

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, A Gibson, A M Hill, R Lock, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

**Absent:** Cllr T Knagg, N Thompson

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

### Action

**1 Apologies for Absence (42-2021/2022)**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Knagg.

Admin

**2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (43-2021/22)**

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None.
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – Cllr Sutton declared an interest in item 9 as she is a member and President of The Royal British Legion.
- iii) *Dispensations* – None.

**3 Minutes of previous Meeting (44-2021/22)**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

**4 Public Participation Session (45-2021/22)**

A Member asked on behalf of a resident regarding the regeneration of the Winchester Road area, if the pavements and paths which are in a poor state will be repaired, and if the planters that are not being removed, will be maintained. It was also queried if the trees growing on amenity land next to the houses where the roots are undermining the foundations, will be removed.

CBC Cllr Stock had sent a written reply to the question, stating that once all the planters have been removed and additional spaces created, work will then be done to improve the area including maintenance on the remaining plants, cutting back unwanted foliage and overgrown areas, and looking at what can be done with the green spaces and concrete area.

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Residents' views have been asked for in the last two letters sent out and to come along to the 'Pride of Place' event to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **5 Guest Speaker (46-2021/22)**

Mr Steven Bear from Bedfordshire Police's Community Cohesion Team was not able to attend the meeting. The Clerk will re-arrange for a future date.

## **6 Action List (47-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the action list.

Allotments & Community Orchard at Beeston: The Clerk informed Members that the CBC officer dealing with the land lease had called him and told him that the appointed solicitor at LGSS Law had left the company and that a Mr Thomson was now charged with progressing the lease. Both CBC and STC's solicitors were happy with the lease outline and the work was moving forward. A draft lease will be brought to the Council for review.

Use of former Days Inn Conference Site: The Clerk said that he had received an email from CBC's Tony Keaveney confirming that planning approval had been approved for The Meadows, Girtford Bridge and that there were a significant number of planning conditions to discharge with tight timeframes. The Clerk will circulate the email to Members. Mr Keaveney had reiterated that no decisions about the future of the former conference centre had been made and he would speak with the Council before any such decisions.

## **7 Newsletter Publication Review (48-2021/22)**

Members received and considered a report reviewing the Council's publication of a regular newsletter/bulletin. After discussion, the Clerk confirmed that Quality Council Status required a newsletter to be published but not necessarily delivered to all households.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to continue using the Sandy Bulletin for the publication of regular news articles, but to find out more details about distribution in the town from the publisher.

## **8 Lamp Post Banners (49-2021/22)**

Members considered a report from the Clerk on the future use of lamp post banners and any associated costs which may need to be recommended to the PF&R Committee.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee that 9 Queen's Jubilee banners and 9 Union Jack banners be purchased from this year's capital budget and that the Queen's Jubilee banners are left in place from May to October in 2022 to celebrate this significant event, and the revenue costs for their installation be allowed for in the 2022/23 budget.

## 9 Remembrance Commemorations 2021 (50-2021/22)

- i) Members received an update report on arrangements for the 2021 Remembrance Parade which will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. At the time of the meeting, it was not known whether there would be a church service as part of the commemorations. *Subsequently Rev Davies and the Working Group have confirmed that an outdoor service will be held on the Market Square after the parade. Cllr Scott and Mr Havergal will be organising the PA system for Bedford Road, with the Church arranging any PA requirement for the service in the Market Square.*
- ii) Members noted the requested location for the siting of a memorial bench by the Sandy branch of the RBL, marking 100 years of the RBL.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the memorial bench would replace an old bench which is due to be removed in front of the Sorting Office garden on the High Street.

- iii) Members noted the purchase of a 'Tommy' soldier statue as part of the Council's remembrance commemorations and marking 100 years of the RBL.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the statue be sited in St Swithun's church yard if the PCC approve this.

## 10 Skatepark Project (51-2021/22)

The Clerk told Members that two local companies had pledged contributions towards the project. Both Frontier and Gee Jay had made contributions which will be held in the Council's Rolling Capital Fund. A Member asked if there were further Sc106 funds available towards the project. The Clerk commented that there were still some funds which could be applied for to support the project. The

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Clerk, with the support of the appointed skatepark contractor, would also be applying again to the National Lottery Fund.

Cllr Paterson said that the demolition costs for the existing park would need to be considered and there was the potential of getting a local company to help do the work as part of their contribution to the project.

A Member also enquired about any funds held by the Sandy Skatepark Association and would these be used towards the project. Cllr Aldis, a trustee of the Association, did not know the level of funds available, but stated that it was the intention that funds held be used towards the project.

## **11 Events Working Group (52-2021/22)**

- i) Members received and noted a report regarding The Pantaloons performances on The Green, Beeston.

Members said that the performances were well attended and very entertaining and they should be encouraged to return next year but that parking would need more organising next time, potentially with the use of defining stakes on The Green.

Members discussed larger venues in other areas of the town being used, but it was thought that the company may prefer smaller venues because these were outdoor performances for which they did not use microphones.

A Member asked if the income from these events contributed to the available Events budget. The Clerk said that at present it did not and that a resolution from the PF&R Committee would be required to do so prior to the year end.

## **12 Chairman's Items (53-2021/22)**

There were no items.

## **13 Date of Next Meeting (54-2021/22)**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.