



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES – 29 JULY 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandown Town Council held on **MONDAY, 29 JULY 2024** at 7:00 pm at The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9GG.

Present: Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Mayor), Frank Baldry, Emily Brothers, Jenny Hicks, Heather Humby and Paddy Lightfoot.

Also Present: Richard Priest (Clerk), Jennifer Armstrong (RFO), Lorraine Ellis (Admin) and three members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Cllr Adrian Whitaker (Shanklin and Lake) asked, with the scrapping of the winter fuel allowance for pensioners not receiving benefits, would Sandown Town Council be making budget provision for the continued support of Warm Spaces. The Mayor advised the Council would continue to apply for grants to fund Warm Spaces across the Bay while the funding was available.

Cllr Stephen Parkes (Shaklin and Lake) asked a question in relation to the Bay Area Place plan and was advised that notes from the steering group would be published on the councils website but it would be down to the other Bay Council's how they choose to share information.

He then asked about signage for the Sandown to Lake sea defence path and was advised the signage was with Island Roads.

Finally, Cllr Parkes asked about the provision of toilets at Pier Street. He was advised that the site was owned by the Isle of Wight Council and it was expected that the disposal of the site would be on their Forward Plan in November 2024. The toilets were open for the summer season.

A member of the public asked several questions regarding the Ocean Hotel, drinking on the sea front. The Mayor Responded accordingly.

22-2024/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Debbie Andre, Sue Betts, Ian Fletcher (Deputy Mayor), Robert May, Ian Ward and Toby Wilcock.

23-2024/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot declared an interest in Item 11 as he knew the MD of the company being discussed.

Cllr Humby declared an interest in Item 4(7) as she was a trustee of First Act.

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

No requests for written dispensations had been received.

24-2024/2025 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A proposal to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024 was moved and duly seconded.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2024 be approved as a true record.

25-2024/2025 FINANCES

1. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for May 2024

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for May 2024 be approved, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (6), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

2. To approve the Payments and Receipts lists as presented for June 2024

A motion, that the Payments and Receipts for May 2024 be approved, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (6), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

3. To receive and note the verified bank reconciliations for May and June 2024

The verified bank reconciliations for May and June 2024 were noted.

4. To receive and note the expenditure against budget through June 2024

The expenditure against budget through June 2024 was noted.

5. Update on the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 External Audits.

The RFO advised members that following an enquiry regarding escalation of the delay in completion of the 2022/2023 audit, it had been concluded. The auditors did not find any matters for concern and had no other matters they wished to draw the auditors attention to. The required documents had been published on the website.

A director from BDO also acknowledged while challenges raised by electors had to be considered, the matter work should have been completed in a more timely fashion and waived two thirds of the costs for the additional work generated by the electors challenge. The reduced costs, in addition to the standard audit charge and officer hours, were £1,261.25 plus VAT.

Members requested that the details of the Challenge be shared. The Mayor advised advice would need to be taken on the matter as it was unclear if the information should have been disseminated to the council.

In relation to the 2023/2024 review, no residents exercised their right to examine the accounts during the allocated period. One query from BDO was received in which was resolved promptly and the audit work has been finished and submitted to a partner for review and sign off. Officers had not been advised of any concerns or exception matters.

6. Update on Football Foundation Grant

Council was updated on the progress of the Football Foundation Grant for a 2g Multi-Use Games Area at Sandham Grounds. The first draft of the application form has been completed. Officers are waiting for feedback from the Foundation prior to being finalised. The Town Council would incur costs at the next stage, though these had been budgeted and approved by council previously. It was hoped if successful the new facility would be open on for Summer 2025.

A member of the public became disruptive and abusive and was ejected from the meeting before discussion could continue.

An update on the design was provided with members noting a design with two exits in line with guidance for designing spaces which were inclusive of women and girls requested.

7. Grant applications from First Act 2011

Cllr Heather Humby left the room.

Consideration was given to the first of two applications from First Act 2011. The charity, who provided theatre workshops for adults with additional needs had applied for £200 for material for costumes. Members were generally supportive, noting the organisations work across the Bay and detail regarding Sandown residents.

A motion, that the £200 grant be awarded, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT First Act 2011 be awarded a grant of £200 for material for costumes.

Council then discussed the second application, for £360 for blackout cloth. Members discussed why two separate applications had been made and noted that while the application did demonstrate a portion of those who were benefit were Sandown residents, residents of other towns in the Bay also benefited.

