SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

28 September 2026

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on
MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2026 at **7:00** pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present

Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Cllrs Debbie Andre, Frank Baldry, Ian Boyd, Liam Cregg, Leon Girling, Paddy Lightfoot, Tracy Mikich, Joan Solomon, Gary Young , and Ian Ward

Also Present: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO), Lorraine Elliss (Deputy Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Public Question Time

PUBLIC QUESTIONS
None Received

67-2026/27 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lee Ambler.

68-2026/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Baldry declared an interest in matters pertaining to the Isle of Wight Council as the ward councillor.

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

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

None Received.

69-2026/27 MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 July 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:

RESOLVED:
THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2026 be approved as a true record.

70-2026/27 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

No recommendations were made by the Planning Committee at its meeting held on Monday, 14 September 2026.

71-2026/27 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee had considered the report from the Council's external auditors. No matters had been raised nor had any advisories been issued. Thanks to officers had been recorded and the committee recommended Council accept and note the report.

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

THAT the External Audit Report for 2025/2026 be accepted and noted

Remaining recommendations were discussed under confidential session due to the commercially sensitive information informing the decisions.

72-2026/27 TRAFFIC CALMING

Members considered residents' requests to reduce speeding on Broadway and Avenue Road. They reviewed possible traffic-calming measures and noted the recorded accident statistics for the area.

The key points discussed included:

- Unless statistics indicated there was a serious risk, traffic calming measures would be dealt with within the normal consultation round. The next consultation was expected in 2027/2028.
- Noisy cars and bikes can give the perception of speeding.
- Statistics did not include near misses.
- A six-month monitor on Avenue Road recorded only 6 speeding cars in 6 months.
- Further Monitoring could be requested.

The Sandown Speed Watch initiative, launched in 2025, had lost momentum. However, Councillor Andre indicated that she would seek to revive the initiative.

A motion to support Sandown Speed Watch and to confirm the date of the Isle of Wight Council's next consultation round 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:

RESOLVED:

(i) THAT the Council support the renewal of the Sandown Speed Watch initiative

(ii) THAT the date of the next highways consultation be confirmed.

(iii) THAT requesting speed monitoring be explored.

73-2026/27 UPDATE ON EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING THE OCEAN HOTEL

The Clerk updated councillors on the approach to the owners of the Ocean Hotel on expressions of interest for acquiring the site and initiatives to improve the High Street frontages of both the Ocean Hotel noting neither party had responded to the correspondence. Further attempts would be made to contact the owners.

74-2026/27 TOWN OF CULTURE BID

An oral update on the progress of the Town of Culture Bid was received. Council was asked to support the Tangled Bank proposal, adopting the proposed theme when developing the site, and to consider hosting a go fund me page to support delivery of the bid and programme.

Since Sandown was shortlisted in July, a governance structure meeting DCMS oversight and financial-management requirements, a key aspect of the submission, had been established. The Town of Culture Board had adopted Terms of Reference and Financial Regulations based

on those of the Council and would provide strategic oversight and maintain appropriate financial, legal and risk-management controls. Tide Turners would act as the Delivery Body, responsible for programme design and delivery. A budget for developing the bid using the £60,000 grant had been approved by the Board and by the Mayor and Clerk under delegated authority.

The concept of the Tangled Bank was discussed with members noting it was essentially a landscaping theme and would not limit the place making features or amenities on the site. It was noted that in addition to the overview of the theme in the Briefing Note further details were included in the Town of Culture Expression of Interest circulated to councillors in March 2026.

A motion to adopt the Tangled Bank theme, 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 Tangled Bank theme be adopted for the development of the Ocean Redevelopment Strip.

In relation to the request for the Council to support a GoFundMe for the development of the bid and the programme, clarification was provided that the Council could use fund raising platforms for projects provided the fundraiser is formally approved and recorded and the intended use of any surplus funds is clearly stated.

The funding initiative was being proposed alongside the development of partnership and sponsorship offers to increase the budget for developing the bid and the creative activities.

Members felt further clarity on the purpose of the fund, if it was to support the development of the bid alone or if monies would also be carried forward to develop the creative activities using funds not used for the bid.

A motion taking into account the need for further clarification 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:

RESOLVED:
THAT a Tide Turners Crowdfunding page be supported subject to the Finance Committee being satisfied with the use of the funds and details used to promote the fund.

It was noted that due to the tight timescales on developing the bid, the Finance Committee would make a remote decision to be ratified at the next meeting.

