



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Valerie Taylor

Town Clerk

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN ON 3RD MAY 06 AT 8.0PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT Cllr Mereweather, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Young, Cllr Beevers, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Wright, Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Ward

1. ELECTION TO THE TOWN MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Mereweather was nominated, seconded and duly elected as Town Mayor with 1 vote against and 1 abstention. Cllr Mereweather signed and read out her declaration of acceptance of office.

2. MAYOR TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cllr Mereweather thanked the Council for their confidence in electing her Mayor for a second year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2006

Minutes of the April Council Meeting were agreed.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Cllr Young was proposed and seconded and duly elected as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Young thanked the Council for electing him as Deputy Mayor.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr Blezzard declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Items 2 & 7 Matters relating to IW Council, IWAPTC, Toney-Charente Twinning Association & St Pete Beach. Items 12 and 14.

7. TO APPOINT COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES FOR THE YEAR 2006/07.

The Mayor is ex-officio on all committees with voting rights.

Planning Meetings	All Members of the Council
Broadway Centre Meeting	Cllr Young Cllr Rogers Cllr Dupre Cllr Blezzard Cllr Stephenson Cllr Beevers and Cllr Wright
Events Meeting	Cllr Dupre, Cllr Woolley Cllr Cowley Cllr Ward Cllr Wright Cllr Stephenson Cllr Beevers

OUTSIDE BODIES

Isle of Wight Town and Parish Councils	Cllr Blezzard
Sandown Community Partnership	Cllr Young Cllr Stephenson Cllr Woolley Cllr Teasdale
South Wight Youth Theatre	Cllr Beevers
Sandown Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society	Cllr Stephenson
Isle of Wight Waste Management	Cllr Cowley
Sandown Forum	Cllr Ward, Cllr Blezzard Cllr Cowley Cllr Beevers
St Pete Beach	Cllr Dupre Cllr Young Cllr Ward Cllr Blezzard.
Cllr Teasdale gave his apologies and left the meeting to go to a meeting of the Business Association.	
Sandown Youth & Community Centre	Cllr Dupre
Tonnay-Charante	Cllr Blezzard.

8. MAYORAL ALLOWANCE

The Mayor left the room for this item and Cllr Young took the chair

Cllr Blezzard proposed that the Council does not pay a Mayoral allowance this year but the £1000 is vired into the budget for local organisations. Cllr Wright said she seconded the proposal as the Mayor did not have a Mayors charity last year and she thought it would be nice to go to local organisations.

Cllr Dupre asked for clarification and thought it was unfair not to pay an allowance. Cllr Beevers asked if it was known what it had cost the Mayor this last year. The Clerk replied it had cost her over her allowance. Cllr Ward said it always would be an emotive issue and we should treat this grant with an automatic rise with inflation and take it away from being an issue. He said he did not think there was any doubt that the Mayor is out of pocket no matter who it is and to expect people to take on a voluntary appointment for the glory of it was unfair and we should be trying to achieve something that is cost neutral for the Mayor and it is as simple as that.

Cllr Stephenson reminded Councillors that the Mayor had no transport and had to pay for her own transport to functions and thought she should have an allowance. Cllr Dupre said he thought it was a bit of a cheek to ask her to do it for nothing for the Town Council and said that we were only talking about £20 per week as an allowance. Cllr Rogers said that the Mayor is always well turned out when she is representing the town and he thought it was unrealistic to expect her to do it for nothing and it is unrealistic for her to keep an account of what she spends. Cllr Beevers said please do not misunderstand her; she did not want Jacquie to pay to be Mayor and she thought her expenses should be thoroughly covered and it is a disgrace that she went to Tonny-Charente with her own money. She just wanted to know what she had spent as she just wanted to be fair to Jacquie.

Cllr Blezzard responded to his proposal by saying that the money should be accounted for. The job can be done without incurring an inordinate expenditure. Cllr Blezzard requested a recorded vote.

Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Wright voted for the motion Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Ward, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Woolley Cllr Cowley Cllr Young Cllr Beevers voted against the motion.

It was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Ward that £1000 be the Mayoral allowance for this year. Cllr Rogers, Cllr Ward, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Young Cllr Woolley voted for the Mayoral allowance. Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Wright voted against and Cllr Beevers abstained.

Councillor Mereweather returned to the room and took up the chair.

9. TO NOTE DATES OF MEETINGS FOR ENSUING YEAR.

Cllr Blezzard suggested changing to the 3rd Wednesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday for the Council Meeting. After much discussion, Cllr Mereweather put to the vote that the Council Meeting be on the 1st Wednesday of the month and that was agreed by the majority of members present.

