

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 24th June 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, W Jackson, M Pettitt, C Osborne, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), CBC Cllrs C Maudlin and T Stock and five candidates for co-option

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (29-2019/2020) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs T Knagg, N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (30-2019/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - Noneii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Jackson declared an interest in Item 6, as he is a relative by marriage of one of the candidates for co-option.iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	
<p>3 Public Participation Session (31-2019/20) No members of the public were present.</p>	
<p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (32-2019/20) RESOLVED to: Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 13th May 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (33-2019/20) To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) RESOLVED to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 20th May 2019 and 10th June 2019.	

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- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 20th May 2019.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on the 3rd June 2019.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 10th June 2019.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be adopted by Full Council subject to the amendments in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the Jenkins Management contract be signed by Council subject to amendments outlined in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the Protocol for Marking the Death of a Royal or Senior National Figure or Local Holder of High Office be adopted by Council subject to changes outlined in the minutes. The Clerk confirmed that St Swithun's Church had agreed that flowers could be laid in their grounds.

6 Co-Option of Town Councillors (34-2019/20)

The Chairman welcomed the five candidates and the Clerk briefed the meeting on the procedure for co-option which would take place in accordance with our current Schedule of Standing Orders. Members and candidates were reminded that there were three vacant positions, one in Fallowfield Ward and two in Pinnacle Ward.

One by one the five candidates presented themselves while their four fellow candidates left the chamber and were asked questions by Members.

Following candidate presentations, it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all five candidates were nominated and put through to the voting round.

The Clerk stated that a majority of six votes was required for a candidate to be co-opted. Should no candidate receive a majority of votes in the first round the candidate with the least number of votes would be eliminated and a second and if necessary, further round(s) of voting would take place until one candidate had secured the required number of votes. Voting for each of the three vacant seats would need to be taken separately, one at a time.

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Voting was by paper ballot.

Following voting by Members, the Clerk announced that Sarah Doyle had the required majority of votes for Fallowfield Ward, and both Joanna Hewitt and Ruth Lock had the required majority of votes for Pinnacle Ward and they were therefore co-opted onto the Council.

RESOLVED to co-opt Sarah Doyle, Joanna Hewitt and Ruth Lock as members of Sandy Town Council and invite them to join the Council.

There was a short break in proceedings while co-opted Councillors signed their declaration of office forms.

7 Committee Appointments (35-2019/20)

- i) It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Doyle, Hewitt and Lock be appointed to the Development Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/20 Council year.
- ii) It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Hewitt and Lock be appointed to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for the 2019/20 Council year.
- iii) It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Doyle be appointed to the Community Services and Environment Committee for the 2019/20 Council year.

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (36-2019/20)

CBC Cllr Stock apologised for the Briefing Notes being late.

Cllr Stock confirmed that the Town & Parish Conference would be held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at Beadlow Manor Golf Club. This was a different venue to usual as the Local Plan inspection meant the Central Bedfordshire Council base at Chicksands was not available. The conference is particularly aimed at new councillors.

Cllr Stock informed Members that she attended a regular meeting with representatives from Highways England, at which the improvement works at the Black Cat roundabout had been discussed and concerns about the impact on Sandy were raised. It was suggested some funding was available for investment on the Sandy stretch of the A1 and Cllr Stock had emphasised a need for sound barriers, a new bridge crossing at Beeston and a footpath for New Road. Cllr Stock asked for any other ideas that could be put forward for consideration. A Member suggested the installation of signs at the London Road A1 exit and weight restrictions to stop use of the road as a rat run.

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Cllr Stock spoke on the Future High Street Fund, which is to be covered later in the agenda. The fund is open to bids from authorities across the country and is intended to support projects which will transform High Streets. The number of bids allowed per authority is based on the population level of the areas. In Central Bedfordshire Council's case this means it can submit a maximum of two bids. Central Bedfordshire Council has commissioned town centre user and business data gathering and surveying work. The results of this work will underpin any potential bids and help provide evidence showing which towns may meet the Government's criteria. Any projects put forward will need to be creative and show a genuine transformation of the High Street to show how it will adapt to meet the future and the changing habits of users.

9 Corporate Governance (37-2019/20)

- i) Members received the internal audit year-end report noting there were no issues raised by this audit. Staff were thanked for their work in achieving this.
- ii) Members received the Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to answer in the affirmative to questions 1-8 of the 18/19 Annual Return and to sign the document.

Chair/
Clerk

10 Annual Return (38-2019/20)

- i) **RESOLVED** to approve the year-end accounts for 2018/19.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Annual Return financial report.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to agree the dates for public inspection of the accounts as 26th June to 6th August 2019.

Chair

11 Action List (39-2019/20)

Members noted the Action List.

A1 – Local Issues: The Clerk confirmed that MP, Alistair Burt had invited representatives of Council to a meeting with himself and SG19. The Mayor, Deputy and Council SG19 Representative would be attending and will report back to Council. The meeting is to be held on the 19th July 2019.

