

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 24 February 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Ali, N Aldis, C Butterfield, W Jackson, K Lynch, A Maycock, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Runchman, D Sharman, S Sutton (Mayor) and S Walsh

**Absent:** Cllrs M Scott and R Smith

**In attendance:** Central Bedfordshire Cllrs C Mauldin and N Sheppard, PCSO A Jeeves, four members of the public and the Town Clerk

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence (118-13/14)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Scott and Smith.</p>	<b>Admin</b>
<p><b>2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (119-13/14)</b> i) Declarable Pecuniary Interests – None. ii) Personal Interests – Cllr Osborne drew attention to his role as Chairman of Sandy Football Club in relation to charges affecting sports clubs (agenda item 8 iii) and his membership of Sandy Royal British Legion (agenda item 9). Cllr Pettitt drew attention to his role as an officer of Sandy Cricket Club and Sandy Colts FC (agenda item 8 iii) and his membership of Sandy Royal British Legion (agenda item 9) and Cllr Sutton drew attention to her membership of Sandy Royal British Legion (agenda item 9). iii) Dispensations – None.</p>	
<p><b>3 Minutes of previous Town Council meeting (120-13/14)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30 pm on 13 January 2014 as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	<b>Admin</b>
<p><b>4 Co-option of new Councillor (121-13/14)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the council would vote on this item using a secret ballot instead of the usual show of hands. Applications from two candidates for co-option to Sandy Town Council to fill the casual vacancy in Fallowfield Ward had been circulated prior to the meeting. These candidates were Mrs Teresa Cole and Mr Keith Sharp both of Sandy. Candidates were asked to address the meeting and answered questions about their experience and interests. A ballot was held and there was an equality of votes for each candidate (6 each). The Mayor used her casting vote and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the candidate to be co-opted to membership of the council was Mr Keith Sharp.</p>	

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The Mayor thanked both candidates for their interest and welcomed Mr Sharp to the Council.

Mr Sharp completed his declaration of acceptance of office as a co-opted member of the council before the proper officer and the council and joined the meeting.

(Cllr Maycock left the meeting.)

## 5 Public Participation Session (122-13/14)

There were no questions or representations from members of the public.

## 6 Police Matters (123-13/14)

A written report from PCSO Ann Jeeves on policing in Sandy between 10 January 2014 and 20 February 2014 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. PCSO Jeeves spoke to the report and answered questions from members. There had been a spate of counterfeit £20 notes being presented in shops in Sandy (not included in crime figures). Two ward councillors from CBC had attended a multi-agency problem solving meeting with police to address a specific problem in Sandy. PCSO Jeeves confirmed that attempts had been made to start a Speed watch group in Sandy and she was still prepared to facilitate this if there was sufficient interest from volunteers. Some action had been taken to tackle speeding on London Road but the community PCs did not have the resources to do this work which was undertaken by Special Constables when they were available. Comments about the prevalence of motor bikes and quad bikes in the area were noted, the Clerk confirmed that permanent signs had been ordered for the Pinnacle to deter motor biking and permit the issue of penalty notices.

Admin

Deputy  
Town  
Clerk

## 7 Financial Matters (124-13/14)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary report on progress to date against budget for the financial year 2013/14 a more detailed version of which had previously been received at Policy Finance and Resources Committee on Monday 17 February 2014
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments which had previously been received at Policy Finance and Resources Committee on Monday 17 February 2014
- iii) **RESOLVED** to subscribe to BATPC for the financial year 2014/15 at a cost of £1,960.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to approve a request from the Town Clerk to make a salary payment in place of providing time off in lieu for a member of Town Council staff

Town  
Clerk

Town  
Clerk

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## 8 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein (125-13/14)

The minutes of the following committees and sub-committees had been circulated before the meeting.

i) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings on 6 January 2014 and 27 January 2014

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee meeting on 27 January 2014 there was one recommendation for Town Council which was also made by PF&R Committee and was to be dealt with in the next item.

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the Policy Finance and Resources Committee on 17 February 2014. The following recommendations to Town Council contained within these minutes were considered and discussed.

**Item 4 iii) RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation to fund the cost of fence panels to secure the allotment site at Stratford Road from capital reserves and to meet the remaining costs of securing the site from funds vired from within the revenue budget using the codes identified in the minutes.

**Item 6 Burial Charges RESOLVED** to approve the burial charges recommended to Council within the minutes with the exception of fees for exclusive right of burial and interment of cremated remains in earthen graves which were to be amended as follows.

