

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 7 March 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson (Mayor), G Leach, C Osborne, D Quick, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllrs J Ali and M Pettitt.

In attendance: Cllrs Maudlin, Smith and Stock (CBC), Chris Robson (Town Clerk), Ms M Bracey (Minutes Clerk) and three members of the public.

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (122-2015/2016) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Ali and M Pettitt.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (123-2015/16) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None ii) <i>Non Disclosable Interests</i> – Item 8 - Cllr Aldis is on the waiting list for an Allotment and Cllr Quick knows landowners in that area. Item 9 - Cllrs Blaine and Scott live close to the A1. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	Admin
<p>3 Public Participation (124-2015/16) A member had received a query from a resident about whether the Council could do something about signage to prevent lorries coming up Cambridge Road where the bridge is closed and then they have to turn round. Another member said that this had been reported to Highways previously and it should be raised with CBC members and an email to Highways. A CBC member thought it was foreign lorries whose Sat Nav took them up Cambridge Road and signage may not help. A member stated that it was not just foreign lorries but local ones too. The CBC member suggested that residents record registration numbers and name of company so that the owners can be written to directly. A member of the public said that perhaps the Sat Nav providers should update their information. A member said that a resident had requested a crossing on Station</p>	Admin

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	<p>Road by the roundabout as there had been an increase in traffic and pedestrians.</p> <p>A member suggested that when Network Rail had finished the extension to the car park, they should agree to pay for a crossing.</p>	Admin
4	<p>Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (125-2015/16)</p> <p>RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 18 January 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings, subject to agreed amendment under item 5 Police Matters inserting the word 'attempted' before burglaries.</p>	Admin
5	<p>Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (126-2015/16)</p> <p>To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) RESOLVED to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 1 February and 22 February 2016.ii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 1 February 2016.iii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 22 February 2016.	Admin
6	<p>Financial Matters (127-2015/16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Members noted a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinsed at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 1 February 2016).ii) To note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinsed at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 1 February 2016)	
7	<p>Action List (128-2015/16)</p> <p>The Town Clerk presented the Action List and updated members on the Neighbourhood Development Plan workshop. A meeting has been arranged with Sarah Chapman from CBC on the 16 March 2016 at 4pm, to address moving the matter forward and developing a plan.</p>	

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8 Allotments (129-2015/16)

The Town Clerk presented the report. A member considered that CBC had been looking at an opportunity for developing this area for some time.

A member said that this confirmed what the Council had been thinking and that discussions with other landowners made sense. He added that CBC should have been clear that the land is totally unsuitable for allotment purposes. Access is inadequate and currently inaccessible and the ground is heavy clay soil which would require a lot of expense to get it fit for purpose.

As such he commented that the first recommendation in the Clerk's report was not feasible. It was proposed and seconded that recommendation 2 be resolved.

A member stated that he agreed with the resolution but suggested an amendment and that the following be added;

'Without prejudice to any views we may take to the possible development on that site'.

A member reminded the council that we have a statutory obligation to provide allotments and we should continue to look for somewhere else that could be suitable and although he supported the recommendation it was with a heavy heart.

It was suggested that this should be added on to the resolution. A member said that CBC had led the Council down the wrong track for some time and had given false hope.

Another member agreed and felt frustration at the long time in which discussions had taken place and now there was no other option. He felt that this should be presented properly to the electorate and the Council had a duty to contact as many people as possible to find a suitable site.

Cllr Scott had not declared an interest but wished it minuted he had not taken part in the discussion or the vote but reminded members that we had paid a sum of money to CBC for soil investigation and we should seek reimbursement.

RESOLVED that members have reviewed the new information presented regarding the development of the site and no longer consider it to be a viable option for the investment and creation of an allotment site.

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RESOLVED that this resolution is 'Without prejudice to any views we may take to the possible development on that site' and that the Council actively seek alternative land for allotments.

RESOLVED that Sandy Town Council seeks reimbursement from CBC for money paid for soil investigation on the proposed site.

Town Clerk

A recorded vote was requested.

For the resolutions:-

Cllrs Aldis, Blaine, Cole, Hill, Jackson, Leach, Osborne, D Sharman, P Sharman, Sparrow and Sutton.

Two abstentions.

9 Road Investment Strategy A1 East of England (130-2015/16)

The Town Clerk presented the information received at the recent Department of Transport meeting for Town and Parish Councils affected by the A1 Strategic Study.

They had explained how and what they were looking at and the data they will be using to produce a report. The purpose of the study is to gather relevant data and information, not at this stage to suggest possible routes. A report will be published outlining their findings. There will be a formal consultation period at some point, however at this stage this could not be elaborated on.

Cllr Osborne had also attended the meeting and said that we will have to wait for their conclusions and that there was no clear answer given on what form a consultation would take.

Cllr Aldis had also attended the meeting on behalf of Blunham Parish Council and stated that the document looked at three sections of the road, from north of the M25 up to Peterborough. The priorities on the southern section being over use and consideration of the hard shoulder being an extra lane. The northern section is a motorway but the section in between is the main cause of problems. He suggested that the Council make comments in bullet point format about what possible requirement is needed.

Cllr Blaine stated that he was reassured that the Department for Transport now considered the A1 an important strategic route. He was concerned about stakeholder comments and possible opposition to improvements. He suggested we enlist the support of the Member of Parliament.

