

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 5th August 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott (Mayor), P Sharman, S Sutton

Absent: Cllr N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin, Mr C Robson (Clerk)

In attendance: Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), CBC Cllrs S Ford and T Stock and two members of the public

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (59-2019/2020) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (60-2019/20) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	
<p>3 Public Participation Session (61-2019/20) Two members of the public were present, Mr Stephen Allen wished to speak on Items 9 and 11 and these questions would be taken at the relevant item on the agenda.</p> <p>A Member raised a question from a Stonecroft resident, regarding moving an existing bus stop from a position on the High Street to the lay-by outside Stonecroft on the High Street.</p> <p>After discussion whereby a Member supported the request and another Member said that the lay-by was heavily used for parking at school opening and closing times it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the legalities of whether parking is permitted at a bus stop be researched and brought to a future Community Services & Environment Committee meeting.</p>	Town Clerk
<p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (62-2019/20) RESOLVED to: Receive the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 15th July 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	

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5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (63-2019/20)

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere:

- i) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 1st July 2019 and 22nd July 2019.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 1st July 2019.

RESOLVED that the Council upgrade all its existing cameras to new infra-red record only cameras and end 24/7 live monitoring of its cameras. That the PF&R committee consider quotations and specifications for new cameras and the annual revenue costs. That new infra-red CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of 10 Cambridge Road and that quotations be considered by PF&R. That new infra-red record only CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of the new council depot and quotations be considered by PF&R.

- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 22nd July 2019.

The Chairman of PF&R Committee referred to Item 7 and said that it was a credit to the work undertaken by the council on the cricket area at Sunderland Road that Sandy Cricket Club had been approached by Cricket East to hold county youth games at Sandy. He thought that a press release should be issued in this regard once this had been confirmed.

He also referred to Item 9 that this item was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND and that this would be amended at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council support the 2019 Fireworks event via a loan of up to £4,000 for the cost of running the event and that the Council is repaid from ticket sales for the event.

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6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (64-2019/20)

CBC Cllr Stock said that the July/August briefing notes had been circulated and that there were 70 attendees at the Town & Parish Conference held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at Beadlow Manor Golf Club and which was well received.

Cllr Stock was asked by a Member that when telephoning a direct line to the Democratic Services Department at Central Beds Council, it is not always answered by a member of that department but by customer services who then have to ask the department for the answer. Cllr Stock said she would look into this.

Cllr
Stock

7 Action List (65-2019/20)

Members noted the Action List.

8 Sandye Place Academy (66-2019/20)

Members received and considered a report from the Community Plan Working Group on the Town Council's vision for Sandye Place and how it can engage with Central Beds Council on the future of the facility.

The Chairman of the Community Plan Working Group briefed Members on the report and concluded that a meeting was needed between the CBC councillors and the town council on how to approach the way forward. The Mayor said that he had the 9th September pencilled in for a possible further meeting with Mr Keaveney of CBC.

Members thanked Cllr Doyle for her discussion paper and agreed that the site could be a possible business operation, which the Chairman of the working group pointed out was included under item 3.4 of the group's report.

After discussion whether the question of extra pitches were required for local clubs and that the grounds needed to be maintained, a Member said that he supported the recommendation and suggested that a copy of the report be sent to Mr Keaveney, Alistair Burt MP and the Leader of Central Beds Council.

CBC Cllr Ford confirmed that the ward councillors were to have a meeting with Mr Jamieson and Mr Keaveney before a report is presented to Central Beds Council and would report back to the town council.

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CBC Cllr Stock reminded Members that the Dfe's moratorium of 10 years for education purposes on the site is not included in the report, but the site could be used for 6th form education. A Member said that this was a great opportunity for Sandy's community and the site needs to be used in the short-term. Cllr Stock said that she was working with the Assets team for the site to be used in some capacity. She said that she would ask Mr Keaveney if he could attend a meeting on the 9th September and she would forward the report.

Cllr
Stock

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Community Plan Working Group's report is sent to Mr Tony Keaveney, Alistair Burt MP and the Leader of Central Beds Council.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Community Plan Working Group represent the town council at meetings with Central Beds Council.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that recommendations 4.1 to 4.3 in the report be accepted and that 4.4 be added to the report that the Clerk arranges a meeting with Central Beds Council.

9 **Traffic Calming Measures – Station Road, Sandy (67-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a notice from Central Beds Council to speed bumps and a crossing being installed on Station Road, Sandy.

Mr Allen said that a long-term plan should be considered for Station Road and New Road.

The Mayor read out an email from Central Beds Council stating the scheme had been developed from Section 106 funding. The Highways officers undertook an assessment including several site visits within the area nearby Sandy Station and from liaison with the Station Manager provided a recommendation to improve visibility, reduce speeds and implement an uncontrolled crossing and traffic calming measures along Station Road.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to object to the proposed traffic calming works on the following points:

- Members noted that this work appears to have come forward via some section 106 funds and while the Council agrees that Station Road needs improvements, it was not felt that the work proposed would bring any of the required benefits the

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road needs and would instead create more hazards and potential dangers.

