



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Valerie Taylor

Town Clerk

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A MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE ON 5th APRIL 2006 AT 7. 0PM

7. 0pm to 7. 15pm Time allocated for residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town Matters.

The Mayor welcomed Paul Collins from the Business Association as a Member of the Public.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Beevers, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Dupre.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blezzard declared a non-prejudicial interest in items 3 (Minutes,5,8,9&10),4,7 &10 Items 8, Item3,(Minutes 9 &12)

Cllr Blezzard declared a prejudicial interest in Item 3 (Minute 6) as partner of an employee of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and he will withdraw from the meeting if the subject is discussed.

Cllr Wright declared a prejudicial interest in Item 3 (Minute 6) as an employee of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust and she will withdraw from the meeting if the subject is discussed.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st MARCH 2006

The minutes were approved with the confidential minute on staffing being approved at the end of the meeting.

4. CLERK TO REPORT ON EASTERN GARDENS TOILETS

The Clerk reported on the proposals for the toilets in Eastern Gardens. Cllr Mosdale had been in touch with her and wished her to pass on to the Council that the Council has been listened to and that the Portakins will not be put at Eastern Gardens. There will be additional cleaning of the toilets and they will be cleaned before being locked up which was part of the previous problem. Bins will be put into the ladies toilets. The Clerk discussed with him about easier vehicle access for the cleaner. This is being looked into as parked cars are blocking the area. The screen in front of the toilets is being removed to deter vandalism so that the CCTV camera can monitor the area and a re-siting of the camera is being discussed. He also wished the Council to know that the toilets at Devonian Landing will not be closed this year. He was willing to come and discuss with the Partnership and the Council after Easter the proposals for the toilets in Sandown. He was very supportive of the constructive views that the Council had put forward. The Beach will be able to be used by the Carnival which is pleasing as some of the events would have been blighted.

5. FINANCE

a. The Clerk presented the March month ending figures to the Council which showed there was £13,462. 33 in the bank on the 31st March 06. She warned them that this was not the final figure as payments still had to go out and money was also due in to the Council. Advance booking money has been taken so the actual true figures will be given on the audited accounts. She informed the Council that we had been reimbursed from the Isle of Wight Council for the lighting bill. With these figures it showed the Council had been prudent. She also presented a paper headed Accounts 2005/2006 showing a break down on income and expenditure for the year and the opening and closing balance, but warned again actual true figures will be given with the audited accounts. The ongoing running total sheet on expenditure was presented and in reply to Cllr Wright the Clerk apologised as the amount against the market heading should be £5895 not £5885 and the reduction in the Xmas lighting was due to the refund from the Council.

b. The Clerk reported on our Insurances and said that by changing our insurance company to Zurich Municipal it looks as though we would be saving about £800.

c. The Clerk warned there were a few odd jobs that needed to be done.

The Finance report was accepted with one vote against and one abstention.

6. TONNEY- CHARENTE VISIT

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by John Howell informing us that the visit will not take place until September. He will be meeting with the Mayor to discuss the arrangements for the visit such as the reception next week.

7. FURTHER CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL OR ANY OTHER BODY PRIOR TO THE MEETING:-

- a. The Clerk reported on a letter she had received from the RCC that the OPTIO car scheme will continue for another year. Cllr Blezzard commented that it was disappointing that it was not funded by the Isle of Wight Council.
- b. Letter from the RCC a free Market Seminar at the Quay Arts Centre Newport on 25th April 2006.
- c. Letter received from Defra. Getting to grips with Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
- d. Isle of Wight Council Parking Place Order 2006 was available if anyone wished to look at it.
- e. The Clerk reported that she had received a notice of a meeting of the Isle of Wight Association of Town and Parishes Council Executive and Roger Craven said he is finishing on the 31st March with the Association. One of the items was Joint Secretary of Association/IW Society of Clerks and Parish Liaison Officer. Cllr Blezzard said he thought it was important to go with the democratic decision of the previous meeting even though he had voted in favour of the tripartite agreement.
- f. A list of dates of Parish and Town Council cluster training had been received.
- g. The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from a company in Wakefield informing her that they were taking over from April the financial payments for the Isle of Wight Health Authority. The Clerk had phoned the company to find out what was happening as no notification had been received by her as a matter of courtesy from the Health Authority advising her of the new arrangements.

8. OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

To note written reports received from

- a. Cllr Beevers on South Wight Youth Theatre. Noted.
- b. Cllr Blezzard reported on the meeting of the St Beach Committee Meeting and the proposed visit to Sandown in 2007 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of St Pete Beach being a city. They have a new Commissioner that has joined the Committee and they wish to exchange Council Minutes. This was agreed by the Council.
- c. Cllr Teasdale reported on the Partnership, Children's Play Areas. Big Top and Town Hall. At the Partnership's last meeting it had been suggested that the Partnership join up with the Town Council but before they go too far they would like us to have Sue Chiltern at our next Council meeting.

On the Children's Play area at Sandham Gardens he reported that Val Stephenson had most estimates in and was almost there and the project is progressing well.

On the Big Top he reported we have received some excellent news and we have received a £5,000 grant from Awards for All, and with the funding from this Council we now don't have a problem. Everything is coming together very well. He offered the plan of the events for Councillors to look at, and reported the marquee seats 600 people.

Cllr Teasdale reported on the Town Hall that this Council has been trying to negotiate since 2004 and we have not got very far. We have had a meeting with 3 Isle of Wight senior officers. They were told that we have no problem with what they wanted to happen in the old fire station. We also don't have a problem with the Youth Centre. They told us they would come back to us with a report in 4 weeks. We have not heard back from any officer and no report has materialised. Since then it has been going to and fro and we have asked the Cabinet Member for Land and Property to come down and have a meeting with us but she has refused. We want to go forward with the Town Hall as it would generate an awful lot of money into Sandown which we are not going to get from the Isle of Wight Council or anybody else at this stage. Cllr Teasdale then reported on an email he had received via Cllr Humby from an Officer at County Hall. The contents of the email were disputed by Cllr Teasdale. He reported it said that Cllr Wood had made the decision to retain it for the Children's Service Directorate based on the current use. Cllr Teasdale commented that she had made the decision without any meeting with the Town Council, without any discussion and also without coming to look at it which he found to be outrageous. It also stated in the letter that there were no plans to evict the Town Council from the Broadway, a site which this Town Council actually own. He reported that the Council's intention was to go out on a referendum to see what the people of the Town want. He said he has a problem that they have treated us with contempt. The Leader visited the building and he has no problem with us having the Town Hall. Both Ian and Heather have helped us out over this matter. It goes back to Officers. One of the things we would do is spend money on the building and do up the outside to make it an attractive building in the centre of Sandown. He said this Council should write to Cllr Wood and ask for a meeting and failing that, and if the Council still decides we cannot have it this Council needs to have an enforcement order slapped on Education to do up the building.

Cllr Blezzard was appalled to hear what Cllr Teasdale had said and agreed we should be seeking a meeting with the Leader to try to get this matter sorted out. Cllr Blezzard offered to be involved in any future discussions as he had experience of running public buildings of that type.

Cllr Mereweather said we need to meet Cllr Sutton, Cllr Woods, and Cllr Joyce, together with our Sandown County Councillors.

Cllr Ward asked how long have we been fighting for the Town Hall. The reply was the Council has been fighting for it for over 10 years. Cllr Ward reported he had accompanied Cllr Sutton to a meeting at the Town Hall and while Cllr Sutton attended the meeting he went round the building and took photographs and went back to Cllr Wood and said that the building was a store with a few sticks of furniture in it and showed her the photographs. Cllr Wood was very angry that she had been misled by Officers, and she has promised that she will come down and have a look. Cllr Wright said she would like to thank Cllr Ward for that and Cllr Teasdale too. It was agreed to write requesting an urgent

meeting. Cllr Rogers said historically the building was bought by the people of Sandown. Cllr Humby advised us to consult the people in Sandown and take them with us.

