



**SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – FINANCE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES  
16 MARCH 2026**

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council Finance Committee held on **MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2026** at 6:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

**Present:** Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Liam Cregg and Paddy Lightfoot.

**Also Present:** Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO), Lorriane Elliss (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Lee Ambler

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

No members of the public were present.

**61-2025/26 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Debbie Andre, Ian Boyd, Tracy Mikich

**62-2025/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

1. To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non -pecuniary interests  
None Received.
2. To receive and consider granting any written requests for dispensations.  
None Received.

**66-2025/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9 February 2026, subject to correcting the typos in 58-2025/26 (2 and 3) 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 an abstention, unanimously:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**67-2025/26 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for February 2026

A motion to approve the Payments and Receipts presented for February 2026 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 February 2026 be approved.

2. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations through February 2026

The February 2026 Banking Reconciliations were noted.

3. To receive and note the Expenditure against budget through February 2026

The Expenditure against budget through 31 January 2026 was discussed with members considering the remaining monies in the budget and how these would be treated at the end of the financial year; budgeted underspend would go into the general reserves for example the summer litter provision. Unbudgeted underspend for specific costs would be brought forward where appropriate.

Specific areas discussed included:

*Place Plan Spending:*

Members considered the remaining Place Plan/Town Improvement spending noting that there were some unspent funds had been committed and as such, when the remaining monies were brought forward, would need to be ringfenced.

During discussions regarding committed projects, it was noted that the £3,333 art installation project had not been scoped as expected. As a result, the project will be referred back to the Bay Steering Group. However, the commitment to fund the project will remain in place once an appropriate brief is brought forward.

In relation to the funding for the Viewing Platform Mural, it was agreed that the Clerk would , under delegated authority, Vire any remaining monies from the Eastern Gardens Maintenance Budget to the Place Plan budget to support this project.

*Breakfast at the Bay School/Warm Spaces*

Members noted there was £6,000 budgeted for Warm Spaces which had been subject to the PCC applying for the appropriate Household Support grant and being unsuccessful. Due to changes to the funding criteria this has not been appropriate for the PCC to apply. As such the monies remained unspent.

The Clerk advised the Breakfast at the Bay School Project was experiencing funding issues and requested the committee consider recommending to Council that the unspent monies be allocated to make-up the shortage. The committee generally supported the idea subject to further discussion at Council.

**68-2025/26 GRANT REQUESTS**

a) First Act

The committee reviewed the grant application from First Act, noting the key points in the application. Since there is no longer a community grant fund, members considered which budget the funds could be drawn from. It was agreed that, since the cost of Blue Flag Award had been budgeted but only a Seaside Award had been achieved, the difference could fund the grant.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT First Act be awarded a grant of £339 be awarded to First Act to purchase a new laptop. Monies will be vired from the unspent Blue Flag budget line to fund the grant.

b) Beach Matting

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. The committee considered recommending Council provide match funding to support the application from the ring-fenced monies in the reserves.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT the Finance Committee recommend to Council that monies ringfenced for Beach Accessibility be used to provide match funding for the Carnival Associations beach matting.

c) Breakfast in the Bay

Considered under Item 67-2025/2026

d) Grants for the Community

Members were advised the Community Development Lead had suggested the Council provide funding for a local grant scheme for small projects in Sandown. This was unbudgeted but could be drawn from other budget lines such as the Place Plan Budget. The committee deferred the discussion to after the briefing from the Lead as they wished to better understand the idea.

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

RESOLVED:

THAT any decision relating to funding to support community development be considered after the briefing from the Community Development Lead.

**69-2025/26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

A motion was moved and duly seconded 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 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 7 (Minute 70-2025/2026) 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.

### **70-2025/26 TENDER FOR BEACH SAFETY SERVICE**

Members considered the proposed tender specification for the Beach Lifeguard Service and associated documents. A small number of amendments were agreed.

A motion to proceed with the procurement subject to the amendments was moved and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements, and it was unanimously:

#### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the tender specification and process for the Beach Safety Service be approved subject to the agreed amendments.

### **71-2025/26 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on the 20 April 2026.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Finished 19:50