



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

**Mrs Valerie Taylor
Town Clerk**

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A MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE ON 7th JUNE 2006 AT 7. 0PM

Cllr Wright gave Cllr Blezzard's apologies as he would be late.

Mayor welcomed Tina Brown & Josie Lillywhite from the Youth Club who had been invited to come and talk to the Council in the time allocated for residents of Sandown to speak to the Council.

The Mayor also welcomed Sue Chiltern who is a member of the Parish and Community Development Team. Sue had come to the meeting to talk to the Councillors about the Partnership and its workings and how it could work in the future. Mrs Brown and Mrs Lightfoot agreed to let Sue Chiltern talk to the Council first.

Sue gave a brief history of how the Partnerships were set up and how it had been funded. She talked about the amount of additional funding for local projects the Partnerships had attracted. The new Isle of Wight Council's concern about the lack of accountability that the Partnerships had over the spending of public money.

Sue talked about the model they were looking at and what was happening in Brading where the partnership is the consulting developing arm of the Parish Council. The Partnership in that area has its own terms of reference, its own chair, but it works under the umbrella as a committee of the Council. There are a lot of benefits for Partnerships if they choose not to stand alone, VAT could be reclaimed as well as the Parish Council being able to cover up to 30 volunteers on their insurance. Partnerships are good at attracting capital funding but not at getting revenue funding. If the two bodies can merge the Town or Parish Council has an opportunity of sustaining the project with their precept. A lot of areas have formed a Parish Partnership. Sue said that the Partnership and Councils have the same aim; they are both working for their community.

A question was raised about money from the Isle of Wight Council. Sue replied that the Council would fund elections and training. The question of funding for paying for a Partnership's project manager was not answered. Regarding the money Sue could not give an answer on funding for next year. She said there is a good support network for Councils with her and her team and it is there for support and development of town and parish Councils. The Isle of Wight Council is supporting Councils to obtaining quality status. Cllr Mereweather said at the end of the day it is for the Partnership to agree with the proposal and for the Council and Town Councillors to want it. Cllr Dupre said it has everyone should be here for the community, it is only a slight route change. Cllr Teasdale I think it is the right way to go and if you are committed to Sandown it is the way to get it done and I think it could work better. If everybody is agreed to it and everybody is behind it, it could be most successful. The Mayor thanked Sue and she asked everybody to think about what had been said and she would raise the question again at the end of the meeting.

Time allocated for residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town Matters.

The Mayor invited Tina Brown and Josie Lillywhite who are the Chairman of the Management Committee and the Leader of the Youth and Community Centre to address the Council with their questions on the Town Hall.

Tina said they would like answers to some questions and the questions were.

- a. What you would like the Town Hall for. I am chair of the management committee and the users groups need to know.
- b. In the letter you mentioned about a referendum. When is this going to take place?
- c. Petition going around by over 50s Club and we want some answers, as there is lack of knowledge and lack of information.
- d. Asked for support for young people.

Cllr Teasdale gave an up date on the Town Hall. He said the reason we have not gone out to the people on a referendum is that we have no offer on the table from the Isle of Wight Council. We cannot go to the people before we have information from the Isle of Wight Council and we have not got it. When we know the details the town will decide whether they want it or don't. We have made it clear we would not touch either the youth centre or fire station. The main bulk of the town hall is empty at present. He said we are Sandown Town Council we are not developers. We want the other part of the town hall. Part of the reason we are doing it is to put money into a project for the kids. We have already committed £12,000 to the kids. If we get the Town Hall we will bring it back to its former glory and we can then build something far better. We have not got an offer on the table when we get one we will have a referendum. One of the main thrusts of this is for the kids. There have not been any decisions made what so ever. It is our job as a Council to make things better for the town and we will consult with the people.

Cllr Mereweather pointed out that we are a new Council the old Council has gone and we are committed to improving things for the kids. Councillor Mereweather thanked them for raising their questions and then commenced with the Council Meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT Cllr Mereweather (Mayor) Cllr Young, Cllr Beevers, Cllr Wright, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Stephenson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ward, Cllr Woolley

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blezzard declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Items 3,4,5,7, 9,and 12 and any matter relating to the IW Council.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd MAY 2006

After the inclusion of members present, and Cllr Blezzards declaration of interests the minutes were approved. The Clerk gave her apologies for the omissions. Cllr Blezzard pointed out that the draft account should be agreed before the 30th and he expected to see them on this agenda. The Clerk replied there was to be a Special Council Meeting on the 21st June to deal only with allocation of grants and year ending accounts as the only items on the agenda.. The minutes were proposed and seconded and approved with the agreed amendments.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2006.

The minutes of the Special Council Meeting were approved.

5. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE BROADWAY CENTRE HELD ON 15TH MARCH 06

The minutes were noted.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on the request from the Business Association to arrange a meeting about the problems we have had in the High St and the solutions that came out of the meeting including the addition of a bus stop in Fort Street.

The Mayor reported that The Town Clerk and herself had been to a Parish and Town Council induction at County Hall and it was extremely interesting and the information that came over very strongly was that Town and Parish Councils would be listened to. It was also said that if the Council put forward a sound business plan a contract could be agreed and the contract and funding could be agreed. The only way funding would stop was if the contract was terminated. Cllr Mereweather reported on the forthcoming Parish portal. This will give town Councillors an access to a Forum. There is also a silver line that has been established for Clerks. One thing that came out of the day was about Emergency Planning, and there is going to be a part of a day bringing up to date localised Emergency Planning that is now required because of the changes in the Town and Parishes.

