

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 27th June 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllr Quick

In Attendance: Mr C Robson (Town Clerk)

Action

1 Apologies for absence (15-2016/17)

Cllrs J Ali and G Leach

2 Declarations of interest (16-2016/17)

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

3 Minutes of previous meeting (17-2016/17)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16 May 2016 as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (18-2016/17)

None present. The Town Clerk informed Members he had received a complaint from a member of the public in relation to the Sunderland Road Skate Park. The Clerk informed Members he would detail the complaint during item 9 of the agenda.

5 Action list (19-2016/17)

It was noted that no responses had been received from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) in regards several queries.

It was questioned whether there was any further update as to when the results of the no 73 bus consultation would be released. The Town Clerk informed Members that he had not received any further information. A Member stated a resident had informed him CBC were making preparations for yellow lines to be marked out to allow the turning circle for the bus, however Stagecoach had not yet confirmed that they would start running the no 73 bus along the previous route again.

The Chair informed Members that the Clerk had confirmed that

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while the Town Council has the Power to provide public toilets there is not a duty for it to do so. This item would now be removed from the action list.

It was agreed that future action lists should include the dates of letters and chasing letters sent from the office so the situation can be monitored.

The other items on the Action List were noted.

6 **Grass Cutting (20-2016/17)**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on contractual grass cutting in Sandy. The Clerk informed Members that the office had received complaints about the quality of work and this had also been noted by the grounds team. The Clerk had brought issues raised to the attention of CBC's Waste Manager who would address the concerns directly with the contractor.

A Member stated that they had also received complaints, especially about the Fallowfield area, and that they had taken these up with CBC. It was queried whether the complaints should be sent to the Town Council office first. The Clerk confirmed that Members should direct complaints to the office and he would take them up directly with CBC's Waste Manager. A log of all complaints and the action taken would be kept.

A Member noted that work had begun on litter picking on the A1 and that this was good to see. He hoped this would continue in the future. It was positive to see action had been taken following the Town Council's efforts.

A Member stated that at some point in the future, the Town Council should look at the practicalities of taking over grass cutting from CBC.

Members discussed the Dedication Agreement for work around the perimeter of the Fallowfield Estate. The Clerk informed Members that the previous Clerk had looked to get CBC Highways to take over the work as the Town Council did not have the equipment or expertise to deal with the bank and hedgerow cutting. A Dedication Agreement had now been received which, if agreed, would allow Highways to take over the maintenance.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the Town Council enters into a Dedication Agreement and that the regular maintenance of the bank and hedgerow around Fallowfield be carried out by the Highways Authority.

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7 **BRCC Community Agent Scheme (21-2016/17)**

Members received a proposal from BRCC for the future employment of a Community Agent for Sandy via BRCC, with a financial contribution from the Town Council for the Agent's wages. Members discussed the report and commented that Sandy does have deprived areas in need of such a service and that the scheme had many merits. Members were concerned that STC was being asked to pick up and fund services which should be provided by CBC. Much of the role of the Community Agent was offered by various CBC departments and falls under their remit. It was also noted that organisations such as Aragon Housing should be involved in supporting the scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supported the principle of a Community Agent for Sandy, but could not financially commit to the scheme.

8 **Tree Work (22-2016/17)**

Members received and discussed a report from the Town Clerk. Members noted that trees had been catalogued once before and much of the information needed was provided in previous reports from CBC. It was noted that it would be a large job to catalogue all trees, and work should begin initially on those areas identified as a priority by the grounds team. A decision would need to be taken on how often the Council wants trees to be surveyed, based on the number of trees in its ownership.

Resolved that the office and grounds team map and catalogue STC owned trees and bring back a suggested inspection programme to the committee.

Admin

9 **Play Area Inspections (23-2016/17)**

Members received and reviewed the results of the recent RoSPA play area inspections. The Clerk informed members that the grounds team was addressing the recommendations in the report.

A Member noted that many items had algae growth and a power wash was recommended, the Member suggested that weed killer should also be sprayed. Members asked that more specific details be included on the level of wear on chain links in future reports.

Members noted that the overall risk level for the Skate Park was 'High'. The equipment does not belong to the Council, as it is under the ownership of the Sandy Skate and Youth Association (SSYA) who have a lease for the land with the Council. The Clerk informed

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Members that he had received a complaint from a resident about anti-social behavior at the youth shelter; the office had made the police aware. The issue will be brought to the attention of the SSYA.

A Member stated that the lease agreement with the charity for the use of Council land needed to be addressed as the date of the lease had now lapsed. An extension had previously been discussed, but the Council would need to consider the implications of this with the Charity. The lease stated that the Council would inspect, repair and maintain but not replace.

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It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and write to the Sandy Skate and Youth Association advising them of the inspection recommendations and that the lease agreement status must be reviewed.

10 **Central Bedfordshire Libraries Opening Hour Review (24-2016/17)**

The Chair stated that the consultations proposition was good news, with Sandy library due to be open an additional two hours per week. The Chair had spoken with the library staff who had confirmed they were happy with the additional two hours, but that they had concerns over a Monday closure. Many residents use internet services provided by the library and closure on a Monday would provide a long service gap, while a midweek closure would have less of an impact on service provision.

Another Member echoed the Chair's comments and said that the library put on some excellent events and that the additional two hours was good for the community.

Resolved to support the proposed changes and welcome the additional two hours opening time in Sandy. To request that Sandy library staff should be able to decide on the library closure day based on their view of providing the best possible service.

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11 **Central Bedfordshire Neighborhood Watch Association (25-2016/17)**

Members discussed a communication from the Chair of the Bedfordshire Neighborhood Watch Association (BNWA), in which it was requested that the Town Council publicise the work and news of the association and have a recurring item on the Council's meeting agenda covering the BNWA. Members felt that there was no need to make the BNWA a recurring agenda item, but to include it when there was relevant information and reports.

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RESOLVED to support the Neighborhood Watch Association by publicising material on the Council website and Information point.

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12 Health Care Provision in Sandy (26-2016/17)

Members received a response from NHS England addressing their concerns about the pressure placed on health care provision in Sandy.

The Clerk informed Members that the office had responded to the letter thanking them and asking for more details.

13 Chairman's Announcements (27-2016/17)

The Chair had no announcements.

14 Date of Next Meeting (28-2016/17)

Monday 8th August 2016