



## SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES 23 MARCH 2026

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

**Present:** Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Cllrs Lee Ambler, Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Ian Boyd, Liam Cregg, Tracy Mikich, Joan Soloman, and Gary Young.

**Also Present:** Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO), Lorraine Elliss (Deputy Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

### **120-2025/26**     **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

None received.

### **121-2025/26**     **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Leon Girling, Paddy Lightfoot and Ian Ward.

### **122-2025/26**     **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 ward member and a pecuniary interest in the Carnival Association. It was also noted her property backed onto Los Altos Park and was used as an Air BnB.

Cllr Tracy Mikich advised her spouse owned a property on the high street.

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

None Received.

### **123-2025/26**     **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9 February 2026 was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was, with one abstention, unanimously agreed:

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 be approved as a true record.

**124-2025/26      RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Carnival Association were exploring purchasing matting to extend wheelchair access on the beach for the whole season rather hiring a temporary solution for the Regatta. They would be applying for a grant to fund the purchase. Council considered the Finance Committee's (Minutes 126-2025/26) recommendation from its meeting on 16 March 2026, that monies ringfenced for Beach Accessibility be used to provide match funding for the Carnival Associations beach matting to be considered under Item 6 on the agenda.

A motion was moved and duly seconded to provide the funding. Councillors' votes, with the exception of Cllr Andre, were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Council use the monies ringfenced for Beach Accessibility be used to provide match funding for the Carnival Associations beach matting.

**125-2025/26      RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

No recommendation made.

**126-2025/26      COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS.**

Council explored local government powers in relation to compulsory purchase orders. Recent devolution deals were expected to give enhanced regeneration and land assembly powers — including the ability to promote and exercise Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) - to Mayors of combined authorities. This was relevant to the Town Council due to the number of potential regeneration sites in the town which were currently derelict or vacant. Approval was sought from Council to use officer capacity to research and explore CPO powers and reach out to other organisations who have undertaken CPOs.

A motion was moved and duly seconded to this effect. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT Council authorise the use of officer capacity to research and explore CPO powers and reach out to other organisations who have undertaken CPOs.

**127-2025/26      MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

A motion was moved and duly seconded, without notice, to bring forward Item 16. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT Item 16, Pier Street Toilets, be brought forward on the agenda.

**128-2025/26      PIER STREET TOILETS**

Cllr Andre declared an interest as an Isle of Wight Councillor.

The Mayor advised members that a representative from the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) has confirmed the latest potential developer of the Pier Street toilet site had pulled out. The matter, with the original proposal to dispose of the site to the town council, would be considered by the IWC in June 2026. The delay in consideration was due to the pre-election period. Members questioned if this meant the toilets could be opened for the summer season. However, any such decision would be dependent on the IWC decision in June. The update was noted.

### **129-2025/26     TREE WARDEN**

The Isle of Wight recently joined the national Tree Council Tree Warden network, launching a local Tree Warden scheme for the first time. The scheme is a volunteer initiative designed to bring together people interested in caring for trees, hedges and woodland across the Island. The Tree Warden will be a local tree champion whose activities include:

- Assisting with caring for and conserving local trees and hedges (including planting, monitoring, and helping with maintenance projects).
- Act as local eyes and ears for issues such as disease, vandalism or threats to significant trees, and feed information back to councils or tree officers.
- Engage the local community — for example by organising tree walks, working with schools, or supporting tree-related events.
- Support tree surveys and information gathering to help understand the Island’s tree stock and influence local tree strategies.

Clarification would be sought on the volunteer status of the warden.

A motion was moved to nominate Bruce Webb duly seconded to this effect. Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT Bruce Webb be nominated as Sandown Tree Warden subject to clarification on the volunteer status of the role.

### **130-2025/26     WORKING PARTIES**

A verbal update on the Young Futures meeting which has taken place immediately before council was provided; the meeting had included an initial, positive, discussion regarding the scoping design work for the skate park project. Members noted the update and the report

### **131-2025/26     TOWN CLERK REPORT**

Council received and noted the report from the Town Clerk who also verbally updated members on recent issues at the PlayZone at Sandham Grounds. The previous week had seen one of the CCTV cameras smashed with a brick. A criminal damage report had been submitted to the police and CCTV footage shared with local officers. There has also been a second incident with a large number of youths breaking into the pitch, drinking and taking drugs. This had

resulted in vomit and chewing gum on the surface. This would also be reported to the police and officers would explore securing the site.

