

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee held virtually via Zoom on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm

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

**Absent:** Cllr T Knagg

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

### Action

**1 Apologies for Absence (101-2020/2021)**

There were none.

Admin

**2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (102-2020/21)**

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – Cllr Sutton declared an interest in Item 6 as her husband is a member of both the Roundabout Club and the East Beds Model Railway Society.
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – None
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

**3 Minutes of previous Meeting (103-2020/21)**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

**4 Public Participation Session (104-2020/21)**

There were no questions from the public.

**5 Action List (105-2020/21)**

Members received and noted the action list.

Allotments & Community Orchard at Beeston: The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitor had not yet heard from CBC. The Clerk had asked CBC for their solicitor's details to try and chase the matter. A Member said that the Town Council should go back to CBC Cllr Wenham and ask him to progress the matter.

Community Safety Plan: Cllr Hewitt advised that a draft plan was due to be sent to them and this would be brought to the committee.

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A member of the Community Safety Team would be attending the Sandy Spring Market.

## 6 **Correspondence from East Beds Model Railway Society (106-2020/21)**

Members received correspondence from East Beds Model Railway Society.

After discussion, suggestions were raised as follows:

- Speak to local churches regarding storage facilities
- CBC councillors were looking into the Days Inn Centre
- Was there space at the council depot?
- Do CBC have any garages to rent?
- Send out a general appeal for storage facilities in Sandy

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Mr Keaveney at CBC regarding the lack of storage space in Sandy available and could the Days Inn Centre be of assistance.

## 7 **New Road/Station Road and London Road (107-2020/21)**

Members considered questions raised by the SG19 Group.

### 1) New Road/Station Road:

Members were in agreement that they would support a reduction in the number of HGVs going through the town centre. However, some Members stated they could not support using New Road as a solution over concerns this would create a worse situation, particularly with the dangers involved of HGVs coming on and off the A1.

A Member commented that New Road could be an option rather than HGVs going through the town, if a solution could be found to turning right at the railway bridge. Remodeling of the junctions could possibly lead to improvement. It was commented that the difficulty was that authorities with the power to act have not taken the issue seriously.

Members concurred that STC does not have the solution and a serious study of the problem is required to bring forward options. The Council needs to put pressure on those authorities with the power to act, to do so.

Town  
Clerk

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council commits itself to discussing the serious problems of HGV's going through the town and solutions with Highways England and the Highways Department at CBC. That the Clerk write to the Hon. Richard Fuller MP in the first instance to ask for a meeting with the relevant authorities.

Town  
Clerk

London Road: Members discussed the question raised by the SG19 group regarding issues of traffic levels on London Road and pollution from the A1.

Members agreed that there are serious problems caused by traffic levels and use of London Road as a 'rat run'. Members discussed various measures such as width restrictions and bollards. It was commented that restrictions could cause issues for local residents and that any potential solutions must be careful not to create alternative problems for residents.

After discussion it was agreed that the Town Council cannot make decisions but can identify suggestions and lobby both Highways England and the Highways Department at CBC.

## **8 Bench Memorial Plaque Request (108-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a request to install a memorial plaque on an existing town centre bench.

The Clerk reported that should the Council wish to approve the request it could look at charging a fee for maintenance of the bench to which a plaque is approved. Members expressed concern that they would not want to see plaques added to all the town's existing benches and that the purpose of providing a memorial bench was to help provide something for the town and a memory of the loved one to which it is dedicated. Members considered whether another option could be worked on to allow for the suitable placing of memorial plaques in the town. It was noted that such a provision can form part of the cemetery extension.

A Member expressed concern that not all sections of the community could afford to pay for a bench and not allowing a plaque on existing street furniture could deprive them of an opportunity.

After discussion where Members were against adding plaques to existing benches in the town and that an appropriate site be found for installing remembrance plaques.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the request be declined and refer the applicant to the Town Council's Memorial Bench Policy.

*Cllr N. Aldis voted against the proposition and requested that his vote be recorded.*

## **9 Memorial Bench Application (109-2020/21)**

Members considered a memorial bench application form.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the memorial bench application form.