A motion, that the £360 grant be awarded, was proposed and duly seconded. An amendment, that £180 be awarded for blackout cloth but that Sandown Town Council support First Act in approaching the other Bay council's for the remaining funds, was proposed and accepted.

Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements and the amendment was unanimously supported. The amended motion as the substantive motion was then proposed and duly seconded; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT First Act 2011 be awarded a grant of £180 towards the cost of black out costumes and that the Council support First Act 2011 with approaching the other Bay council's regarding the remaining funds needed.

26-2024/2025 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Council noted the report from the Clerk who highlighted:

- Positive feedback had been received during the formal opening of the Changing Places facility.
- The accessible beach matting had also been installed.
- There had been significant issues with both Eastern Garden and Yaverland Toilets over the weekend due to misuse with contractors being verbally abused.
- The Council's underwriter had changed their position on flood risk at Eastern Gardens and Yaverland. Additional policies had been taken out. No council decision was needed as the costs were within the Clerks delegated authority.

Reassurance was sought that the back-office provision to Lake was not drifting towards the provision of RFO duties. The Mayor confirmed he was satisfied this was not the case.

27-2024/2025 THE BAY PLACE PLAN

a) Verbal Update (Cllr Paddy Lightfoot)

Cllr Paddy Lightfoot provided a verbal update on the Bay Place Plan noting:

- Members had now been appointed to the steering group, who had held their first meeting.
- There were more initiatives underway in the Bay than initially thought.
- A public meeting was expected to be held in September to develop a 12-month plan. Councillors were invited to bring forward projects.
- Details of the Steering group were available on the Council's website.

A request for written reports or a copy of the minutes of place plan meetings to be brought to council was rejected with members noting the initiative was independent of the Council though notes would be published on the Council's website.

b) Bay Place Plan – Initial Projects

The project to repaint the Esplanade had begun on 21 July 2024, with members expressing thanks to Laura Cansdale for securing permission from the Isle of Wight Council. 45 volunteers had been involved with a further session to paint the railings opposite Pebble's café on Wednesday, 31 July 2024 and for the remaining stretch in late August.

c) Battery Gardens Lighting

Following a commitment from partners and stakeholders at the Battery Gardens “broken window” presentation in 2023, significant work had been undertaken with benches being repaired, overgrown hedges and weeds cleared, beds planted and fixtures the outside of the Poo Museum being restored. A further request had been made to the town council in relation to solar lighting on the site. Costs would be under £100.

A motion, to provide funding up to £100 to support the purchase of solar lighting for Battery Gardens, from the Bay Place Plan budget, was moved and duly seconded. Councillors’ votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements and the amendment was unanimously supported. The amended motion as the substantive motion was then proposed and duly seconded; the results were as follows and it was:

For (6), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT the council provide funding up to £100 to support the purchase of solar lighting for Battery Gardens, from the Bay Place Plan budget.

28-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RAISED

No statutory issues had been received.

29-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE ANY PLANNING MATTERS

a) Relevant Planning Applications

The following applications were considered; no comments were returned:

[24/01084/RVC](#) - Former Sandown Snooker Club, Leed Street, PO36 8JQ

Variation of condition 4 on 20/00492/FUL to allow alterations to location of planters and planting scheme

[24/01002/RVC](#) - Old Town Hall, Grafton Street, PO36 8JJ

Variation of condition 7 on 20/00456/LBC to amend timing of submission and approval of noise survey report and details of any sound resistance/insulation works prior to the residential development

[24/00999/NMA](#) - Old Town Hall, Grafton Street, PO36 8JJ

Non material minor amendment on 20/00455/FUL to allow amendment to wording of condition 8 to allow works to commence on all other aspects that are non-residential

[24/01103/FUL](#) - Amber Court, 10 Beachfield Road, PO36 8ND

Proposed increase in roof height to provide additional flat within roofspace; proposed dormers within roof; proposed side extension at Ground and 1st floor levels to provide additional flat at 1st floor level; alterations to include rearrangement of second floor flat

[24/01091/LBC](#) - The Old Rectory, Yaverland Road PO36 8QW

Proposal Listed Building Consent for proposed alterations to include supporting chimney, internal alterations at first floor level, removal of first floor window and replacement windows

Members discussed and made a resolution in relation to the application relating to tree management in Los Altos Park, noting that while they lease the park they are not responsible for the trees.

24/01051/TW - Los Altos Park

Sycamore x 5 and Goat Willow x3 - Fell to ground level.

Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m.the crown. below 8-10m height.