7. CLERK TO REPORT ON:-

a. Training Days held at Ryde Castle. The Clerk reported on the training day and said there is a report on file for anyone who wants to read it. It was an excellent 2-day training. Cllr Blezzard was there and so were Cllr Beevers and Cllr Mereweather. The Clerk informed Councillors that our Council was benefiting with money for training as the Isle of Wight Council was paying for the Clerk to go on a 2-day training course put on by the University of Gloucester in July.

b. Any further matters that need to be brought by the Clerk to the Councils attention.

b/1 The Clerk reported that there was a problem putting in a post between the two buildings at the Broadway Centre because there is a gas pipe there; she suggested that a chain could be put across between the two walls.

b/2 She reported she had received information regarding rates on renting car park spaces. Business Rates we would have to be paid and we would have to be re-rated. She had been told the whole of the Broadway Centre would be re-rated. She wondered if the Council who like to discuss this further as it could create a lot of problems.

8. FINANCE

The Clerk presented Mays accounts in a simpler new format that showed a balance on the 31st May of £78567. 04. The Clerk said she had also had transferred the Aprils accounts into the new format. The Clerk presented a monthly running total sheet. Cllr Blezzard asked if we could have a profiled figure showing the estimate of what the end of the year figure will be and this could be adjusted on a monthly basis. Cllr Dupre said we spend more time discussing finance than doing things for the community. The Clerk replied you have the clearer figures, you have got a budget that you set at the beginning of the year, you should be able to see where your budget is and most of you are experts on budgets. We made predictions when we set the budget in February. Having looked through a number of budgets and figures that other town and parishes get you actually get more information than they do. The Council discussed Cllr Blezzard's suggestion but it was thought they had enough information to work with. The Mayor asked for a proposer and seconder that we adopt the May accounts. Cllr Wright wanted it recording that she voted against them on the terms that the draft copy of the accounts at the last meeting did not add up and so

therefore the £13,000 was the brought forward figure. It was proposed and seconded that we adopt the May accounts and this was agreed with 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

The Clerk raised under finance the question of flags at the Mayor's request. The Mayor said the flags on the seafront are in a terrible state and need replacing. She asked the Council if they were willing to replace the flags. She asked the Clerk for the cost of replacing the flags. The Clerk replied between £35 to £48 each. The Clerk also reminded the Council that they would have to pay a firm to put the flags up as the halliards are secured and it will cost about £120 to do it. Cllr Dupre asked for the English flag to be flown. The Clerk replied she thought we had a St Georges flag. It was proposed and seconded that the flags be replaced. Agreed.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL OR ANY OTHER BODY PRIOR TO THE MEETING:-

- a. Parish Press from the Community Development Team was shown to the Councillors.
- b. NALC's Direct Information Service Issue 631-15th May 06 had been received and it was available for anyone to read.
- c. A letter had been received from Geoff Banks the Mayor of West Cowes regarding joining with them on having a French Market in Sandown in August. There will be 20 stalls. They wanted the Business Association to join in with them. Licensing suggest a joint application with the licence. It was suggested that the market goes down on the front near Napoleons landing. It was agreed that the Council would welcome a French Market in Sandown. Clerk would pursue it.

10. OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

No reports received.

11. SANDOWN IN BLOOM

The Mayor reported all the entry forms are in and we have been asked to judge Wight in Bloom as well. Judging will take place on the 17th and 18th June. The baskets in the High Street will be going up later in June. We would like our own dowsers to do our own watering next year. We have a new firm that is going to water our baskets this year. We are disappointed that we have not been able to get any neighbourhoods to enter South and South East in Bloom.

12. OBSERVATIONS FROM CLLR HUMBY AND CLLR WARD ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Humby reported the recommendation going to the cabinet was to keep the crematorium. She has not been able to get a zebra crossing but she has been successful in asking for a 20mph speed limit be put on Sandown Esplanade as it is very dangerous. This has gone out for consultation at the moment. Concern over charges for events being put on which help the tourism was expressed. She said it was getting harder and harder and now risk assessments have to be done. She reported on dilapidated buildings and said that 2 main ones are being dealt with. As a member of Safer Communities her task is to do a report on CCTV. Eastern Gardens are having some problems with skateboarding and footballers. She has written to the Education Department and suggested that we have got to start using schools for youngsters to play football and skateboard. It has been agreed that we are going to form 2 neighbourhood committees based on Sandown South and Sandown North with 10 members which will include the Observers. Cllr Humby presented photographs showing the state of the flower beds at Eastern Gardens. Cllr Teasdale replied the Partnership had this in hand.

13. TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF THE CLERK'S HOLIDAY.

The Clerk informed the Council that she would be on holiday from the 23rd June for 7 days. She also informed the Council that Kathy Mills was covering for her should the services of a Clerk be required during her holiday. Cllr Blezzard said whether world war 3 he was sure they could manage for a week. The Clerk replied that she was sure they could manage but she wanted to make sure there was a contingency plan in case of an emergency.

Cllr Young asked for the Councils opinion about flying the St George flag. The Council supported flying the flag.

14. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING 5TH July 2006 and the Special Council meeting on 21st June 06.

Cllr Mereweather asked the Councillors for their views on the Partnership working. It was generally agreed that it was a good idea and would work. At the end of the day it is up to the Partnership to agree.

Note Cllr Wright asked for her written comments to be included in the minutes:-

Councillor Wright asked for her vote against the approval of the Finance Report to be recorded in the minutes along with her reasons. These were that the "balance carried forward" figure was added to the accounts when the draft 2005/6 accounts presented to the May meeting contained arithmetic errors and the amended year end accounts have not been re submitted to the Council. Clarification on several points requested had not been received and the councillor was therefore concerned that the year end balance has not yet been proved.

Signed