The following dates for meetings were then agreed:-

Town Council Meetings Plus Planning Meeting	Planning Meeting +	Broadway Meeting
7 th June 2006.	17 th May 2006	17 th May 2006
5 th July 2006.	21 ST June 2006.	
6 th September 2006.	19 th July 2006.	19 th July 2006.
4 th October 2006.	20 th September 2006.	
1 st November 2006.	18 th October 2006.	18 th October 2006
3 rd January 2007.	15 th November 2006.	
7 th February 2007.	17 th January 2007.	17 th January 2007.
7 th March 2007.	21 st February 2007.	
4 th April 2007.	21 st March 2007.	15 th March 2007.
Annual Town Meeting	18 th April 2007.	
Annual Council Meeting	18th April 2007 prior to the Planning Meeting.	
	2nd May 2007	

Events Committee will meet as and when required

10 FINANCE

- Draft Accounts for year ending 31st March 2006 were presented to the meeting. The Clerk emphasised they were draft accounts, commenting that she thought that the Council had done extremely well. Cllr Woolley asked if we had gone overdrawn to which the Clerk replied we had not gone overdrawn and we had over £13,000 left. Cllr Wright asked various questions on these accounts. The Clerk said she would seek clarification as they had been not prepared by her but she could assure the Council the balance brought forward was correct and these were only draft accounts.
- Finance April 06. The Clerk presented the April figures to the Council which were approved by the Council with 2 abstentions and 1 vote against..

- c. Loan. We have received permission to borrow £50,000 but it can only be used to re-mortgage the Broadway Centre and nothing else. We have also received permission to borrow £30,000 that can only be used for repairs on the Broadway Centre. The Clerk reported she had asked for a schedule of repayment on the Broadway Centre over a 10 year period and over a 20 year period but had not yet received it. It was agreed that a special meeting of the Council prior to the Planning meeting be held on 17th May 06 with that as the only agenda item.

11. CLERK TO REPORT ON:-

- a. **Request for grant for 3 Representatives from Sandown going to Island Games in Sicily**
The Clerk reported back to Council that we have 3 young athletes going from Sandown to the Games. It was proposed and seconded and agreed that we give them a grant of £150 each.
- b. **Any other matter that needs to be brought by the Clerk to the Councils attention.**
- b/1 The Clerk informed the Councillors that in their folders was a leaflet from DEFRA on Avian Flu for their information.
- b/2 There is to be a training on the 15th and 16th May for Clerks and Councillors. If anyone wishes to attend any of the sessions please give your names to the Clerk by the end of the evening together with the sessions you want to do.
- b/3 A letter has been received regarding HMS Sandown's memorabilia (the ship's crest and life-belt.) We have also been informed that HMS Sandown has been sold to Estonia so we cannot have its anchor. Also enclosed with the letter were some more papers on the ship's history.
- b/4 A copy of an email has been received from Jean Penouty saying there will be no more than 20 people coming to Sandown on 15th to 18th September from Tonny-Charente. The Mayor and Clerk had attended a meeting with John Howell and Paul Drayton regarding the programme of the visit and the reception. The Clerk reported there is a problem getting hold of a Jpeg of the Tonny-Charente Town Crest. Cllr Stephenson said she had got a good copy of the crest and would let the Clerk have it. Cllr Blezzard asked if a copy could not be obtained from the internet. The Clerk replied that she had trolled the French sites looking for the crest but a lot of towns in France do not have their own web-sites.
- b/5 A letter had been received from Sandown Youth and Community Centre regarding the future of the centre together with a copy of when the centre was used. It was agreed to invite the Youth Club leader and Tina Brown to our next Council meeting.
- b/6 An anonymous letter had been received regarding parking. The Clerk brought it to the Councils attention. The letter was noted.
- b/7 The Clerk reported that the web site is coming on but there are a few problems with it regarding clicking onto the agenda and the minutes but after this issue of the Chronicle is put to bed she hoped to have a week concentrating on it.

12. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BLEZZARD

"This Council recognises the essential contribution to the Island's economy made by all sections of the Tourist industry including coach tourists who are vital in ensuring the viability of many hotels, principally in the Sandown Bay area; the direct employment of around 1,000 Island residents, and the extension of the holiday season. It is further recognised that coach tourists bring tens of millions of pounds into the Island economy which helps to sustain thousands of jobs.

This Council therefore unreservedly deplores and condemns the offensive, uninformative and highly damaging comments by the leader of the Isle of Wight Council aimed at coach tourists in an interview in the "Island Life" magazine which have been extensively quoted in other sections of the media. This Council calls on the Isle of Wight Council leader to immediately retract these damaging comments and apologise to visitors to the Island and those in the tourist industry who have been adversely affected by his comments. In the event that he is not prepared to repair the damage in this way this Council calls upon the leader of the Isle of Wight Council to resign."

