



Mrs Valerie Taylor MILCM
SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

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**A MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD AT
THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN ON 11th FEBRUARY 09 AT 7.0PM.**

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

12 Members of the public were present.

The Council meeting was suspended after agenda item 312/09 to allow for Public questions time.

The following questions were raised by members of the public:- Why was the Youth Service to have £250,000 of cuts prior to the review as was reported at a meeting at Brading? Why is Newport Youth Club Closing? Who is going to do the consultation? Who is going to make the decisions? Will it go back to cabinet and what will be the involvement of the Commission? Are the young people going to be consulted? A question was asked regarding the future of the Fire Service, fire stations and response times. When will the Isle of Wight Council get rid of the Cabinet and go back to Committee Meetings?

Cllr Pugh responded to the questions raised.

MEMBERS PRESENT:- Cllr Ward (Mayor) Cllr Mereweather, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Young, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Wright, Cllr Beevers, Cllr Stephenson. Cllr Pugh Leader of the Isle of Wight Council was also present for the first part of the meeting.

The Council agreed to the Mayor's suggestion that the public right to speak be differed until after Cllr Pugh had answered the Councillors questions and comments as some of which could be what the public are wanting to hear answers to and that the public question time would be held after agenda item 312/09.

309/09 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Rogers.

310/09 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To invite members to declare any interest they may have in matters on the Agenda

Cllr Blezzard declared personal interest in the remaining items on the agenda as a member of the Isle of Wight Council Scrutiny Committee, a Parish Councillor for Lake and Parish Councillor and Chairman of Havenstreet and Ashy Parish Council and Town Clerk to Yarmouth.

**311/09 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14th JANUARY 09
RESOLVED:-**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 09 were approved and duly signed.

**312/09 TO MEET WITH CLLR DAVID PUGH LEADER OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL AND
RAISE MATTERS OF CONCERN**

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Pugh to the meeting. A list of subjects had been sent on behalf of the Councillors to Councillor Pugh prior to the meeting and the following questions were raised by Members of the Town Council to which the various responses were given by Cllr Pugh.

1. The following questions were raised about Houses of Multiple Occupancy.
What is the Isle of Wight Council Policy on this matter?
Why are Hotels that have not received planning permission being turned into HMO'S?
Why the Bay Area is was getting more than other people of HMO's.
Has consideration been given to the effect on the actual infrastructure?
How frequent are the licensed HMO's checked by the Isle of Wight Council?
Councillor Pugh answered many of the questions raised and agreed to take back to the Isle of Wight Council concerns raised on consideration of infrastructure including Doctors surgeries etc and also the checking of licences by the Isle of Wight Council.
2. The following questions were raised about Sandown Bay Regeneration.
Why have private development proposals been deferred?
Why Sandown Town Council is not kept informed regarding the proposed Bay Development by a private investor?
Why have we been talking about Bay Regeneration for 15 years?

Why is our tourism not being protected when a 1/3 of the revenue comes from the Bay Area?
When are we going to get decent facilities for Tourism?
Why have we not got a Regeneration Officer as an enabler to pull it all together?
Is the Isle of Wight Council going to support Battery Gardens?
Councillor Pugh answered many of the questions raised and said no formal planning application has been refused and Best Value consideration is just not financial and that Leisure facilities will be retained on the Heights site.

