

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 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllr S Paterson was absent

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

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (15-2021/2022)

Cllr S Paterson.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (16-2021/22)

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

3 Minutes of previous Meeting (17-2021/22)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 7th June 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (18-2021/22)

A Member commented that he had received appreciative comments on the colour scheme for the floral arrangements and bedding this year and the additional barrier tubs in the town.

He also asked on behalf of a member of the public when the parking scheme in Winchester Road estate would commence. The Clerk would speak to the CBC Councillors to ascertain this information.

Town Clerk

Also, a member of the public had asked if the Town Council would consider cutting amenity areas on the Berwick Way estate as a gesture of goodwill until taking over responsibility from the developers. The Clerk said that the transfer documents were with the solicitors at present. The Clerk also said that he had been contacted by Pickering Close residents who wished the grass areas to be left, as hedgehogs were residing in the long grass. The Council

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office had chased up Taylor Wimpey on a request that they cut the grass as they are still in ownership of the land.

5 **Action List (19-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the action list.

SID Locations & Installation: Members noted that CBC had said they would not approve a SID sign on Sunderland Road. Members expressed their frustration and reiterated that having the SID signs would be of valuable benefit to the town. The Clerk said that he had responded to CBC Highways that neighbouring towns already had moveable SID signs and queried on what data or evidence it was decided Sunderland Road would not be suitable for such a sign. A member said that perhaps the Town Council should gather its own evidence of the benefit of the signs. The Clerk suggested that a letter to CBC Highways from the Chair of CS&E and the Mayor might carry more weight. A further response from CBC is awaited.

Cllrs
Pettitt/
Sutton

Community Safety Plan: Cllr Hewitt said that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 21st July and would report back to the CS&E committee.

Cllrs
Hewitt/
Lock

6 **Dog Fouling (20-2021/22)**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on complaints around dog fouling in recreation grounds.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Council approve CBC's proposals to install two dog poo bag dispensers at Sunderland Road recreation ground on a trial basis and that a few large, alternative designed A3 corrugated posters are printed and displayed around Sandy's recreation grounds as part of an anti-dog fouling campaign.

Town
Clerk

7 **Sandy Green Wheel Site (21-2021/22)**

Members received and noted a summary report from the Sandy Green Wheel Group on developments made on the enhancement of the Green Wheel route.

8 **Electric Vehicle Charging (EV) Points (22-2021/22)**

Members noted an update on options to host electric vehicle charging points in the Town Council owned car park.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council note the report and that further consideration is given following the

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receipt of a formal letter from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) on inclusion in their EV scheme and a presentation/meeting from Mr Stephen Mooring, CBC's Head of Sustainability at a meeting of the Community, Services and Environment Committee to be held on 23rd August 2021.

9 **Beeston Rural exception Site (23-2021/22)**

Members received a brief update from the Clerk on the lease with CBC for community land at Beeston for the purpose of a community orchard and some allotments.

Town
Clerk

The Clerk stated that the Council's solicitor has been liaising with CBC's appointed solicitor. CBC's solicitor has advised CBC that they must follow the disposal procedure as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 s123(2A). This states that a principal council may not dispose (including via long term lease) of any land consisting or forming part of an open space unless, before disposing of the land, they cause notice of their intention to do so, specifying the land in question, to be advertised in two consecutive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the land is situated, and consider any objections to the proposed disposal which may be made to them. Due to the above-mentioned legislation, CBC will now need to advertise the proposed disposal of the open space land to STC by long lease in the local paper. If any objections are submitted to the proposal CBC must consider and respond to these accordingly.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council note the report.

10 **Welcome Back Fund (24-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the update report from the Clerk.

The Clerk said that he had now received the purchase orders from CBC and the leaflets and banners could now be produced. He said that he was awaiting photos for the RSPB version. A Member thanked the Clerk for the positive report.

11 **Events Working Group (25-2021/22)**

- i) Members received and noted a report from a meeting of the events Working Group held on the 9th June 2021.

A Member said that The Pantaloons Theatre production last week had approximately 100 people in attendance. There

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will be no advertising this year from the theatre company, but the Town Council will advertise the productions on their website. It was also suggested that the Council use this event to run their own event next year (ie, run a Medieval Day on Beeston Green in the day with the theatre production in the evening).

- ii) Members received and noted a briefing note on the proposed street market and family fun day on 22nd August 2021.

The day would comprise of a craft/street food market on the Market Square and 'Let's Get Going' would organise activities in Bedford Road.

- iii) The Clerk added that the Street Food Market held in the Town Car Park would not be happening this year as the organisers were finding it difficult to recruit stallholders, but they will try again for next year.

12 Chairman's Items (26-2021/22)

There were no Chairman's items.

13 Date of Next Meeting (27-2021/22)

Monday 23rd August 2021.