- d. Cllr Cowley said she would be bringing a report to the next meeting on the Yar Project.

9. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Clerk asked the Council to give delegated authority for the spending of the Sandown in Bloom budget otherwise we will not be able to purchase our plants as there is no delegated authority to spend and the request is the same as we did for the fireworks. Cllr Blezzard moved that the necessary authority be given by the Council and Cllr Wright seconded. It was agreed by all.

Cllr Mereweather reported that she and the Clerk had been out this afternoon looking at sustainable plants for the hanging baskets in the town and the troughs down the road as we have been told to go sustainable and try and preserve as much water as possible. The meeting we have had with a garden centre had been very helpful.

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

Cllr Humby reported on the plans for Yaverland Car Park and there are other thoughts on how it can be done. Cllr Ward reported that Highways have suggested they take the car park back so we have an area of lawn between the seawall and just have the pedestrian railings. This can be the first project for the Bay Regeneration Scheme in Sandown and no car parking would be lost. Cllr Humby reported she has shown the plans to the Business Association and there is a date to meet with the Yaverland residents. She reported that action is being taken against one of our eyesores in Sandown. She reported on her concerns of the pollarding of some of our trees. Cllr Ward reported that BT had employed a contractor and they just walked into the Heights and chopped them because they were interfering with their signal. BT is now to replace them with mature trees. Cllr Humby said they are to discuss the future of the crematoriums which most people are in favour of the Island retaining. She also reported that Yaverland is having a new litter bin at last. Cllr Rogers asked what the County policy is on dealing with Dutch elm disease. Cllr Ward replied he may certainly ask, and he would find out for him.

Cllr Ward reported he was asked to investigate the rumour that the housing association had passed £30,000 to the IW Council in lieu of providing facilities for children in Sandown. He found out it was true and the money had been placed in the Parks and Gardens budget for use sometime in the future. He wrote to the C.E.O and stated his objections and asked for the money to be ring fenced for children's projects in Sandown. He suggested it could be used to attract match funding for several children's projects. He was pleased to report that Council officers have accepted his suggestion and has asked the Town Council and Partnership to approach them with their proposal. He has investigated the possibility of Sandown attracting a Township Heritage funding similar to Ryde. To attract that funding Sandown would have to be designated a conservation area in a similar fashion to that being undertaken by East Cowes, Ventnor and Bonchurch. This he thought was a decision for the Town Council and the local Community to make and if requested he would ask Council officers to brief the Town Council of the issues surrounding the designation of a Conservation area. It was agreed to ask a Council officer to come and talk to the Council about a conservation area for Township Heritage money. Cllr Ward reported on an internal Council meeting about the Bay Regeneration project where he asked if the priority for Sandown could be raised from number 17 on the list of things to achieve. Supported by Cllr Hunter Henderson, it was agreed that Sandown should go right up the list of priorities to sit along side Shanklin at the top of the list and he said he would continue to push to get Sandown at the front for development whenever he could.

Cllr Teasdale commented on the Regeneration that the Committee accepted the 1st phase of the airport and that it looks very promising.

Cllr Stephenson reported on her visits to various people tracing the money that had to be given on a new build housing project at Perowne Way in lieu of a playground. She said she asked Cllr Ward for help when she got stuck and the result is fantastic. Cllr Young raised the issue of the locked playground at Salisbury Gardens. Cllr Stephenson said she talked about it with the Director of South Wight Housing. It is now open but the equipment is appalling. It was suggested that some new equipment could be put near the football nets. Cllr Ward reported he had given the Clerk a letter to access the Section 106 money.

Cllr Young asked for permission investigate the cost of removing the carpet and sanding the floor in the main hall as a children's judo class wanted to start using the hall. The Council agreed.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING 3rd May 2006 the Annual Council Meeting to be held after the Annual Town Meeting

Signed

Date