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Cllr Blaine had drafted out some bullet points which he proposed were used as the basis of the Council's response to the Stakeholder group.

- Welcomed that the A1 is now regarded as an 'important strategic route'.
- Note that through Sandy and south to Biggleswade North, the dualled A1 is currently the only viable North/South route for both local and long distance traffic.
- That through Sandy it produces congestion, both north/south and east/west.
- It produces noise and inferior air quality.
- Through Sandy and Beeston it produces severance across residential areas, isolating residents from any access to shops, severe dangers for pedestrians and vehicles crossing the dual carriageway.
- Renders vehicle and pedestrian access to many properties, close to the road, highly dangerous.
- It is clear that it is impossible to remove the problem from this section of the road on its present line.
- The priority is therefore that the A1, at least in this area, should be replaced by a new route catering for all through traffic.

A member stated that he had listened very carefully to Cllr Blaine and supported what was said and that a new route was the only solution.

He was concerned that waste collection vehicles stopped to collect on the A1 and considered this unacceptable. The workshop in February was called by the Member of Parliament and he is very much part of the ongoing discussion.

A member asked how we would be kept informed and was told that Madeline Russell of Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils will keep us informed.

A member said that he would like the route to be known before work gets underway on the expressway in 2020.

Cllrs Maudlin and Stock (CBC) have requested Highways England to assist in funding a survey on whether average speed cameras are necessary and a speed limit of 50mph between Biggleswade and Sandy as a short term plan.

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Cllr Stock suggested writing to the Under Secretary of State for the Department of Transport Andrew Jones, and all present agreed.

RESOLVED to respond to Cllr M Russell and write to the local Member for Parliament and the Under Secretary for Department of Transport outlining the bullet points above.

Town
Clerk

10 Cemetery Extension (131-2015/16)

The Town Clerk reported that following the tender deadline for Archaeological contractors, four tenders had been received. The Cemetery Working Group are reviewing the tenders and seeking further advice. The group will bring a report and recommendation to Council.

11 Central Bedfordshire Council (132-2015/16)

Cllr Smith informed the Committee that Flitwick Leisure Centre was now fully open and encouraged Members to pay it a visit.

At the Grove Theatre they are holding a fund raising evening for a Diabetes charity. There is a bus going from Sandy. Let Cllr Maudlin know if you wish to attend.

The Football Association are considering an extension to floodlit facilities in Biggleswade and an all-weather pitch and will hold a consultation.

CBC is sponsoring this year's Central Bedfordshire Food and Drink Awards - Businesses can choose to be registered on the website and Members were encouraged to put forward any businesses they thought of as worthy recipients.

CBC has been chosen to be inspected for nine weeks looking at the overall effect of the department for Child Safety.

Central Bedfordshire's 2016/17 budget has been passed with one objection.

CBC failed a requirement on extra care housing schemes for the vulnerable. Improvements have been put in place.

CBC Councillors will be attending a workshop on the 8 April, 2016 to look at the Local Plan and establishing a five year land supply.

Despite concerns about the lack of a 5 year land supply for

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housing, Central Bedfordshire Council is still able to say 'no' to development it considers unsustainable although the developer can of course appeal.

Cllr Stock informed members that residents of Monoux Place are at their 'wits end' and require help with regard to parking nuisance. She suggested that this be a future agenda item.

Cllr Aldis informed members that the school has a barrier which does not permit parents to drive into school to collect their children.

A member stated that there is a parking issue in Sandy and suggested an agenda item 'Parking in Sandy'.

The Town Clerk informed members that the car park barrier has a mechanism which gives information and discussion has taken place about a survey on the use of the car park.

Cllr Maudlin informed members that there is a video on the CBC website about 'call for sites' and submissions have to be in by 11 April 2016.

Cllr Stock informed members that applications had to be in by 14 March 2016 for a new Police and Crime Commissioner.

A job fair is taking place in Dunstable.

CBC is currently running its 'Cheer for Volunteer' Awards and Cllr Maudlin encouraged Members to put forward any groups they thought had contributed to Sandy. Forms are available in the library or on online. The Awards Ceremony is at the Grove Theatre on June 7 2016. Nominations by 6 April 2016.

The CBC Councillors were asked about black bags being recycled and they said that this will not happen yet.

They were asked how much land is being considered north of Sandy and whether there was a Masterplan being prepared for the area. Town Council Members stated that a Masterplan for the area would be essential.

12 Councillors' Surgery(133-2015/16)

Cllr Aldis informed members that he was Vice Chair of the Historical Research group.

RESOLVED that a Councillors' Surgery be held in the Council

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Chamber on 17 September 2016 alongside a display of old photographs from the Historical Research Group.

13 News Release(134-2015/16)

Allotment Site – A letter to all residents on waiting list.

14 Chairman's Items (135-2015/16)

A late request has been received from the Carnival committee to use part of the car park for lorries to load and unload for the Carnival Parade. This would be on the Friday evening and the Saturday. The Mayor advised Members he had discussed the matter with the Town Clerk and could see no reason the request could not be approved. He asked that if any Member had any concerns that they contact the Clerk.

The Mayor reminded members of the Barn Dance on the Saturday 19 March 2016.

The Mayor has been invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on the 19 May 2016.

15 Date of next meeting: 11 April 2016.