As a result, the works would need to be put out to tender. The Committee would provide an outline to inform the tender process and Expressions of Interest would be invited in early January.

A motion to recommend the agreed way forward to Council, was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Finance Committee recommend Council agree a budget of up to £30,000 for a tender to landscape the area adjacent to Yaverland Toilets and delegate authority for the project to the Finance Committee.

30-2025/26 FUNDRAISERS (Paper H)

1. **Council Fundraiser**

The Committee discussed the proposal to use the underspend in the staffing budget to appoint a fund raiser to bring forward grant funding both for Town Council Projects and community groups in Sandown.

A local organisation had the capacity to outsource an experienced Fundraiser and the Town Council did not have sufficient resources to employ one directly, nor would the hours which could be funded, attract experienced individuals.

A motion to recommend Council appoint a fund raiser on this basis, was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Finance Committee recommend Council appoint a Fund Raiser through a local organisation for 15 Hours per week at a cost of £15,590 with incidental costs for the year would be between £2,000 and £3,000 for the period of one year.

2. International School of Rewilding Fundraiser

The project group taking forward the International School of Rewilding had identified a fundraiser with experience successfully securing significant amounts of funding for projects similar to the School. A contribution to engage the fundraiser was being sought. Members discussed the benefits and costs of the contribution, noting that other members of the project group had contributed towards other costs.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the Finance Committee recommend Council contribute £30,493 to facilitate the International School engaging the identified fundraiser.
- (ii) THAT £15,246.50 be funded from the 2024/2025 Place Plan/Town Improvements underspend and £15,246.50 from the Place Plan/Town Improvements budget for 2025/2026.

31-2025/26 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 8 December 2025.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Finished 20:55