

# Sandy Town Council

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow, S Sutton (Chair), N Thompson (part)

**Absent:** Cllr G Leach, CBC Cllr Maudlin

**In Attendance:** Cllr M Pettitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllr T Stock (CBC) and one member of the public

### **Action**

**1 Apologies for absence (13-2018/19)**

Cllr Leach and CBC Cllr Maudlin.

**Admin**

**2 Declarations of interest (14-2018/19)**

i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None

ii) Non-disclosable Interests – Cllr Sutton declared an interest in Item 12 as President of the Royal British Legion.

iii) Dispensations – None

**3 Election of Vice Chairman (15-2018/19)**

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr J Sparrow as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2018/19.

**4 Public Participation Session (16-2018/19)**

The Clerk spoke as follows: The Council has received several emails from residents expressing their concerns and objection to the potential loss of community access to leisure facilities at Sandy Secondary School. As members will be aware from an email to all Councillors on Friday, and from Central Bedfordshire Council's statement released the same day – Stevenage Leisure, who manage the Sandy Leisure facility had been consulting with their staff on potential changes.

As a result of public pressure, CBC Ward Members speaking at a meeting of Full Council on Tuesday night and concerns raised by the Town Council this staff consultation has been halted and Central Bedfordshire Council have confirmed that a public consultation will be carried out.

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The Sandy leisure facility will continue as normal and all bookings at Sandy will go on as usual during the consultation. A commencement date for the consultation period has not been decided. The usual length of such consultations is 8 to 12 weeks. The consultation will be available online and via hard copy and representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council's leisure services will make themselves available at the leisure facility at times during the consultation period. CBC will be contacting key users' groups directly and involving stakeholders. CBC have stated that the driving force behind making changes is that Sandy is underperforming financially, and a more sustainable operation needs to be achieved.

The Town Clerk has liaised with our MP's office who have today informed the Clerk that they have written to CBC to ascertain how the current situation arose and query the decision process involved.

While Sandy Town Council has no direct involvement with the contracts and agreements which cover community use and management of leisure facilities at the school, we will be working with all parties involved and as a major stakeholder. We will of course be seeking full involvement in the consultation process, gathering an understanding of the pressures, including financial, faced in the management of the facility and any proposals which may come forward.

A Member stated that the costs involved in the running of the facilities and the agreement between the parties is critical and must be clarified.

Another Member was appalled with CBC's decisions and commended Sandy's residents for standing up and taking action in the way that they have.

A Member stated that Sandy Urban Council now Sandy Town Council had invested money into the leisure facilities i.e. squash courts and the DA1 Bar in the past.

This matter would be brought to the next Full Council meeting or to an extra meeting when the date of the consultation was known.

## **5 Action list (17-2018/19)**

The Action Report was received and updated.

Beeston Green, Orchard/Allotments: A Member asked why the orchard could not be planted? The Clerk stated that there were still

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Clerk**

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boundary issues and no agreement with CBC for access to the land. CBC's officers are arranging a meeting with the Clerk to discuss the affordable housing project and moving transfer of the community land to the Town Council forward. He also said that CBC were cancelling the tender process for the housing project and this will be handled inhouse instead.

Parking Restrictions: The Clerk was still awaiting a further update from CBC following a meeting of the Council's Executive in September.

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Rural Match Fund: The Clerk reported that signage had been installed in the Market Square to stop HGV's heading down Cambridge Road. Dropped kerbing requests were still awaited.

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## 6 **Tree Planting Request (18-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a request from the Sharman family to plant a memorial tree for David Sharman in The Riddy nature reserve.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** for a tree to be planted by Ivel Valley members in liaison with BRCC.

## 7 **Central Bedfordshire Council Highway Improvements (19-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a report written by the Clerk on funds available to make highway improvements to the town centre.

A Member stated that "Welcome to Sandy" or "twinned with" signs needed updating. The Clerk informed Members that the funds in this project would not cover such signage. The Council was due to receive some free Greensands Country signage from the Greensands Project, improvement to signage could be looked at in conjunction with this.

A member stated that the Shannon Court pedestrian crossing should be replaced with lights. Cllr Stock stated that they could not be replaced by lights as the pavements were not wide enough to install the necessary electric works on both sides, but she will enquire. The Clerk will also speak to Craig Siddle of CBC.

A Member said that the private footpath from Pleasant Place to Northcroft surgery should be a priority, now that the footpath from the Market Square had been closed. It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that this should be a number one priority.

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The closing date for suggestions is the 8<sup>th</sup> October and Members should advise the Clerk of any other ideas before then.

## 8 **Water Safety (20-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a proposal from the Bedfordshire Fire Service on the installation of a water safety board and floating device at The Mill, Sandy.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to support the installation of the safety equipment and consent to the Council's logo and contact number being used on the information board, that the Clerk works with Beds Fire & rescue to secure permissions for the installation of the safety equipment and the Council's outdoor team install the safety equipment and routinely clean the information board.

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## 9 **CCTV Review (21-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a report on the effectiveness of CCTV. The Clerk briefed Members on the report.

Members were surprised that local shops did not have their own CCTV and thought that they should take measures to protect their own properties. They also thought that CCTV was a deterrent and to remove it from public areas like parks could have a negative impact. The question of police attendance was patchy or non-existent and this should be discussed with the Police Crime Commissioner on her visit on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. It was thought that the Town Council is paying good money for a service that may not be good value for money. To get a better quality of images, cameras would need to be updated and underperforming cameras removed.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk check cost savings if low use cameras were removed and whether savings could be used to finance updated cameras for priority locations.

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## 10 **Talk Series (22-2018/19)**

Members received a report on proposed talks for 2019.

After discussion it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that there would be up to six bi-monthly talks in 2019, not to put the charges up and allow community groups/charities to raise funds by serving refreshments. Three talks will focus on archaeology and three on wildlife/nature.

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## 11 **WW1 Event Update (23-2018/19)**

Cllr Sutton said that preparations were well underway and updated Members on work to date and said that a commemorative booklet was going to be printed. She advised that the next Working Group meeting would be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 10am.

## 12 **Poppy Funds Raised (24-2018/19)**

Members received a report on the Poppy funds raised to date from the Lamp Post Poppy Project.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that all monies above the cost of purchasing the poppies from the RBL be donated to the Poppy Appeal.

## 13 **Relocation of STC Flag Pole (25-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a report on the possibility of moving the Town Council flag pole from its current location. A Member said that it would be more economical to purchase a new flagpole rather than move the existing one. The Clerk had received one quote but was asked to source a quote from local contractors.

A Member suggested the town centre roundabout as a location and a flag be flown all the time. Another Member asked why we want a new one flag pole? Several Members answered that it was patriotic, and most towns had a visible flagpole for community and civic events.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that a new flagpole is located at Faynes Corner and further costs are sourced.

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## 14 **Chairman's Items (26-2018/19)**

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the previous meeting be taken at this item.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 as a correct record of proceedings.

## 15 **Date of Next Meeting (27-2018/19)**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.