**132-2025/26      TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED**

None received.

**133-2025/26      TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Ambler advised members there had been an increase in street drinkers, who were new to the area, towards the top of the Highstreet where it meets Beachfield Road. However, they did not appear to be causing issues at this stage.

Cllr Andre informed members that the Island was to receive £2.3m to upgrade its flood defences, as part of a national programme aimed at protecting homes and businesses from increasingly severe weather. The monied would be allocated to one priority project and two capital projects. She would be lobbying for the priority project to be for the residents of Riverview Court following their evacuation earlier in the year.

Cllr Boyd updated members on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to neighbourhood health and wellbeing solutions, and priorities, noting Sandown was an excellent candidate to test a parish-based solution due to its demographics and existing NHS presence.

Cllr Tracey Mikich advised members that the Expression of Interest for the Town of Culture bid was due to be submitted at the end of the month. Community support had been overwhelming with ideas being generated by the community. The finale expression would be circulated prior to submission.

Cllr Joan Solomon had received two complaints regarding the purchase of the Ocean Redevelopment Strip with the individuals in question stating the monies should have been used to reduce council tax. The Mayor responded that if there was no increase in precept services would need to be cut and no progress could be made.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot informed members that the results from the initial consultation Ocean Redevelopment Site had been added to an online survey which would be circulated to members prior to publication.

**134-2025/26      NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 18 May 2026. Since there was no April Full Council a councillor briefing with the Community Development Lead has been scheduled for 27 April 2026.

**135-2025/26      MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

A motion was moved and duly seconded, without notice, to bring forward Public Question Time. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

THAT Public Question Time be brought forward on the agenda.

**136-2025/26      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None Received.

**137-2025/26      EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

A motion was moved and duly seconded to exclude the public and press, and councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**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 15, Legal Matters, 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.

**138-2025/26      15. LEGAL MATTERS**

**Ocean Hotel**

Council considered legal matters pertaining to the of the Ocean Redevelopment Strip purchasing process, and current position, which were outlined by the Clerk. Having previously resolved to bid on the lot, Council confirmed its previous decision and authorised the Clerk to complete the purchase.

A motion was moved and duly seconded to authorise the clerk to complete, and councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Clerk to be authorised to complete the purchase of the Ocean Redevelopment Strip.

**Legal matters pertaining to upcoming projects.**

Members were advised legal support would be required to progress upcoming projects discussed. As such it was agreed that the Clerk and Mayor had delegated authority to incur legal expenses to take these matters to their conclusion.

A motion was proposed and duly seconded accordingly, and councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT the Clerk and Mayor have delegated authority to incur legal expenses to take legal matters affecting the progression of planned projects to their logical conclusion.

**139-2025/26      15. CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee had made a second recommendation to the Council in relation to grant monies for Breakfast at the Bay School and Warm Spaces as the former was experiencing funding shortages due to discrepancy between funds expected and received funds. Since the discussion involved financial matters of other parties, members agreed to consider the item urgently under confidential session. **Cllr Andre declared an interest as a member of Christ Church Sandown's PCC and a volunteer at the Warm Space. She did not vote.**

A motion was proposed and duly seconded to this effect, and councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

THAT discussion regarding Breakfast at the Bay School and Warm Spaces be considered as an urgent item under confidential session.

Following the discussion two motions were proposed and duly seconded, and councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) THAT the church be advised the monies for Breakfast in the Bay and Warm Spaces could be merged into a single restricted fund on the understanding the delivery of warm spaces was not affected.
- (ii) THAT the £6,000 of grant monies ringfenced for Warm Spaces in the 2025/2026 budget be made available should it not be possible to resolve the discrepancy through negotiation.

Meeting Closed 19.55