<b>Exclusive Right of Burial Fee</b>	
Cremated remains in earthen grave 2 ft by 2 ft	£80
Cremated remains in an earthen grave 4 ft by 2 ft	£112
<b>Interment Fee</b>	
Cremated remains interred in any grave	£110

**Item 6 Sports and Other Charges RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation to adopt the charges as described in the minutes.

**Item 8 New Standing Orders RESOLVED** to defer approval of the recommendation in the minutes until a complete set of recommended Standing Orders was available.

(Cllr Walsh left the meeting.)

**Item 11 HR Arrangements RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation that the committee structure and scheme of delegations be amended as described.

**Item 12 Staff Review RESOLVED** to note the position with the staff review and to approve the recommendation as described.

Town Clerk

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## 9 **War Memorial and World War I Centenary Commemorations (126-13/14)**

A report from the Clerk had been circulated before the meeting. The report contained details of a proposal to place a memorial plaque on the wall near Sandy War Memorial to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War I and information about additional issues connected with the war memorial and the centenary commemorations. The report and matters connected with it were discussed at some length. It was agreed that there should be as much interaction with community groups as possible in planning and publicising the World War I commemoration events.

### **Commemorative Plaque**

Wording for the plaque was discussed, it was anticipated that this should be in place for the commemorative service in August planned by Sandy RBL.

### **War Memorial Restoration**

The Clerk reported on progress with a condition report on the memorial and confirmed the intention to seek further advice and seek funding for restoration. Members noted the degradation of lettering on some faces of the memorial and also noted discrepancies between various local records of those killed during WWI.

### **Articles and Talk**

Members noted and approved arrangements made and confirmed that as much publicity as possible should be given to these items.

### **Interpretation Board**

Generic quotations for interpretation boards had been provided to members and these were discussed although the Clerk stressed that specific quotations would be obtained when design and location had been confirmed.

### **Website**

Members agreed that a WWI commemoration page should be added to the Council website with the opportunity for as many people in the community as possible to contribute to this.

### **Poppies**

Use of Victoria Cross poppies and other poppy varieties in municipal planting for summer 2014 was discussed. It was proposed that poppies should be planted in the churchyard, near the William Peel interpretation board and in the community garden and tubs near the War Memorial.

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Cllrs Sutton and Pettitt expressed their wish to work on the commemoration project and the Mayor confirmed she would keep in touch with Sandy RBL.

**RESOLVED** to give permission in principle for a stone plaque to be erected on the wall near the war memorial and to seek public subscriptions towards the costs of this plaque and to the costs of restoration of the war memorial (although grant funding for the latter would also be sought).

**Mayor,  
Cllr  
Pettitt,  
Town  
Clerk**

**RESOLVED** to agree to fund a commemorative interpretation board on triangular site on Bedford Road near to the war memorial (anticipated cost £1,000) donations from the public for this item would also be sought.

## 10 **Land to the rear of Ash Close and Lime Avenue (127-13/14)**

A report from the Clerk on the proposed transfer of land near Lime Avenue in Beeston to residents of the area which had been circulated before the meeting was discussed.

**RESOLVED** to instruct the council's legal advisors to contact Fairview New Homes (Beeston) Limited to ask for a release from the restrictive covenant on the land behind properties in Ash Close and Lime Avenue.

**Town  
Clerk**

## 11 **Cemetery Extension (128-13/14)**

A report from the Clerk and estimated timetable for work on the Council's proposed cemetery extension which had been circulated before the meeting was discussed.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to proceed with work on the design and planning stage of the project (stages 1-6 of the plan laid out in the report) using funds from reserves to an anticipated maximum of £12,000.

**Town  
Clerk**

## 12 **Mayoral Communications (129-13/14)**

**RESOLVED** to note the Mayor's recent engagements and items for information.

## 13 **Reports from Representatives (130 -13/14)**

### i) **Reports from Representatives of CBC**

**RESOLVED** to receive a report from the Ward Councillors of Central Bedfordshire Council which had been circulated before the meeting. Members asked whether Biggleswade Hospital was currently being refurbished and were advised that it was not, but there were problems with admission to the hospital and all CBC members were keen to receive specific information about patients who had been refused admission.

**All  
members**

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## ii) **Reports from Town Council Representatives on External Bodies**

Cllr Pettitt noted that visitors from Malaunay would be in Sandy between 1 May 2014 and 4 May 2014. Cllr Lynch reported on the recent temporary closure of the Sandy Young People's Youth Club. The Mayor reminded members that Council had previously requested all reports from representatives on external bodies in writing.

**All  
members**

## 14 **News Release (131-13/14)**

The Clerk was asked to prepare news releases on the co-option of a new councillor, on the plans for WWI commemoration and matters to do with the cemetery.

**Town  
Clerk**