



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Valerie Taylor
Town Clerk

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A MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN ON THE 9th APRIL 08 AT 7.0PM

7.15pm to 7.30pm Time allocated for residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town Matters.

5 Members of the Public were present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:-Cllr Young(Mayor) Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Wright, Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Dupre,
Cllr Ward, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Mereweather

189/08 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Beevers.

190/08 TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blezzard declared personal interest in the remaining items on the agenda as a member of the Isle of Wight Council Scrutiny Committee.

**191/08 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS
HELD ON 12TH MARCH 08 AND THE 26TH MARCH 08**

RESOLVED:-

THAT the minutes of the meetings held on the 12th March 08 and the 26th March 08 were approved and duly signed.

192/08 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS:-

a. Payments and Receipts for March 08

The Clerk reported on the payments and receipts for March 08

b. March 08 Summary of Payment and Receipts.

No questions were received on the summary of payments and receipts.

On the quarterly sheet the amount on the bottom of the 4th quarter should read the same as the total £171489.29. The Clerk apologised as she thought she had changed the figure.

Questions were raised regarding the amount of interest we had received on the PSB loan. It was pointed out that we had not had the loan for a year and it was on a higher rate of interest. The Clerk reported that we were bringing forward a cash balance of £51531 plus the £119958 PSB loan. Out of the £51531 cash balance £15400 was ring fenced for the Youth Project and £750 for the 1 million blooms. The Archivist ring fenced balance of £651.25 was also included in the cash balance. The Council had more than achieved its target of having balances of over £30,000 which put it on a sounder financial basis than it was 3 years ago.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the March accounts with the alteration of the balance under the 4th Quarter be amended to £171489.29 be approved.



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Recorded vote was requested

Voting for the resolution:- Cllr Dupre, Cllr Ward, Cllr Woolley Cllr Rogers, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Mereweather, Cllr Young, Cllr Stephenson

Voting against the resolution:- Cllr Wright Cllr Blezzard.

The Resolution was carried.

c. Letter from Audit Commission

The Council had received a letter from the Audit Commission after receiving a complaint from Cllr Blezzard which was read out. The Clerk informed the Council of the conversation she had had with the Audit Commission after she had received the letter regarding the use of Section 137. Money was being spent under section 137 and this power was not chosen afterwards as an after thought.

The Clerk had done what the Council had requested and that was a belt and braces exercise and double checked with the Society of Local Council Clerks that what the Council was doing was legal and the power it was using was legal. What she had not done was to minute that Section 137 was the power that was being used. The Auditor was not going to take any action against the Council.

The recording of Section 137 was not something that she had been taught during her CiLCA training. Nor was it recorded by many other Clerks on the Island when she enquired. It would however be recorded fully in future. In answer to a question the Clerk explained what Section 137 covered.

Cllr Blezzard said when he raised the legality of this expenditure the Clerk had reported she had taken legal advice and it was legal. She never mentioned section 137. Cllr Blezzard reiterated what Section 137 covered and commented that we need to learn lessons for the future.

The Clerk responded that lessons had been learned for the future and after this meeting she would be notifying other Clerks with this information.

RESOLVED:-

THAT this item be noted.

d. To receive the accounts for 2007/08

The draft accounts were circulated for information and for discussion at a later date. Later on in the meeting they were recalled as a typing error had been spotted which would be rectified.

193/08

TO DISCUSS THE IWC PROPOSALS FOR RELOCATION OF THE HEIGHTS AND TO RECEIVE THE COUNCILS VIEWS.

Cllr Ward introduced this agenda item. The proposal has 6 options on the Heights. Cllr Humby and Cllr Ward went together to see the Director of Adult Services. At the meeting it was apparent that the plans and aspirations for the canoe lake area were not being discussed as the two Directors involved in the individual projects were not speaking to each other when Sandown Town Council sees it as one issue.

A meeting was planned for today with Collanade and the two Directors.

Sandown Town Council raised concerns about the Heights going to Sandown High School. It was thought that if a developer would build this facility on the sea front it would kick start the Regeneration of Sandown. The Council felt that development would only come from private funding. It was also felt that this location would be a better place for our tourists and it would also attract residents from all over the island.

Sandown Town Council were annoyed that they had not been consulted over the proposals and had found out in an indirect way. Questions were raised about whether the Education budget was being plundered. The Town Council is to ask if this is part of an asset stripping programme that the Isle of Wight Council is pursuing. It was agreed to inform other Town and Parish Clerks what we were doing and a letter would be also sent to the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Council would send out a release to the press and media against the facility being moved to Sandown High School.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council write to the scrutiny committee.

194/08 CLLR DUPRE REQUESTS THAT THIS COUNCIL INVITE JOE DUCKWORTH AND CLLR GEORGE BROWN TO MEET WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS AND REGENERATION FOR SANDOWN.

Cllr Dupre raised the question of wanting to know what is happening regarding the Regeneration of Sandown. It was felt that when George Brown took over tourism and regeneration everything stopped. It was said that regarding Tourism and Regeneration the Isle of Wight Council is totally negligent and negative. Sandown Town Council discussed who they should invite to meet them.