## **10 Welcome Back Fund (110-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on the Government's 'Welcome Back Fund' for town centres. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting more guidance from CBC this week regarding the fund criteria.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council work with the Sandy Centre Group, via its representative Cllr Hewitt and the Chair of the group Cllr Gibson, to develop a list of proposals in preparation for a funding agreement with CBC. And that the list, with costings, be brought back to the Council for consideration along with the amount to which Sandy is eligible to apply for.

## **11 Fly Tipping and Waste (111-2020/21)**

- i) Members considered a question raised at Town Council by a resident in relation to fly tipping and waste around Sandy.

*Question: What is the Town Council doing to prevent the rubbish being left around town? I would suggest education is a small part of this.*

A Member said that the local tidy tip still had an appointment system in place, this could be adding to fly-tipping. Another Member said that new waste bins had been ordered by the Town Council for around the town which will help provide more bin provision. It was suggested material is released to remind residents to dispose of their own waste responsibly and to encourage people/local groups to litter pick around the town.

A Member said that the problem had got worse since the road sweeper had been moved to Biggleswade and the CBC contractors did not litter pick all the alleys and hidden areas in

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the town. Could the Council consider employing a litter picker to clear the streets of Sandy as part of the 2022/23 budget? The Clerk said that he was reporting all complaints to Waste at CBC.

The Council's Environmental Working Group would be looking at a 'Greener Sandy' publicity campaign which would include anti-littering as part of its messaging.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that at the next budgeting session in the autumn, the Town Council look to employ a part-time person to litter pick on all the small roads in the town.

It was also proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a competition be set up whereby local school children design a poster to deter fly-tipping and that these posters are circulated around the town and on the new waste bins.

A Member said that the garden at the entrance to the town from Potton was overgrown and needed a tidy up as part of the spring clean initiative. He offered his assistance with this project and asked that other Members did the same.

- ii) Members received and noted information about the 2021 Great British Spring Clean taking place from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June. The Council would provide litter picks and arrange collection of rubbish for volunteer pickers.

## **12 The Riddy Drainage Work (112-2020/21)**

Members received a report on proposed works by the drainage board on Council owned land in The Riddy, Sandy.

The Clerk was asked to speak to IDB about cleaning the stream through Beeston Green and additional work towards Hatch. Also, to speak to the IDB about cleaning the culvert to the A603. Thanks were given to the Clerk for a well-prepared report.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Committee approve works to be undertaken by the IDB. That work takes place in September 2021. That a representative from BRCC is present during the works to ensure that they are done in a method agreed between BRCC, Wildlife Trust, Sandy Town Council and IDB. That the Wildlife Trust liaise with the grazier to manage cows who will be on site at the time of the works.

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## **13 Skatepark Project (113-2020/21)**

- (i) Members received and considered an update report from the Skatepark Working Group.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to receive the update report and that the Working Group develop a tender document for the appointment of a contractor to work in partnership with the Council on designing, consulting and fundraising for the new concrete skatepark facility. That the tender document be approved by the Policy, Finance & Resources committee prior to the process starting. That Councillors on the Skatepark Working Group carry out the tendering process and make a recommendation on a preferred contractor/partner to the Council.

- (ii) Members noted that the Working Group were applying to the VERU grant fund for up to £5,000 towards the skatepark project.

## **14 Fair at Sunderland Road (114-2020/21)**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on the fair held at Sunderland Road recreation Park starting from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

The Clerk had previously checked the relevant risk assessments and visited the site. Several Members said that they had visited the fair on the Saturday trading day and found it had excellent COVID compliance and the fairground owners had done a great job for the community. The Clerk reported that he had received one complaint regarding COVID safety issues with the fair and would be speaking to the fairground owner for feedback.

## **15 Events Working Group (115-2020/21)**

- i) Members received and noted the notes from a meeting of the Events Working Group.

Thanks were expressed to everyone for arranging the events.

- ii) Members noted that the Sandy street food market is due to start again in May 2021 in the car park on a Friday, subject to COVID guidance at the time.
- iii) Members received and noted an update on the Spring Craft Market to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

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**16 Chairman's Items (116-2020/21)**

The Chair reported that only two Members had put their names down for the Events Working Group and asked if any other Members would consider joining. Cllr Thompson indicated he hoped to be more involved going forward.

**17 Date of Next Meeting (117-2020/21)  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**