

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 7.30pm

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

**Absent:** Cllrs G Leach, CBC Cllrs C Maudlin and T Stock

**In attendance:** Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllr P Smith (CBC), and one member of the public

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Apologies for Absence (145-2018/2019)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs G Leach and CBC Cllrs C Maudlin and T Stock.</p>	Admin
<p><b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (146-2018/2019)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	
<p><b>3 Public Participation Session (147-2018/2019)</b> A member of the public, Mr M Wilkes, spoke regarding parking on Beeston Green and ensuring fairness to all residents. He understood, from a letter sent to a resident, that the Town Council protected The Green which was a valuable asset for the community. He stated parking issues on the Green were problematic and that all residents must be treated the same. Mr Wilkes spoke of an example whereby it was suggested a resident had created a second driveway across The Green to their property, and that vehicles regularly parked on The Green and the verges were being damaged. He asked that all residents were treated equally.</p> <p>A Member briefed the meeting on historical events regarding The Green. The Mayor said that Mr Wilkes' comments would be taken on board in the Management Plan but that the resident in the example had not created the second driveway, which had been there sometime.</p>	

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## 4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (148-2018/2019)

**RESOLVED** to:

- i) Receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.
- ii) Receive the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (149-2018/2019)

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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Cllr Hill informed Members that the Administrator post applicants had been shortlisted and interviews would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Cllr Osborne informed Members that he would speak at Item 8 on the budget in regards to the committee's recommendation.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

A Member stated that he was surprised at the resolution to submit London Road concerns with potential options/solutions for consideration by Central Beds Council. To close off junctions to the north and south of London Road would lead to a traffic nightmare on roads in Sandy. The Chair of the CSE Committee explained that these were items for consideration to be put forward to Central Beds Council and that solutions

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did not necessarily need to be presented at this point. Another Member stated that they had only wanted to highlight the issue, not give solutions.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** to delete "with potential options/solutions" from the recommendation.

Admin

A Member welcomed the work on the Sandcaste Path and said it was carried out to a high standard. He also said that the barbed wire had also been removed. He asked that the Clerk pass on the Town Council's thanks for an excellent job.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Rights of Way team at Central Beds Council.

Town Clerk

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the £2,000 allowed for the Sandy Green Wheel in the draft 2019/20 budget remain in place following receipt of further information on work to be carried out on the route of the Green Wheel in 2019/20.

Town Clerk

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Sandy Town Council support the introduction of the Best Bar None Scheme in Sandy.

Town Clerk

## 6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (150-2018/2019)

Members received reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors and noted Central Bedfordshire Council's briefing notes which had already been received.

CBC Cllr Smith reported that Central Beds Council had achieved Charter Status and added that this was a rare accolade to be awarded.

He said that the 2019/20 budget consultation reported a 1% or 2% increase with the fall-back position being 1%.

He explained that the ward councillors had asked questions regarding the Sandy Sports Centre and a full consultation was planned at a wider strategic level. He confirmed that the facilities were to remain open to the public. He offered his

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apologies for the poor communications from Central Beds Council in this matter.

Regarding the future of the land at Sandye Place school, he said that he hoped the Department for Education would hand the lease back to CBC relatively quickly. A full feasibility study was being prepared and Sandy's Community Plan would be taken on board. He said that redundancy notices to staff at the school would be going out next week.

Cllr Smith went on to inform Members that Central Beds Council were in discussion with the Police Crime Commissioner regarding crime in rural areas but were not making progress.

There would be a public meeting to discuss the ideas for the Winchester Road regeneration project in February, possibly at the Village Hall.

A Member enquired when the white line markings on New Road mini-roundabout at the High Street/New Road junction and tables on the High Street, would be carried out. Cllr Smith said that he would chase the matter and hopefully have answers for the next quarterly meeting with Members.

A Member said that there were still outstanding works to be completed at Sandy Secondary School including access to the toilets, signage and leisure access to various rooms.

A Member welcomed the public meeting regarding regeneration at Winchester Road. He noted that a building contractor had not been found for the affordable houses project at Beeston. He also asked that although the CBC budget was stretched, whether the lack of rural bus services would be addressed in Bedfordshire.

## **7 Action List (151-2018/2019)**

Members noted the action list.

East West Rail Link: The Clerk said the Mayor had received a letter from the Chief Executive of East West Rail saying that a consultation telephone call regarding the East West rail link would be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 10.30am for all parish councils to hear. It would be taken in his office with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllrs Sutton and Thompson present. He would then circulate the outcome to all Members. A Member suggested that a statement be prepared for the public.

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A1 – Local Issues: Mr Burt’s office confirmed a further response was being sought from Mr Grayling.

