

# SHANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at Falcon Cross Hall, Shanklin, Isle of Wight on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**PRESENT:** Deputy Town Mayor Councillor D. Larner (in the Chair)  
Town Mayor Councillor S. Knight, Councillors' C. Quirk, R. May, S. Godden, E. Knight, D. Cable, J. Gilbey, A. Whittaker, M. Beston, L. Fleming, J. Fleming, S. James, S. Sheath. Town Clerk RFO. 4 members of the public, No County Press.

Deputy Town Mayor Councillor D. Larner introduced Kevin Burton from Island Roads and Stuart Vidler from LGJV to talk about Southern Water's proposals for sewage pumping and tunnelling.

SV= explained they are currently moving utilities ready for re-tunnelling three shafts are going in. The scheme is being carried out to maintain blue sea water awards. Currently the pump station holds 4000 cubic ft. of water the tunnels will hold 5000 cubic ft. of water. No effect ecologically. Problems with vehicles in Wilton Park Rd KB= explained cones can be used for 21 days, the work should only take two weeks. Beginning October Wilton Park Rd will close for three months. There will no restriction on Arthurs Hill. Buses will run even if they have to make a slight detour. All stops on Sandown Rd will be serviced. No movement re subsidence. They have to mitigate noise. There is still full access re car park. Cllr Larner said S. Water is doing a first class job and thanked Kevin and Stuart for attending. Kevin and Stuart left the meeting.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Points raised: None.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor R. Priest.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

**2.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were invited to voice their declarations and/or complete the form – a copy of which is appended to the filed copy of these minutes.

#### **2.2 DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor C. Quirk & M. Beston have dispensations to participate (speak & vote) granted to them until May 2021 (or until the next election if sooner).

#### **2.3 TO GRANT ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS AS APPROPRIATE**

## **Councillors C. Quirk & M. Beston dispensations' stand.**

### **3. REPORT FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**

None present. Cllr Gilbey had spoken to Nick things are quiet in Shanklin at present.

### **4. GREEN TOWNS REPORT**

The work of Green Towns volunteers has continued throughout the summer months. A session at the station garden prepared it for the holiday season and watering of the forecourt tubs has been essential for the survival of the plants under cover. We tried planting grasses, together with thrift and heather to try to reduce the amount of watering necessary and this was reasonably successful (rather too much so in the case of one grass specimen!) The hanging baskets have been a great success though on a couple of occasions our handyman had to be called out to make adjustments to the automatic watering system. Many people have made positive comments about the baskets and the beautiful array of flowers so we hope to repeat the exercise next year. Volunteers continue to maintain the planted area in Tower Gardens and the War Memorial Garden has been regularly looked after by Terry Carpenter with additional group sessions from time to time. The next takes place on Wed. 19 September when we will tidy up and plant more bulbs. We are delighted with the two seats now installed, especially as they have a First World War commemorative design. They are much appreciated by young and old alike. At the Shanklin in Bloom presentation evening, Green Towns received a small shield for our work in helping to improve the environment of Shanklin by looking after community areas. There was an organised litter pick at Rylstone Gardens on August Bank Holiday and a sea front litter pick and beach clean, together with a plastic awareness display on Regatta Day. Smaller litter picks have continued as and when necessary during the summer. On 15 September we carried out our annual Big Beach Clean at Appley Beach. This is our officially adopted beach, registered with the Marine Conservation Society. Our volunteers cleared around 800 m of the shore from Shanklin Chine towards Luccombe and logged items found in the first 100 m. Although at first sight the beach looked fairly clear, we found 173 small pieces of plastic including parts of bottles, sweet and crisp wrappers, fishing line and plastic bags together with 95 cigarette stubs. Altogether there were 415 items on this part of the beach alone. We eventually filled seven large bags, giving some idea of the extent of the litter problem and of discarded plastic in particular, much of which ends up in the marine food chain. My thanks, as always, to Bridget Biddlecombe who holds the fort while I'm away during much of the summer. (Lesley Hampshire).

## **5. REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR**

I hope everyone had a good summer break it seems to have gone very quickly with such lovely weather. Here are some of the engagements we have attended over the past two months. We started with one of the main stay events of the summer Shanklin Town Carnival once again very well organised by Councillor Denyse Larner and a host of volunteers the weather was excellent and we were delighted to lead the procession it seemed to be well attended the Old Village was thronged. We attended the opening of the Shanklin Town and United Reform Church Clock. How good to see the correct time and the stone work looking like new and the chimes that are working from 08.00-20.00 hrs. Thank you Richard and all who helped and of course Brian Harley and all from the United Reform Church a great joint effort. We continued carnival season with the torch light procession, once again an excellent turnout thanks must go to all the float makers volunteers. I am not sure what the collection raised. Shanklin Regatta was a great success although the weather started cloudy but ended up much brighter; the fireworks were fabulous as usual so well done John Fleming and the Regatta committee for a job well done. We were invited to attend the licensing of the Revd Jonathan Hall who is now Priest in charge of St John the Evangelist in Sandown and St Blasius Church in Shanklin it was an excellent service by the RT Revd. Christopher Foster Bishop of Portsmouth. Esther attended with Richard Priest and all from the Old Village and Green Towns to the Crab Inn to support the re-connection of the Old Village water fountain on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to Shanklin where he wrote his famous poem. Once again we were delighted to attend and present the prizes and cups to the winners of the Shanklin in Bloom competition. Thanks to all those who entered as this is what helps to keep our Town looking lovely, congratulations to Shanklin Green Towns for their win. Thanks to Stella Town Clerk for producing the winner's certificates. We were honoured to be invited by the Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council to the Civic Service at Thomas Church Minster in Newport. This service is held to mark the civic duties of the IWC.

