



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Mrs Marion Cook CILCA
Town Clerk

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Minutes of a meeting of Sandown Town Council held on Monday 28 November 2016 at 7.00pm at The Town Hall, Grafton Street, Sandown

15 minutes is allocated for the Residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town matters

Stephen Parkes spoke about the decision of Lloyds Bank to close the Sandown Branch. He said it was important to have a local bank serving local small businesses, especially just before a Premier Inn was arriving in the Town.

Paul Brading, Lloyds Bank Manager spoke on behalf of him and his Staff to thank everyone for their support and sympathy, adding that the decision to close was probably made three years ago.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr. Patel, (Chair), Cllr. Cowley, Cllr. Dupre, Cllr. Grandchamp, Cllr. Humby, Cllr. Mereweather, Cllr. Stephenson, Cllr. Teasdale, Cllr. Ward and Cllr. Young

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Marion Cook (Town Clerk), 3 Members of the Public

- 1394/16 To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs. Blezzard (away from home) and Wright (work commitment).
- 1395/16 To receive declarations of interest**
No declarations of interest were made.
- 1396/16 To agree and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 24 October 2016**
The Clerk apologised that the minutes for 24 October were not available and would be dealt with at the next meeting.
- 1397/16 To approve the schedules of payments**
Payment schedules were circulated prior to the meeting, and checked by Cllrs. Cowley & Mereweather to the invoices and on a proposal from Cllr. Young, seconded by Cllr. Mereweather
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for Sandown Town Council in the sum of £14,924.30. There were no payments due for Sandham Grounds.
A schedule of payments made by Debit Card totalling £313.94 was noted.
- 1398/16 To discuss and progress the work needed for**
- a) Broadway Centre**
The Clerk said that work towards the production of the tender document was progressing well and she was having fortnightly meetings with Duncan Gayler to progress the paperwork required.
Councillors will receive updates outside of the Council meetings by way of the minutes that Duncan always provided following the meetings.
 - b) Sandham Gardens**

Cllr Teasdale introduced the topic asking Councillors to consider the document in front of them which was the Underlease based on the Heads of Terms agreed at the previous meeting. The detail had been worked out at meetings between some Councillors, the Clerk and Heritage Attractions. He said that he considered it to be a good deal for the Town as a whole.

Cllr. Ward enlarged on these comments by saying that he agreed it was good for the Town, and his only concern was that any delay in signing this would inevitably cause investors to look for somewhere else to spend their money.

Cllr. Dupre thought a two year honeymoon period was too long and rent should be paid by the investors straightaway. Others disagreed, saying that people investing would want some benefit for not being able to get a return on their investment immediately. Cllr. Dupre also queried the service charge which in fact would be a re-imbusement of expenses.

On a proposal by Cllr. Ward, seconded by Cllr. Mereweather

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to pass the lease to local Solicitors Jerome & Co, asking them to act on our behalf, with a view to signing the lease as soon as possible after getting agreement from the Isle of Wight Council legal department.

Cllr. Teasdale left the meeting as his wife was unwell.

1399/16 To receive an update on Public Toilets Freehold Asset transfers from IOW Council and make decisions where necessary

The Clerk said that as reported at the last meeting, Ryde Town Council had taken legal advice and had found it beneficial. They had offered an introduction to the Solicitors they had used, and the Clerk was tasked with contacting them and establishing their costs.

Cllr. Dupre said Shanklin Town Council had already taken control of its public toilets and we should contact them. The Clerk said she had tried to make contact a couple of times, but had no response.

1400/16 At the request of Cllr. Dupre, discussion on St. Mary's Restaurant, St. Mary's Hospital

Cllr. Dupre introduced the possibility of the closure of the Restaurant at St. Mary's hospital, where they provided good home cooked meals. He wondered where Staff and Visitors would go to eat if this happened.

On a proposal by Cllr. Dupre, seconded by Cllr. Cowley

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to all the other Town Councils to keep the Restaurant open.

1400a/16 Motion for Consideration received from Cllr. Blezzard : Parliamentary Review

Council notes that the proposal by the Boundary Commission for England is for two constituencies for the Isle of Wight with an East/West split. Council further notes that the boundary between the two constituencies is identical to that recommended to the Boundary Commission by Sandown Town Council and other councils in 2011. Council therefore reaffirms its decision of 2011 and advises the Boundary Commission for England that it supports the East/West split as now recommended."

A brief discussion followed and on a proposal from Cllr. Cowley, seconded by Cllr. Humby

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council members were here for the Town and not to discuss the political issues.

Cllr. Ward abstained from the vote.

1401/16

To receive:

a) verbal reports from Town Councillors

Cllr. Grandchamp reported that he was still researching a lottery system that was not too expensive or time consuming to run.

Cllr. Humby reported that during her sessions at the Library she was still getting complaints of smells from the sewage works.

Cllr. Patel thanked the Clerk and Staff for organising the Remembrance Day Services. He also reported that he attended the British legion service at Shanklin Theatre.

b) reports from Councillors attending meetings on outside bodies

Cllr. Young reported that the Community Partnership was still working on the Town Square. Also, the second batch of tiles would be going down soon if the weather allowed.

c) report from Cllr. Ward on the Youth Offer Workshop held on 20 October

Cllr. Ward reported that the outcome of the workshop was that

1. each Youth organisation said what they were doing and where they were going
2. IOW Council Officers where unclear what funding would be available
3. The mandatory element of the Youth Service provision would not be abandoned.

1402/16

To note written reports from County Councillors

The report from Cllr. Ward (Sandown South Ward) was circulated and discussed.

Cllr Ward added to his report by telling the meeting that Andrew Turner MP was soon to have a meeting with the Secretary of State for Business to discuss the Bank closures.

He also reported that Interviews for the IOW Council Procurement Officer had taken place that day.

Cllr Humby told Cllr. Ward that she received numerous complaints that people cannot talk to a real person at the IOW Council Offices. She mentioned a particular case where it was imperative that a Resident spoke to someone face to face. The call centre could take as long as 40-45 minutes to answer calls.

The Town Clerk said it was the same for clerks. Many Residents seem to think the Parish & Town Councils had a 'hotline' to the IOW Council, but this was not the case.

Cllr. Ward said even the number IOW Councillors used was not answered any quicker.

1403/16

To receive information from the Town Clerk

The Clerk reported that the Fire Alarm at the Town Hall was not operational and as a consequence Battery operated fire alarms were being used in the Town Council part of the building.

She also reported she had had a meeting with the Public realm Officer and it looked as though the Town Council may be asked to take on further open spaces in the Town.

During the meeting the question of paying towards an Environment Officer came up.

This item would be put on the agenda when there was further information.

1404/16

To note date of next meeting – 12 December 2016

As a number of Councillors would not be available, the December meeting was cancelled and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact Councillors by e-mail for a consensus of opinion before making a decision on any matters needing urgent attention. The next Full Council meeting will be 23 January 2017

Signed
Chairman

Date 23 January 2017