Sandy Sports Centre Leisure Facilities: No changes would be made to the existing Sandy Leisure facilities and posters were now in place advising the public of this. There was still no response to the Town Council’s letter asking for a meeting with Central Beds Council and the other parties involved.

## **8 2019/20 Budget and Precept (152-2018/2019)**

The Chairman of Policy Finance and Resources Committee briefed the meeting on the budget and precept papers and reminded Members that they had all had adequate time to peruse the papers and take part in the 2019/20 budget process. The budget papers had been to Policy Finance and Resources Committee several times, providing Members with the opportunity to comment and amend. Following numerous reviews of individual budget lines, including incorporating reductions where possible, the Policy Finance and Resources committee had reached a recommendation which was unanimously voted for by committee Members.

The Clerk tabled a paper showing the major increases breakdown and the Chairman explained the increases in more detail. A large proportion of the increases were linked to leases, service contracts and utilities to which the Council was committed. Community event support, legal fees and the partial resurfacing of the village hall track also contributed to the increase, along with streetlight repairs, LED light conversion and maintaining CCTV coverage.

Overall the Council had increased budget codes by £24,009, but had made savings in budget codes of over £6,500 to partially offset this.

Members received and discussed the recommendation from the Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 that the proposed 2019/20 budget of £580,198 be approved with a precept of £145.01 – an increase of 3.10% (an annual increase of £4.36 per Band D property) for the next financial year.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the proposed 2019/20 budget and precept be approved, and that the

Town Clerk

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Council's thanks be recorded to all those involved in the process.

**9 Request for use of Sunderland Road (153-2018/2019)**

Members received and considered a request from the Savanna Circus to use Sunderland Road recreation ground from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at a rate of £55 per trading day for 4 days.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** to grant permission for the circus to attend.

Town Clerk

**10 Planning Application (154-2018/2019)**

Members noted that the application for the erection of 228 dwellings to the land north of Sunderland Road, that had been refused by Central Bedfordshire Council, had been appealed by the applicant. This appeal was not likely to happen in the life of the present council and the matter would come back to a new council after elections in May 2019 for a decision on appointing representatives to attend the hearing.

**11 Public access between Sandy Market Square and the Health Centre (155-2018/2019)**

Members received a verbal update from the Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk. A site meeting had taken place on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 between the above and the owners of the two new dwellings and access way. The road has been re-surfaced, the trench reinstated, pipework restored and railings replaced. The area looks vastly improved following this work. The properties will be placed on the market for sale when completed. They are negotiating a lease with the Health Centre for an area to the left-hand side of the gate for a bin store and parking. The chemists continue to open and close the gate to allow continued pedestrian access for the immediate future.

Mr Barnes would like to enter into discussions with the Town Council and Central Beds Council regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the roadway and securing long term public access. This issue to be included in the next quarterly Sandy Town Council and Central Beds Council meeting.

Town Clerk/Cllr Pettitt

**12 Council Representatives on External Bodies (156-2018/2019)**

Members considered the appointment of a further councillor to the Sandy Green Wheel Working Group. Cllr Gibson volunteered.

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It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gibson be appointed to the Sandy Green Wheel Working Group for the remainder of the Council year.

Town Clerk

## 13 Crime and Policing (157-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted the recent CCTV incidents.

A Member queried that the camera by the Co-op could not pick up activity in front of the store. It was explained that the front of the store was picked up by the camera on the opposite side of the street, where the Christmas tree is placed.

- ii) Members received and noted the most recent crime statistics for Sandy.

The Clerk tabled a plan of all crimes reported in 2017 and 2018 and asked how Members wanted to receive reports.

A Member said that no suspects were identified on various crimes. A Member stated that there were no police officers seen in the town. A Member asked that if there were no suspects identified, what are the police doing to be pro-active? A Member said that if there are no witnesses or fingerprints identified, the police cannot catch suspects with no evidence.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that this issue would be highlighted to the Head of Community Policing, Inspector Nick Masters and he would be invited to attend a meeting before May.

Town Clerk

## 14 Reports from Representatives (158-2018/2019)

Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association. Cllr Hill said that the date for the annual Sobotki carnival had been changed to the 21- 23 June and between 2-6 people could attend and they did not have to be councillors. Anyone interested should contact Cllr Hill.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the grant awarded to the Sandy Twinning Association this financial year be rolled forward to the next financial year.

Town Clerk

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**15 News Release (159-2018/2019)**

- Budget and Precept
- East West Rail Link consultation call

Town Clerk

**16 Chairman's Items (160-2018/2019)**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the re-opening of the refurbished Treetops Nursery, that had recently been flooded. The nursery had presented him with a Plush toy bee, complete with mayoral chain which he shared with the meeting.

**17 Date of Next Meeting (161-2018/2019)  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**