3. The following questions were raised about Shanklin Theatre. (Cllr Beevers declared a personal interest.) Since Shanklin Theatre is able to seat 700 people compared to Medina why do the Leisure Services have a complete programme for Medina and Ryde Theatre that is in the County Press every week and nothing for Shanklin Theatre?
Why are the fees so astronomical that it is pricing itself out of being used by local companies?
The Council would like the Isle of Wight Council to place on record that the closure of Shanklin Theatre is not an option.
Does Cllr Pugh know that Sandown Town Council considers Shanklin Theatre as a Bay Area facility?
Would the Isle of Wight Council consider extending the conservation area of Shanklin to include Shanklin Theatre?
Councillor Pugh answered many of the questions raised. He also talked about a Community Trust for Shanklin Theatre and that there would be a meeting tomorrow night regarding the future of the Theatre and to see if a Community Theatre could be developed. £250000 was mentioned as money being available for repairs on all three theatres.
4. The following questions were raised about the Youth Service. (Cllr Beevers declared a personal and prejudicial interest and used her right to speak under section 12.2 of the Code of Conduct.)
Why have 2 Senior Officers been made redundant and why is the Youth Service facing a £250,000 reduction in its budget?
Why is it being proposed that there will be 3 Youth Centres and youngsters will be bussed into them?
Why have reserves gone from £60 million to £12 million?
Why is the Youth Service being made to take such a big cut?
Why was money wasted on a Consultant?
Why are the young people not being consulted regarding what they want from a Youth Service prior to any cuts taking place?
Does Cllr Pugh realise that people are demoralised and a lot of young people if centres closed would be put out of what they consider to be their home?
Why has there been a lack of communication?
Why is it that 3 years ago when Sandown wanted to work with the Youth Service, to have a log building at Sandham Grounds and wanted the Youth Service and workers to join in with the new play/sports facility venture it was not taken up?
Councillor Pugh answered many of the questions raised but said we have to live within our limited resources, we can reduce spend and also improve service. The Isle of Wight Council cannot have a disproportionate spend compared with other Councils. A Formal public consultation will take place with the young people, local communities and the Town and Parish Councils.
5. The following questions were raised about Motor Cross and extreme sport.
Why can we not have Motor Cross on the Island as it never gets passed the Officers?
Would Cllr Pugh meet with Tom Smith regarding a world wide Motor Cross Event?
What is the Isle of Wight Council going to do to encourage extreme events in place of Wightaire?
Cllr Pugh agreed to have a meeting with Tom Smith.
6. The following questions were raised about the Sandown Airport.
Why have the airport had a planning application in for over 16 months and nothing has been done about it.
Why is Mike Murray talking to the Council Planning Department when he does not represent Wolfland Development?
Cllr Pugh agreed to look into the planning issues that had been raised.

7. The following questions were raised about future of the Parish Team.
Why does the Isle of Wight Council not support the Parishes to the optimum level and pay election expenses and IWALC subscriptions instead of the Parish Team? (This is not a suggestion to make people redundant as it is thought too much is expected of these staff.)
To which no answer was give.

21.10hrs Cllr Woolley, Cllr Wright and Cllr Young gave their apologies and left the meeting.

313/09 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS:-

- a.** The Clerk presented the payments and receipts for January 09
b Summary of payments and receipts was also presented to the Council.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the January 09 financial reports be accepted.

A recorded vote was requested.

Voting for the resolution Cllr Ward, Cllr Mereweather, Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Cowley, Cllr Beevers, Cllr Dupre.

Voting against the resolution Cllr Blezzard

The resolution was passed.

314/09 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM CLLR HUMBY AND CLLR WARD

Cllr Humby reported on attending a meeting to hear the plans to update the Island Youth and Community Service. The meeting was not in favour of the proposals and voted to register their objections with the Youth Service. She also reported that Culver Parade was to have a Zebra Crossing near Sandham Gardens. Rumours that are circulating that Woollies site was being taken over by a food chain and car parking fees on Sunday at the Yaverland Car Park.

Cllr Ward reported on major resurfacing works taking place along Perowne Way and that the new head of Highways Department was to work with him to carry out a complete review the traffic conditions along Perowne Way. He reported he had raised concerns regarding the new homeless policy. The term 'vulnerable homeless people' was being used to cover people with anti-social behaviour problems that cause problems in the community.

315/09 REPORTS OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OFFICER AND THE POLICE

Sgt Davidson reported that crime in Sandown was very low at the moment there had been an 18% reduction in crime and a 10% reduction in violent crime.