75-2026/27 TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Clerk provided an oral update to the written report advising councillors that a CCTV camera at St Johns Toilets had been stolen. There was clear footage of the thief . The theft had been reported to the police, and a new camera commissioned from the relevant contractor. The Town Clerks Report was then noted (Paper C)

76-2026/27 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

None received.

77-2026/27 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andre highlighted the success of the Community Garden initiative delivered by the Footprint Trust at the Broadway Centre which was run by community members and provided

fresh vegetables to support both the Warm Space and a community café held at the Broadway Centre.

Cllr Ian Boyd updated members on a recent meeting with health partners on neighbourhood health noting the investment in the NHS Barrack Block and the hope there would be increased consultation with the Town Council.

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot informed members two residents had requested the Town Council declare a vote of no confidence in Southern Water. Members discussed what would be gained from such a vote and the potential negative impacts. A proposal would need to be brought to a future meeting for a decision to be made.

Cllr Solomon informed members she had met representatives from a charity called Blue Light on Wight, a charity dedicated to providing support and safe spaces for uniformed individuals in need focusing on those affected by trauma and mental health challenges at the volunteer appreciation event. She would like to do something in Sandown to support the charity.

Cllr Ward advised members residents had raised concerns regarding the lack of banking facilities in the town. This was a workstream for Thriving Communities and included in the work around community support and the Community Hub . Cllr Ward would work with Cllr Solomon to take this forward.

Cllr Alex Lightfoot shared the success of the volunteer appreciation event noting the abundance of good will and public spirit in the volunteer sector on the Island. He also reminded members the Bay Steering Groups AGM which was a public event would be held on the 16 October at 6:30 pm.

78-2026/27 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 16 to Number 18, 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.

79-2026/27 BEACH SAFETY TENDER

Members considered the recommendation from the Finance Committee to let the Beach Safety Tender to Ryde Lifeguards for a period of three years, with the option to extend the contract by up to two years. Only one tender had been received by scoring had been undertaken to ensure quality and value for money.

A motion to support 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:

RESOLVED:
THAT the Beach Safety Tender to Ryde Lifeguards for a period of three years, with the option to extend the contract by up to two years.

80-2026/27 LIFEGUARD BASE 5 YEAR REMEDIAL WORKS

An outline of the proposed works and associated costs for:

- Planned maintenance programme covering decking, rust, repainting, mould and flood damage
- Raising the base to address flooding resulting from lower sand levels and higher tides.
- Replacing the steel hatches with aluminium which were safer and reduced set-up labour and inspection requirements.

Costings had been provided for a new power supply, but this had not been recommended as a grant could be secured to fund this.

Council accepted the Finance Committee's recommendation and a moved a motion accordingly which was 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 five-year maintenance, raising the base frame and replacing steel hatches with aluminium be commissioned at a cost of £16,246.

81-2026/27 OCEAN HOARDING

Members considered the quotations received for hoarding the Ocean Redevelopment Site. Despite fixed costings being requested this was still pending from one supplier.

A motion was moved and duly seconded to facilitate instructing the works without a further council decision. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results of which were as follows and it was, with one abstention, unanimously:

RESOLVED:
THAT the Clerk and the Mayor have delegated authority to instruct the works to be undertaken on the basis of fixed costs with a budget envelope of £20,000.

82-2026/27 SOUTHERN WATER PUMPING STATION MURALS

Costs for the installation of murals at the pumping station had been received. The project as a whole was more expensive than initially expected as permission to extend the mural over a great area had been received. Funding from the Town Improvements/Place Plan Budget were requested to support the project.

Members chose not to proceed with the project as presented due to the cost implications and it was agreed that Tide Turners would be invited to present a proposal for the site which sat within the "origin" pavilion.

83-2026/27 HIGH STREET SAFARI UPDATE

Members noted an opportunity to offer a Halloween-themed event free of charge in October had come about and that the Cat in the Hat trail would be moved to the February Half term which had less family events.

84-2026/27 PROPERTY MATTERS

Members received an update on current property matters being managed under delegated authority and noted that progress continued to be made.

It was reported that due diligence work in relation to the Pier Street site was progressing, with further updates to be provided as appropriate.

Members were also advised that preliminary discussions had commenced regarding a potential joint approach to civic space within Sandown. Discussions remained at an early stage and no decisions had been made at this time.

The update was noted.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Paul Coulsant asked of the final results of the Ocean Redevelopment Strip Survey could be shared and was advised these would be passed to the relevant stakeholders.