## **6. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 having been previously circulated be approved and signed & to note matters arising that do not require formal resolution.

**MATTERS ARISING** – Item 4 – Green Towns to change Cllr James to read Cllr Sheath.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

### **7.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT/APPROVAL AUGUST 2018**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts as circulated in the sum of £38,689.06 be approved for payment.

### **7.2 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT/APPROVAL SEPTEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts as circulated in the sum of £16038.26 be approved for payment.

### **7.3 BANK RECONCILIATION JULY 2018**

**RESOLVED:** Town Mayor Councillor S. Knight confirmed the bank reconciliation as correct.

### **7.4 BANK RECONCILIATION AUGUST 2018**

**RESOLVED:** Town Mayor Councillor S. Knight confirmed the bank reconciliation as correct.

## **8. PLANNING/LICENSING/NOTIFICATIONS**

**Councillors' C. Quirk & M. Beston declared an interest being IW Councillors and on the IWC Planning Committee.**

**RESOLVED:** The recommendations of the Council on the following applications are as listed below:

**NO COMMENT**

**P/0090818** – Proposal Demolition of shop; construction of two 2 bedroom houses **2 VICTORIA AVENUE.**

Members' noted 2 planning appeals, 5 TPO's & 1 Licensing.

## **9. CONSULTATION – IWC REGENERATION STRATEGY**

Councillor Quirk = There are conceptual drawings for the Spa Site showing hotel, multi car park, shops but no parking for coaches. There are developers interested.

**RESOLVED:** Members' will make individual comments if they so wish.

## **10. CONSULTATION – PROPOSED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Councillor D. Cable = the recent blaze in Sandown was attended by all tenders. Cllr S. Knight = the danger is how many pumping appliances and men there are here. Cllr Quirk = There are 2 consultations the Fire authority and the Fire service there are nowhere near enough firemen here 3 pumps came from the mainland for the Sandown fire. The number of retained firemen is being addressed the new cabinet member is engaging seriously at ground level. Cllr Sheath = putting four authorities together our precept will rise. Cllr Whittaker = by joining forces precept will rise and cover will increase. Cllr S. Knight = cover will only increase if they spend the money on the Island. Closing the fire station put us

in a serious position. Cllr Paul Brading (Guest) = the fire station review was rejected by cabinet early in the year as not being fit for purpose. It is about making sure firemen are available, if the review had gone through there would have been 2 more fire engines for the Sandown fire. There are different rules for IW Firemen and Hampshire Firemen. Sandown's fire was the biggest for ten years.

**RESOLVED:** To comment Shanklin fire station should be retained. If a new fire station is to be built in the Bay Area then this should be built before Shanklin closes.

**11. CONSULTATION – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ISLE OF WIGHT: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councillor Quirk = this does not affect Town Council wards just IWC elections. Not much difference for Shanklin. However Lake is a total mess – Lake Station and shops will be in Sandown and Lake will disappear from the Cliff which does not make sense.

**RESOLVED:** To comment that Lake disappearing from the Cliff does not make sense.

**12. SOUTHERN WATER'S PROPOSALS FOR SEWAGE PUMPING & TUNNELLING**

Members commented that they gave a good presentation.

**13. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Police garden is still a mess. Councillor Quirk = the police station lease expires next year and is not being renewed.

Buoys in the Bay – Cllr Quirk = IWC say they will cost £6000 a year. Cllr. Gilbey said it's all about money management the 2% increase IW Councillors gave themselves last night would have funded the buoys. IWC have to manage their money we cannot keep asking residents to pay double taxation. IWC needs to look at services they provide. Cllr Cable = best summer weather wise we cannot risk losing tourism IWC get the benefit too. Cllr Quirk = the decision to remove the buoys was taken by the previous administration; criticism of the administration is unfair. The decision on Cllrs rises was by an independent remuneration panel expenses for Cllrs are far too low unless Cllrs are retired it's hard to afford to be a Cllr. Cllr Quirk will ask IWC for an updated figure re buoys. Vernon Spencer Trust criteria. Meetings monthly lose momentum for some Cllrs.