- Members of the Town Council felt strongly that the entire lengths of Station Road and New Road should be looked at, taking into consideration traffic movement studies, visibility on junctions converging on to Station Road and any planning permissions granted and a solution to creating a safer road should be thought about in the whole.
- The Council were not aware of a speeding problem along Station Road, especially given the amount of traffic congestion that often occurs at this end of the town. The road is particularly narrow, and it was not felt that a need for the speed humps was justified.
- Members were pleased to note that the entrance/exit from the car park into Station Road is to be closed. However, concerns were still expressed about the location of the crossing point which was to lead over to this entrance/exit. Members consider the crossing to be in the wrong location, potentially causing a hazard with vehicles coming and going from Willow Rise. Overall, the Council did not feel the crossing was in the right location and as such resolved to object to the proposed scheme. A meeting with the Traffic Management Team at CBC was considered to be a way forward.

Town
Clerk

10 Street Naming and Numbering 27a Kings Road, SG19 1EJ (68-2019/20)

Members received and considered correspondence from Central Beds Council on the proposed naming of a new development off Kings Road.

Members discussed the proposed name of Beaumont (meaning fair and lovely hill).

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the development should have consecutive numbers as part of Kings Road.

11 Sandy A1 (69-2019/20)

Members received and noted notes of a meeting with the Rt Hon A Burt MP, SG19 and a representative of Highways England.

Mr Stephen Allen was asked to speak and he asked that it be noted that he presented SG19's petition to Mr Burt with 2377 signatures calling for a bypass and read out the proposal and that CBC Cllr Stock and Mr Burt were due to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding steps of monitoring speed by a speed van pending the reinstatement of static cameras.

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A Member said that what was reported was appalling and that the officers were going back on what had been said previously. He asked that a copy be sent to Mr Burt to get civil servants to reflect on this appalling situation. A Member commented that average speed cameras were seen to be positive step forward before but had been scrapped now.

Members agreed and referred to the report as follows:

- 4.2: Reference to a survey saying that there was not enough traffic movement to justify changes to the Sandy section of the A1. Would like to see the statistics from this survey.
- 5.3: Said it was not Highways England's responsibility to solve pollution issues – who's responsibility is it?
- 5.4: Advised parties contact DEFRA to get access to their data on direct links between roads and health. Who's going to contact DEFRA?
- 6.3: Who was going to speak to the police about why the speed cameras were not working at Beeston?
- 7.4: What are the other solutions if average speed cameras are not in operation?
- 8.1: When would local decisions be taken on closing the gaps on the A1? Bedford Road cannot take any more traffic.
- 9.1: How is a united front achieved?

CBC Cllr Stock stated that the minutes did not capture the feeling at the meeting. Both she and Mr Burt were appalled. She said that Mr Burt's notes would be sent out in due course and felt that the Secretary of State should be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the issues. She said that the Treasury needs to be involved, there will be at least 20,000 extra cars going through Sandy when the new bypass at the Black Cat is completed. She will liaise with Mr Burt and report back to the town council.

CBC Cllr Ford left the meeting.

12 Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Council's AGM (70-2019/20)

Members received the communication from BATPC on the 2019 AGM and nominations to the BATPC committee.

Three delegates can attend the AGM and Members should let the Clerk know if they would like to attend.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Peter Blaine be elected to serve on the County Committee.

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13 Central Bedfordshire Town & Parish Council Conference (71-2019/20)

Members received and noted a report from Cllrs Gibson, Doyle and Hewitt.

A Member put forward a topic for the next conference for How to Recycle? CBC Cllr Stock said this had been looked at and was still on the agenda and would be taken on board. She would also ask if more figures were available.

14 Reports from Representatives (72-2019/20)

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Skarszewy Summer School.
- ii) Members received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the SSLA held on the 16th July 2019. The Secretary updated the meeting on various points and confirmed that various organisations were contacted for the quotations referred to.

15 Police & Crime Commissioners Annual Parish Conference (73-2019/20)

Members noted that the PCC's annual conference will be held on Tuesday 1st October 2019 at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick and that attendance should be registered through Eventbrite or to inform the Clerk.

16 Mayor's Engagements (74-2019/20)

Members noted the Mayor's Engagements.

17 News Release (75-2019/20)

- Objection to traffic calming measures at Station Road, Sandy
- Sandye Place Academy closure update
- Sandy A1 update

18 Chairman's Items (76-2019/20)

There were no Chairman's items.

19 Date of Next Meeting (77-2019/20)

Monday 16th September 2019

Admin