Cllr Blezzard formally moved the motion. He said he knew Cllr Ward had declared an interest but asked was he right in saying the coach parking charges had been reduced from £100 to £60 and was that correct. Cllr Ward replied yes. Cllr Blezzard asked whether it was correct that it would be still £60 for 4 days or had that been reduced?

Cllr Ward replied it was not but offered to tell the Council how the negotiations went and said he was going to speak on the motion. With permission of the Council Cllr Ward reported on the meeting. He said there were two issues talked about during the meeting and said Ronnie was there as well. He and Cllr Sutton had met 25 members of the industry coach operators, hoteliers and amenity operators. Andy explained his comments and how they came about. He did not apologise for them but he explained that we had not picked on coaches but we had raised car parking charges across the board. The meeting accepted that. The meeting said it was not out to extract blood but to recover their position. They wanted to put this behind them and move on and there were various ways the meeting could choose to do it. Two of the

coach operators commented that it was not the amount of money they were charging but the way you are charging that is foreign to us. They said that coach operators are more than happy to pay for overnight parking because that is what they are used to, they don't expect to pay for a permit upfront. They suggested that the Council extends the 4 day permit to cover 7 days as a gesture and recommended a £10 overnight parking charge and a £3 charge per car park during the day. Cllr Ward said he took it to highways to do the number crunching and it came to a conclusion it was cost neutral so that is what will be done.

The Chamber of Commerce has contacted him and asked if they could put this to coach drivers on the mainland and he agreed. They had contacted the coach companies who said they would be happy with this. He reported he has had two coach companies phone him up and thank him for changing the system. As far as the issue is concerned it happened it probably was not the wisest thing to say but it was said but the Council had recovered the position and we move on from there. Cllr Dupre said the situation has been addressed, some people were aggrieved but it has been sorted out and the comments by any media can be misconstrued so he thought the situation was well done and dusted.

Cllr Ward objected to Cllr Blezzard using Sandown Town Council. He pointed out that he had addressed the County Council; had a letter in the County Press and he was actually pressurising the members here to support his political line and he was going to vote against his motion and he asked fellow Councillors to support him in objecting it. Cllr Blezzard thanked Cllr Ward for clarification. He thought it was very useful that repair to the damage had been done and he felt he was perfectly entitled to bring to the attention of this Council the damage that was done to the town and this locality and members are entitled to vote as they wish. If the Town Council does not speak up for the town who will?

He hoped members would support the motion as it is sending out a signal that this Council does support the tourist industry in this town. Maybe it was unfortunate that Cllr Sutton could not give out an apology. He hoped that members would support it as they would be supporting the tourist industry. He requested a recorded vote.

Cllr Rogers stated that he was a bit taken back by this. A year ago he was the only co-opted member and he sat in a chair and was asked why he wanted to join this Council. He had said for Sandown and that's I why he was here. For the town and not for any political party. I didn't care if it was the Lib Dems, Conservatives, Pliad Cymru or Al-Qa'eda. He was not interested in this and hoped the Council will retain a non political aspect. He wanted nothing to do with this and that is the reason he will vote against it. The other point is political. No matter how you dress it up it is an attack on Conservatives in County Hall. He asked why Sandown Town Council always got to do the Liberal Democrats dirty work for them. There are 27 Town and Parish Councils with Councillors of other persuasions on other Councils so why Sandown. Cllr Blezzard answered the question by saying he was not on the other Parish Councils and there was nothing in this motion that mentions the Lib Dems and that he was purely supporting the interests of the town.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote. In favour Cllr Blezzard. Against Cllr Ward Cllr Woolley Cllr Cowley Cllr Rogers Cllr Young Cllr Stephenson Cllr Mereweather. Abstentions Cllr Wright Cllr Beever Cllr Dupre
The motion was lost.

13 OBSERVATIONS FROM CLLR HUMBY AND CLLR WARD ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Humby and Cllr Ward had nothing more to add to what they had said at the Annual Town Meeting.

14. WRITTEN REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

- a. Councillor Cowley Island Waste.
- b. Councillor Blezzard Isle of Wight Association of Town and Parish Councils
The reports were noted.
- c. The Clerk asked the Councillors to note the Minutes of the Assoc of Parish and Town Councils.
Cllr Rogers drew Cllr Blezzard's attention to report item 4 that the letter was from the Town Council and not the Town Clerk. Cllr Blezzard said the letter was signed by the Town Clerk that's all he was saying. Cllr Rogers replied that as a previous Town Clerk he would know the score - it was from Sandown Town Council and it was factually incorrect. He reminded the Council that in March he had asked for copies of the official minutes. Further discussion was discontinued by the Mayor calling the meeting to order.
The Clerk reported that apart from the previous minutes that Roger Craven had sent she had never received any other minutes of the Association. Chris Matthews had sent these ones to her and she has passed them on.
- d. Cllr Cowley asked for the report on the East Yar to be noted. Agreed.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th June 2006