RESOLVED:-

THAT Sandown Town Council invites Bernadette Marjoram and the Director of Finance to meet with them to discuss what proposals and Regeneration are planned for Sandown.

195/08 a. CLLR MEREWETHER TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY.

Cllr Mereweather brought forward a recommendation from the Events Committee that the Town Band would play on the Esplanade for the Remembrance Day Service and that a piper would lead the Parade from the pier. The Churches were not planning a Church service to follow. This agenda item was discussed and it was reported that the Public last year had liked the new format that was used. Councillors requested that the same public address system be booked as it was very good. It was proposed that Medina Marching Band be retained. The proposal was defeated.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Town Band would play for the Remembrance Day Parade and that a piper would lead the procession. Clerk to write to Medina Marching Band with our thanks.

b. TO REPORT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SANDOWN IN BLOOM

It was reported that Sandown in Bloom categories had been updated and that the judging of Sandown in Bloom would take place in July with the prize presentations in September.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the report be noted.

196/08 CLLR STEPHENSON TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SKATE PARK.

Cllr Stephenson gave an update on the skate park and reported that work will commence on 23rd April 08. The fencing will be coming down followed by the tarmac and it should be finished by the end of May 08. The Council lease had been amended to the 1st April 2008 and Sandown Town Council has £10,000,0000 public liability insurance in place.

In reply to a question raised it was said that the ordering of the equipment had been done and it was a partnership project. The skate park is for the youth of the town it is not for professionals or Wightaire. The equipment can be moved around in the future.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the report is noted.

197/08 CLLR COWLEY TO REPORT ON ECO ISLAND CONFERENCE

Councillor Cowley gave a full report of the Eco island Conference that she attended. It dealt with 4 themes;- Thriving Island, Healthy and Supportive Island, Safe and well kept Island and Inspiring Island. It was said that 98% of food we produce is going to mainland. Helen MacArthur gave an interesting report. Islanders were warned that we needed to stop cliff erosion or the Island could be split in 3 so coastal action is vital. She reported that wind farms are now favoured.

198/08 CLERK TO REPORT ON:-

a. Seasonal recycling sites.

A letter had been received from Sarah Buttress the Isle of Wight Council senior Waste Management and Contract Officer regarding the position of a new seasonal recycling site on the Esplanade.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Council supports the suggested site no 3 but Sandown Town Council would like to see more bins at Eastern Gardens.

b. French Market.

The Clerk reported that she had been informed that the Isle of Wight Council is now dealing with the French Markets for the whole of the Island. Philippe Peigney wants to hold a French Market in Sandown. He would like it to be with our Sunday market traders but because the market pitches have been reduced by half it is not possible to oblige. It has been suggested that the French Market could happen if a road closure was obtained or if they are willing to go to Culver Parade.

Oliver Simonin is talking to the Isle of Wight Council about holding a French Market over 2 days in August and it had been suggested that they may like to hold it on Culver Parade. The Clerk has discussed this with the Isle of Wight Council and they are talking to Mr Simonin. The decision now rests with the IW Council but the Town Council fully supports a French Market coming to Sandown.

c. Community Chest Scheme

The Clerk reported that we had been unsuccessful in our bid for an award from the Community Chest Scheme.

199/08

CLLR BLEZZARD TO REPORT BACK ON THE IWALC TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

Cllr Blezzard reported on the discussion at the IWALC and the Association voted to carry on the tripartite agreement for another year.

200/08

TO RECEIVE THE WRITTEN REPORTS OF CLLR WARD AND CLLR HUMBY.

Written reports were received from Cllr Ward and Cllr Humby. They covered the rebuilding of Pier Street toilets, and the road maintenance £325 million PFI money. The concern that Cllr Humby and Cllr Ward have over the proposal that the Heights Leisure Centre move to Sandown High School has resulted in them attended meetings with two Isle of Wight Council Directors who are overseeing projects associated with leisure and regeneration to discuss regeneration and leisure facilities for the Bay Area. Support for the retention of No 10 Bus for the Yaverland estate was requested. Questions have been raised regarding the annual pollarding of trees which means it is July before they begin to sprout. It was also suggested that we had some car stickers advertising the benefits of Sandown.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the reports be noted.

The Town Manager reported on Eastern Gardens. He informed the Council that the police have asked for the benches to be removed from the NatWest corner. The Council did not support the removal of the seats. It was agreed that it would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Fixed penalty notices were now able to be issued by the Town Manager. There are problems with black sacks being left out and he informed the Council he now had a bike.

RESOLVED:-

THAT we have the Town Manager report as an agenda item at future meetings.

201/08

TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED:-

THAT the date of the next Council Meeting is on the 14th May 2008 be noted.

Cllr Ward presented the Mayor with a plaque and pennant on behalf of the citizens of St Pete Beach and a photograph of the event was taken.

Signed

Date