Cllr J. Fleming = document re theatre trust and library Cllr S. Knight = the library is under the theatre trust, STC pay all the costs. We have complied with our agreement to indemnify those costs for the past 8 years; we will not be responsible for the library when we move out of the current building. Cllr Quirk = the trust have to give the IWC notice Cllr S. Knight = Tony needs to bite his tongue someone throwing something in after 8 years is not on.

Duncroft Gardens bench. Sandown Rd litter bins (AW called Island Rds). Cllr Whittaker said Tower Cottage toilets are locked in the evenings – Cllr Gilbey = they are open 13 hours a day.

Cllr May attended the South Wight Health well-being group and Wight Fire conference. Cllr May asked who goes out if the Falcon Cross Rd toilets alarm goes off Cllr Gilbey = the alarm only goes off if someone presses the huge red alarm button in the accessible toilets it resets itself after 3 minutes and Cllr Gilbey goes out to the alarm. Cllr May = toilets were shut when the carnival finished Cllr Gilbey = they closed at ten o'clock Cllr Larner said the carnival would normally be finished by then it ran over. Hedge cutting. Cllr Quirk 10 year's event at theatre on 7<sup>th</sup> October tickets £10.

#### **14. ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLOR/S' UPDATE**

Councillor Quirk = Fast cabling internet will be installed in Shanklin July – October 2019. 2 billion for housing associations to build houses £183 million for Town & Parish Councils for the next 2 years.

Cllr Gilbey = that could be linked with re-location library grant.

Cllr Beston = Silver Trees a letter was hand delivered to all residents explaining that the past residents association agreements were not maintained in the past, hopefully it has now all been put to bed. Falcon flats problem landlord has been located 1<sup>st</sup> stage letter issued, Sam EO has been working on this.

Councillor Brading has submitted the following written report:

SANDOWN BAY ACADEMY AET gone at last and New Through has started. Works on the school premises progressing very well, but more needed doing that we originally thought, so taking a bit longer. Leadership structure and new strengthened governing body all fully place. School has last term run PIXL, Partnership in excellence, a program helping prepare students for employment. 69 students passed foundation level in 8 weeks, and I had the pleasure of presenting the certificates. This programme will continue and expand this school year. Overall both A level, and GCSE, passes at Sandown increased this year, which is good news, but a lot more needs to be done to drive up next year's results. Very confident with the strong leadership in place this will happen. CHRIST THE KINGS Still ongoing time bomb situation. The good news is that we have agreed the Schools budget for next year which includes repayment of the Councils debt. But the situation regarding their 6<sup>th</sup> form building lease has now escalated to lawyers mediation, will all likelihood that it could well end up in the Supreme Court. Also Ofsted visited the School 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July; we await the publishing of the report! SPITHEAD BUSINESS PARK I decided to arrange a meeting between Mr Marshall on behalf of the residents, and Rupert Harding from the Business Park, to try and address issues. Meeting went better than expected and hopefully a working relationship now established! Enforcement processes are still ongoing

regards to 2 businesses working out of line with what they are allowed to do. But, problem is that as they have been breaking rules a long time, so quicker solution is if they just voluntarily comply!

**SCHOOL RESULTS** -A Levels - on the Island overall passes were up, but not necessarily at the very top end i.e. A\* -GCSE's - Overall IW average performance increased. Most schools showed increasing performance, but a few schools results were disappointing. -Primary Results - positive news in many school who benefited from targeted support, same support will be targeted where needed again this year - Phonics (the way children learn to read and write) was a focus in primary schools, and we are now above the national average, which is fantastic news

**AUTISM ASSESSMENT ISSUES** The Island has had a big problem with Autism assessments, where this service stopped last October. There is now a backlog of 230, and about 20 new referral a month. The CCG simply are now addressing this fast enough, and so are failing our children. The CCG now seem to have commissioned 2 mainland companies to fill the void until April, by which time they expect 200 cases done and a full recruitment process completed I am not happy with this, have no faith in them, and will keep challenging them as this cannot continue.

**BUDGET** Last year's budget, that was as you remember set in 10 days, has resulted in a surplus of over £5 million, and this year to date shows a small surplus. Meetings are now already underway to look at next year's budget, same detailed process being followed, but speaking on my Children's Services budget finding savings will be extremely difficult, as I took all the difficult decisions last year.

**LOCAL ISSUES** Sorted out parking issues in Westlake Avenue lake, by getting Island Roads to agree to yellow lines going in Arranged for trees to be cut in the car park at the County Ground as fire engines it stuck there last month KFC works now started, with opening planned for November Upcoming Southern Water works, which will cause a lot of road disruption in Shanklin and Lake, but the end results will be worth it

**FUTURE PLANS** -Bring forward plans for the collaboration of 6<sup>th</sup> form offerings on the Island -Work on plans to offer more Higher Education locally, possibly campus arrangements with Universities, prompting more the HE offerings we have here, and try and attract young people to come here to study, as well as retaining our own students. -An Educational Seminar with key stakeholders, to focus on the implications of a new ofsted framework for 2019 -Work with Cllr Priest on WWI commemoration plans for Schools.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.....