

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee held virtually via Zoom on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair) and N Thompson

Absent: No committee members were absent

In attendance: Cllrs J Hewitt, M Pettitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (86-2020/2021)

There were none.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (87-2020/21)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – None
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

3 Minutes of previous Meeting (88-2020/21)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 25th January 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (89-2020/21)

A Member raised a question on behalf of members of the public regarding the street cleaning and litter picking in the town, which residents feel has got worse since the previous street cleaner was relocated.

The Clerk said he has raised the problem with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) before and had asked for the street cleaner to be reinstated but was told that other arrangements had been made. CBC's waste contractor has moved to a model whereby two waste collectors operate from a vehicle, rather than having one on foot. He asked that Members keep feeding back any reported problems and he would pass them on to CBC. Fly tipping at along the entrance road to the SSLA and Village Hall was discussed and it was confirmed that this had been removed by CBC.

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5 **Action List (90-2020/21)**

Members received and noted the action list.

6 **Skatepark Project (91-2020/21)**

(i) Members received and considered notes from a meeting of the Skatepark Working Group held on 23rd February 2021.

Cllr Paterson briefed Members on the meeting and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to receive the notes.

(ii) Members received and considered a draft Skatepark Project overview.

A Member said that the overview was an excellent document but queried the timeline of the project, as it was yet another project to add to the list of projects to be undertaken. The Chair agreed with the Councillor's concern and commented that some agenda items had been removed for that reason. The Clerk added that this was a fair point and that routine items still need doing but he was enthusiastic about this project. He said that a company had been in contact and will meet with the Working Group to discuss different ways of dealing with the project, with a view to working more with a partner to reduce workload and resources.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the draft document/plan.

7 **Memorial Bench (92-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a request for the installation of a memorial bench on land managed by Sandy Town Council. The Clerk highlighted that a policy should be developed to ensure the Council was dealing with all requests in the same way and there is a clear understanding of how benches will be dealt with.

Members commented that there should be an allowance for residents to suggest the type and style of bench/seating they want to donate. This would need to be approved by the Council and then adopted and maintained. Members commented that benches should fit the location eg. natural wood or sculptured benches and should be appropriate to its surroundings. Another Member said that each application should be considered separately.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the resident is invited to submit an application for the installation of their preferred bench and memorial plaque.

RECOMMEND that the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee consider and agree a policy governing the installation and maintenance of memorial benches at all points around the town. That this policy states that;

- Approved benches be purchased and installed by the Council with the purchase cost covered by the resident.
- The Council carry out maintenance to the bench until it reaches the end of its life, at which point the Council will remove the bench and will not replace it. Residents would be welcome to apply to install a new bench at this point.

8 Vehicle Activated Signs (93-2020/21)

Members received and considered a guidance document from CBC on the placement of vehicle activated signs.

The Clerk said that CBC Cllrs Ford and Maudlin were chasing to get permission for the locating of an SID, which the Town Council had already agreed to purchase.

Members commented that the CBC guidance document was difficult to read and were disappointed. The document suggested that it would be difficult for STC to get the relevant permission to install the sign. This is particularly disappointing as a neighbouring town had two signs and were proving very useful.

The Clerk would continue to work with CBC Councillors to try and get permission for an STC purchased sign to be installed.

Cllr Osborne left the meeting at this point.

9 Tree Planting (94-2020/21)

The Clerk reported that he had received no response from CBC regarding the Town Council's recent application to CBC's Tree Fund. He would contact Members when he had.

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10 WildEast (95-2020/21)

Members considered a presentation from WildEast at a meeting of the Full Council and after discussion it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to Recommend** that the Council make a pledge to be part of WildEast's land commitment.

11 Fallowfield Play Equipment (96-2020/21)

Members received and considered a request from a resident on whether wet pour safety matting could be installed around some existing play equipment and received support information from the Clerk. Members commented that the weather had been particularly wet and they would like to see the situation monitored and revisited after Autumn/Winter.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that due to the capital costs involved and the very wet conditions over the last few months, the committee does not pursue the installation of wet pour safety matting at this time. That the matter is revisited for all the Council's parks, at the end of autumn/winter 2021 to see how the matting has coped. If it is felt wet pour is required at this stage, then quotes be obtained for consideration by the PF&R Committee as part of its budget setting process.

12 Event Request (97-2020/21)

Members received and considered a request to hold a Fun Fair on Town Council owned land in April 2021.

After discussion where some Members were uncomfortable regarding the timing of the request due to the lockdown lifting rules. The Clerk said that SAG would review the event and make its recommendation on whether it believed the event should go ahead. However, the final decision would be down to the Council. SAG had advised that the fair organiser contact them directly.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council agree to allow use of Sunderland Road recreation ground in principle, subject to further review and advice from SAG and that the event organiser be advised to contact SAG directly. To **RECOMMEND** that a rent of £128.50 per operational day is payable for use of the site.

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13 Living Country Awards 2021 (98-2020/21)

Members noted information from CPRE Bedfordshire.

It was suggested that this information be put on social media and asked that local groups be put forward for nominations. The Wombles and Kings Arms Angling Group were suggested. A Member offered to volunteer to find out information on the groups for nomination.

14 Chairman's Items (99-2020/21)

The Chair did not have any items, but the Clerk had an item regarding 30,000 copies of a Greensand Country booklet that needed to be handed out. Members suggested that it be put on social media and the Council's website, that they contact The Bulletin and NE Beds magazine to be delivered at the same time (but this may incur a charge). Members suggested that Councillors could deliver up to 200 booklets each if booklets were delivered to the Council. Cllr Pettitt stated he could use the recent street audit map to allocate areas to Councillors. The Clerk would go back to them and offer these suggestions.

15 Date of Next Meeting (100-2020/21) Monday 19th April 2021.

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