Red Oak - Reduce height by 20%. Reduce elongated limb to south by 40% length.

Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m, Irish Yew - No works required, retain tree in current form.

Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m, Monterey Cypress - Deadwood monolith at 8m height.

Monterey Cypress - Mistake in Spec repeated tree, Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m, Pedunculate Oak - 20% height reduction and 20% length reduction of highly elongated limbs. Prune to restore strong crown form.

Pedunculate Oak - 20% height reduction. 20% lateral reduction on north side to rebalance asymmetrical crown.

Sycamore - 20% height reduction.

Pedunculate Oak - 2m lateral reduction of south side of crown.

Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m.

Sycamore - 20% height reduction. Crown lift to 5m. 3m lateral reduction on north side of crown to reduce asymmetry.

Holm Oak - Pollard all trees at a height between 8-10m.

Sycamore - No work required. Retain tree in its present form.

The council discussed and made a resolution in relation to the application relating to tree management in Los Altos Park noting the works were to proactively manage the trees and restore historic features.

A motion that the Council return a comment supporting proactive management of trees in the park and restoration of historic hedge was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (0), Abstentions (1).

RESOLVED

THAT Council return a comment supporting proactive management of trees in the park and restoration of historic features.

b) Planning Enforcement Report

The Planning Enforcement Update Report an accompanying Action Plan from the Isle of Wight Council were considered. It was suggested that a resolution was required to adopt the plan but clarification was provided that while Sandown Town Council contributed additional monies to increase enforcement activity in the town, the Isle of Wight Council remained the statutory planning body and determined where enforcement was appropriate.

Cllr Brothers expressed that all the information regarding planning enforcement should be circulated and that she would be submitting a freedom of information request. Members did not support the comments and recognised the impact that disclosure and publication of sensitive information could have on enforcement actions being taken and those planned.

30-2024/2025 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Heather Humby shared comments made during her regular surgeries, including visitors commenting on the state of the town. Any issues for the Isle of Wight Council were passed to ward members accordingly. There had been positive feedback on the Railings Project and the community spirit of those involved in the project. Cllr Humby raised concerns regarding cracking in the concrete on the Esplanade wall which had already been brought to the Isle of Wight Council's attention. Cllr Humby also highlighted residents' gratefulness in relation to the Warm Space.

Cllr Frank Baldry provided an update on the Esplanade War Memorial and flag poles.

The Mayor commended the work of the Sandown and Shanklin In-Shore Lifeboat who had been awarded the Kings Voluntary Award. Updating members on other Civic activities, he advised he had also acted as a judge for the Carnival, Dash and Splash, and attended the opening of the Changing Places facility and launch of accessible matting with other stakeholders.

31-2024/2025 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

A motion, under 21.1(vi) that the Public Question Time be bought forward on the agenda, was proposed and duly seconded. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (6), Against (0), Abstentions (0).

RESOLVED

THAT Public Question Time be bought forward on the agenda.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Adrian Whitaker (Shanklin/Lake) raised a number of questions and highlighted noise on social media regarding the Town Council purchasing the Ocean Hotel via a CPO. The Mayor clarified that no such resolution had been passed and no budget had been allocated but would provide a written response regarding the social media post.

Cllr Stephen Parkes(Shanklin/Lake) raised a number of points relating to the place plan. The Mayor advised that it was up to individual councils how they shared information regarding the Bay Place Plan but the Town Council would share notes and other information on its website.

32-2024/2025 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cllr Brothers argued that the discussion relating to the website was not considered commercially sensitive. However, officers and the Mayor reiterated the information which would be provided meet the criteria for the exclusion of the public and press. A motion was moved to consider the item in public session but was not seconded.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the public and press be excluded for the remaining business on the agenda. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (1), Abstain (0)

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 12 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.

33-2024/2025 WEBSITE

Council considered a proposal to migrate the website to a new provider. Officers outlined the reasons for the migration. Reassurance was provided that Financial Regulations had been satisfied.

During debate Cllr Brothers made inflammatory comments about officer probity which Cllr Paddy Lightfoot requested she withdraw the inappropriate comments and apologise, but she refused. The Mayor also requested so do so.

A proposal was moved and duly seconded, that the website be migrated according to the proposal from PC Consultants. Councillors' votes were confirmed verbally to meet accessibility requirements; the results were as follows and it was:

For (5), Against (1), Abstain (0)

RESOLVED

THAT the website be migrated according to the proposal from PC Consultants.

Meeting Closed 21:01