Stuart Marlon reported there was to be a big tidy up in March led by a Group called Sort out Sandown. He reported the building on the Canoe Lake had been boarded up by the owner and notices put up. The Councillors considered this was not good enough as there was still the concern that asbestos was present, and instructed the Clerk to write to the Isle of Wight Enforcement Officer

316/09 TO SET UP THE POLICE LIAISON WORKING PARTY

The Council agreed to set up a Police Liaison Working Party. The first meeting will be held on February 26th at 7.0pm at Shanklin Police Station.

21.45hrs Cllr Teasdale left the meeting (having given the Clerk previous notice.)

Cllr Dupre left the meeting.

RESOLVED:-

THAT Cllr Wright, Cllr Young, Cllr Mereweather and Cllr Stephenson be appointed to the working party.

317/09 CONSULTATION ON CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY.

RESOLVED:-

THAT this item was noted.

318/09 THE CLERK TO REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. Letter received from Cllr Pugh regarding Shanklin Theatre.**

This item was noted

- b. Correspondence received from Shanklin and Lake Town Councils regarding Shanklin Theatre.**

This item was noted

- c. Emails received regarding Building/asbestos concern at Canoe Lake.**

This item was noted

- d. Letter received from Chris Matthews regarding the Parish Team.**

Councillors discussed Chris Matthews's letter regarding proposals for the Parish Team.

RESOLVED:-

- THAT whilst the Council acknowledge how hard the Parish Team have worked and they would not like to see anyone lose their job they feel too much is expected of the remaining members of the Team and looking at the list of Must do's Desirables and to Cease, Sandown Town Council believes that the Parish Team should be redeployed.
- Sandown Town Council believes that the money would be better spent and more helpful for local Councils to be supported through the continuous payment of Election Expenses.
- That the Isle of Wight Council could also support local Councils by paying the fees of NALC/IWALC rather than the services provided by the Parish and Community Development Team.
- The Council supports the continuity of the County Training Partnership and notes it can be administered in many ways.
- Sandown Town Council believes it is the Monitoring Officers role to keep the Register of Interests and also assist with Code of Conduct queries not the Parish Teams.

e. Request from Christ Church to use our car park while building works is taking place.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the use of the car park for a building enclosure was approved.

f. Letter received from Chris Matthews regarding Ethical Standards Committee and Feedback to Parish and Town Councils and Isle of Wight Council Committee.

The Council discussed the proposal from Chris Matthews.

RESOLVED:-

- a. THAT whilst noting the Independent Members of the Ethical Standards Committee have in common with other members of the public the right to attend local Council Meetings, Sandown Town Council take the unanimous view that they will not support a formal protocol providing feedback to the Monitoring Officer.
- b. Sandown Town Council considers it is unnecessary, unhelpful, intrusive and insulting to the reputation of Town and Parish Councils.
- c. The Council also considers that the proposal jeopardises the independence of their position and could also prejudice other Members of the Ethical Standards Committee and that it goes beyond their remit.

g. Request received from Sandown Youth Club for their celebration week in October.

RESOLVED:-

THAT the Council would review this at the May meeting when further information has been received from Sandown Youth Club.

h. Invitation to enter a team into the Youth Club Quiz night on 21st March 09

This item was noted

i. Letter from the Standards Board for England and Wales regarding Survey of Authorities

This item was noted

319/09 TO RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CLLR TEASDALE ON THE BATTERY GARDENS MEETING.

Due to Cllr Teasdale having to leave the meeting early Cllr Mereweather reported that the meeting has been deferred as Sarah Mitchell is leaving and she wishes the officers to be fully briefed.

320/09 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLOR BLEZZARD ON THE MEETING OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS.

Cllr Blezzard reported that the protocols that were being proposed have been dropped. It had been suggested that members of IWALC could not take decisions in the Open Forum but members decided they wanted to.

Concerns were raised about things being pushed onto Town and Parishes. Sandown Town Council was asked if it wanted to appoint a deputy to IWALC

RESOLVED:-

THAT a deputy to IWALC was not appointed and that a person would be nominated if Councillor Blezzard could not attend.

321/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 11th MARCH 09

RESOLVED:-

THAT the date of the next meeting be noted.

Signed

Dated