

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, C Osborne (Mayor), M Pettitt, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs T Cole, G Leach and N Thompson

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and Cllr C Maudlin (CBC)

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (115-2017/2018) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr T Cole and CBC Cllrs P Smith and T Stock.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (116-2017/2018) 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 (117-2017/2018) There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (118-2017/2018) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 6th November 2017 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (119-2017/2018) 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:</p> <p>i) RESOLVED to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 6th November 2017 and 27th November 2017. It was noted that the date on the Minutes should be changed from the 28th to the 27th November.</p>	

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- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 20th November 2017.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 27th November 2017.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 11th December 2017.

The Chairman of the Human Resources Committee informed Members that a new Administrator had been appointed and the Clerk would confirm the position and start dates.

6 Financial Matters (120-2017/2018)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against the budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 27th November 2017).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 27th November 2017).

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (121-2017/2018)

Cllr Maudlin stated that a report from the Local Government Association would be included in the next issue of the Briefing Notes in the New Year.

A Member queried whether copies of the December/January Briefing Notes had been circulated. It was confirmed that they had been sent to all Councillors. (This was later double-checked by the Clerk and confirmed).

Cllr Maudlin stated that the volunteer display space in the reception area of CBC Offices was available for local organisations to utilise. She also stated that My CBC was available to ascertain local information.

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She concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

8 Action List (122-2017/2018)

Members noted the action list and the Clerk informed the Council that the surgery had relocated to Shannon Court on the 11th December.

The Clerk stated that Mr Chris Grayling MP had reported on television that the East West Rail Link could include Bedford, Sandy and Cambridge. An announcement would be made in January/February 2018.

The Clerk informed Members that Mr A Burt MP's office had confirmed that they were arranging a meeting in Bedfordshire for all parish/town councils to attend in the New Year.

The Clerk informed Members that he had not heard from Barclays Bank. The petition had 480 signatures to date and he had asked the Bank for a date for the petition to be presented to them. It was agreed to set up an online petition and Cllr J Sparrow offered to set this up.

Action: Cllr J Sparrow

Members discussed the closing of the Bank and many questions were raised and concerns expressed.

It was proposed and seconded to write to other banks and building societies and the local Post Office to ascertain if they would move to the vacant building.

Action: Town Clerk

The Mayor stated that he would take Agenda Item 11 next as this may have an implication on Agenda Item 9.

11 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (123-2017/2018)

The Clerk's report was received and noted. He briefed the Members on the work involved in ensuring that the Council was compliant with GDPR. It was noted that there was a large amount of work involved and that many Councils had expressed concerns about how the changes will affect the sector.

A particular concern raised by Councils was the need to have a Data Protection Officer (DPO). While the role could be given to a member of the Council staff it would require specialised knowledge and should not be an employee who makes decisions about how data is processed.

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A Member stated that training was available to ensure Council staff were up to speed on GDPR, but that there was a cost involved. The Clerk informed Members that the main cost to resources would be the cost of training and the administration hours involved in ensuring the Council meets guidelines. However, there was also uncertainty about how the Council would meet the requirement to have a Data Protection Officer and the cost of this.

The National Association of Local Councils is providing guidance to the sector and the possibility of shared DPOs is being investigated.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that £2,000.00 be allocated in next year's budget for the preparation work required to ensure the Council was in line with GDPR.

9 2018/19 Budget and Precept (124-2017/2018)

Members received a report from the Clerk and the Mayor briefed the meeting. He outlined that there were two amendments to the budget following a review by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee. The postage budget had been reduced by £500 and tourism income budget was lowered. This resulted in an overall required budget increase of £22,421 which equates to a 3.20% increase for a Band D property, approximately 8p a week. Adding the additional £2,000.00 for GDPR would result in an increase of £24,421.

The Clerk informed Members that the 2018/19 Budget and Precept would be on the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting agenda on the 15th January 2018 when the budget could be further reviewed and recommended to the Full Council on 29th January for approval.

10 Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (125-2017/2018)

The Clerk confirmed that on the 1st December 2017 the Town Council became the sole trustee of the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Hill and Cllr Mrs Sutton as the two council representatives to serve on the Management Committee until the annual meeting of Council in May 2018.

12 Community Governance Review (126-2017/2018)

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Members received and discussed a communication from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the Community Governance Consultation.

Members discussed the current situations and possible changes which could be considered included:

- Removing election wards so elected Members represent the whole town as opposed to individual wards. It was noted that this would stop some wards having too few candidates and others too many at an election. Members felt that they were already elected to represent and serve the entire of Sandy and removing or keeping the wards would not affect this. It was also noted that removing wards would substantially increase the cost of an election should a vacancy arise in a non-election year.
- The Council used to have 12 Members as opposed to 15 and it was suggested a return to this number could increase competition. However, after reviewing the population numbers of other towns against the number of town council representatives it was noted that reducing the number of Sandy Councillors would result in a below average representation.
- It was suggested Beeston could be separated from Sandy and have its own Parish Council. A Member stated that he did not feel there was an appetite for this. Members noted that efforts should be made to unite the communities of Beeston and Sandy not create further division.

After a debate on the possible changes it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to respond supporting retaining the status quo.

13 A1 East of England Strategic Road Study (127-2017/2018)

The report from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Council's representative on the A1 East of England Stake Holder group was received and noted.

14 Councillor Surgeries (128-2017/2018)

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

It was agreed that the surgeries would be held bi-monthly from 10am to 12 noon, starting on the 13th January 2018 with Cllrs

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Hill and Sutton in attendance. The next surgery would be on the 10th March 2018 with Cllrs Scott and Blaine attending. Any other Members who wished to attend sessions are invited to do so.

The Clerk requested that the other Members confirm with the office which dates they would be able to attend surgeries for May, July, September and November 2018.

Action: Cllrs

15 Crime Figures in Sandy (129-2017/2018)

- i) Members received and noted a report outlining data provided by the CCTV company.
- ii) Members received and noted a report outlining Police crime figures for Sandy. A Member commented that crime was up in Sandy with thefts of vehicles, personal attacks and burglars being chased away from properties and questioned whether the police are acting on these crimes.

The Clerk confirmed that Chief Superintendent David Boyle is attending the Council meeting on 29th January 2018, at which time the Council should raise any questions or concerns directly.

16 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (130-2017/2018)

- i) A report from Cllr Hill on the Central Bedfordshire Council Town and Parish Conference was received and noted.

17 News Releases (131-2017/2018)

To issue a news release on Barclays Bank Petition.

**Action:
Admin**

18 Chairman's Items (132-2017/2018)

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service was well attended by the visiting delegates from the Polish town of Skarszewy, Town Councillors and the public.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the committee, staff and councillors who assisted on the day at the Christmas Lights Fayre on Sunday 3rd December. It was well attended and appreciated by the public.

St Swithun's Church's Christmas Tree Festival was held on the 2nd and 3rd December and the Town Council exhibited a

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Christmas tree. The Mayor expressed his thanks to Mr D Sutton, Mr C Robson and Mrs C Baker-Smith for donating and decorating the tree.

The last two mosaics were unveiled on the St Swithun's School wall on the High Street on the 28th November.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to councillors and staff who attended the Town Carol Service on the 16th December 2017 which was very well attended.

The Mayor reminded councillors that he was holding a dinner at The Gandhi in Sandy on the 31st January 2018 and hoped they would support it.

The Mayor expressed his and Members congratulations to the Clerk on his recent engagement and presented him with a card.

At the end of the meeting both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

**19 Date of Next Meeting (133-2017/2018)
Monday 29th January 2018**