Chair/
Deputy/
Clerk

Sandy Place Academy: It was noted that prior to the start of the Council meeting, Members had met with Central Bedfordshire

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Council's Mr Tony Keaveney, who is co-ordinating discussions around the future of Sandye Place as a facility. Mr Keaveney had informed Members that he is to develop a report on feasibilities and requirements around the protection and use of Sandye Place and that following its completion he will meet with the Council again in September 2019 to discuss the report.

A Member commented that Sandy was not always given 'a fair crack of the whip' and Central Beds Council should be lobbied to include the Town Council and residents in decisions. Another Member said that local organisations who use the facilities at the school, require quick answers. It was suggested that a list of all users be obtained from the school and that the Town Council write to Mr Keaveney emphasising points made at an earlier meeting with him and to highlight all the community groups who will be affected. A Member asked that this item appears on all committee meetings agendas/action lists.

Town Clerk

CBC Cllr Maudlin added that the Sandy Ward Councillors would be attending a meeting next week regarding the closure of Sandye Place Academy and asked that the Sandy Ward Councillors be copied into any correspondence on the matter to ensure all parties continued to work together.

12 **Action Plan (40-2019/20)**

Members received and considered the Action Plans. A Member said that the events section had slipped off the CSE action plan and should be added.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to agree the one-year Action Plans for the Council and its committees.

Town Clerk

13 **Council Insurance Renewal (41-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a proposal on changing the Council's insurance provider.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept WPS's recommendation to take cover with Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Plc which would take effect from 1st July 2019 and run for three years.

Admin

14 **Passenger Benefit Fund (42-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a report on the Passenger Benefit Fund and the opportunity it provides for Sandy Station.

The Clerk tabled and read out an email he had received from CBC Cllr Ford updating the Council on the creation of a Rail User Group

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and the Benefit Fund. A new Facebook Sandy Rail Users Group had been set up and had already achieved 233 members. Cllr Ford has emailed GTR confirming the official group, as advised by the Biggleswade and Arlesey Rail Users Group. So far, several ideas on how to allocate the £80,000 funding for Sandy Station had been put forward and he proposed that he set up an online polling vote, listing all the options available together with costings, and the top five will be what the group put forward to the GTR. He then asked for suggestions from the Town Council to be added to the list.

Members discussed the matter and made the following points:

- The lack of parking and the pressure this puts on residential streets is becoming increasingly problematic. Increased parking should be a key issue when looking at improvements
- There is a need for more shelters on the north side of the station
- The exit opposite Woolfield is dangerous and needs making safer and blocking off entirely
- There is a need for traffic mirrors on exits
- Disabled access on the south side needs to be improved
- Additional robust cycle storage is needed
- CCTV security for cycle storage is needed

A Member said that several items in the report were routine remedial works and should not be funded from the benefit Scheme. The Scheme should bring forward real additional improvements for passengers, as opposed to just maintenance work. It was also noted that the funds were limited and not all the items raised could be addressed.

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the Benefit Fund consultation prioritising;

Additional cycle stands
Improved cycle security
Additional waiting shelters on the north side of the station.

Town Clerk

The Clerk was asked to write to Govia Thameslink and ask that the routine remedial maintenance/works be carried out and that action be taken to address the unsafe vehicle exit from the station.

Town Clerk

15 **Future High Street Fund (43-2019/20)**

Members received and noted the Clerk's report. It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council will be carrying out town centre surveys during the summer and that the results of these would provide a basis for the development of any possible bids for the fund. A Member was concerned that the government's prospectus

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repeatedly linked town centre housing development to successful bids. Another Member commented that they had taken this to mean change of use for current vacant buildings as opposed to new development in a town centre. The Clerk was asked to write to Central Beds Council and ask for confirmation that the new housing delivery at a site such as Sandye Place would not be included in any bids that might be developed.

16 A428 – Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements (44-2019/20)

- i) Members received Cllr Peter Blaine's report on Highways England's Community forum Meeting.
- ii) Members noted that the forum will meet quarterly and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Gibson and Blaine will be the Council's representatives.

17 Reports from Representatives (45-2019/20)

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Special Meeting of Sandy Sports and Leisure Association which took place on 11th June. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Pettitt thanked Cllr Hill for his thorough report and said he wished to add the following in order to bring all STC members fully up-to-date:

Although Woodfines solicitors had confirmed in writing they would act for the Council in this matter, he and the Clerk's initial reaction was that the solicitor's proposed costs seemed rather high bearing in mind the relatively little work involved. The Clerk intended to take this up with Woodfines in the first instance and report back in due course. The Deputy Mayor further reported that on 19th June in his capacity as Secretary of SSLA, he met with Central Beds Council's officer, Neil Cartwright - based in the Community Services Directorate at Chicksands, to discuss renewal of the Lease and Licence between the former Beds CC, Mid Beds DC and SSLA which expire in July 2021. Mr Cartwright indicated that he hoped the Draft Heads of Terms document would be ready for the SSLA members to consider at their meeting on the 16th July 2019 and the Deputy Mayor added that a further report would be included on the next Full Council agenda.

Finally, Cllr Pettitt advised that also representing SSLA, he met with the Head of Sandy Secondary School at her request on 20th June. The meeting was more or less

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confined to a discussion around the quid pro quo arrangement contained in the existing agreement referred to above, whereby pupils attending SSS (and feeder schools) have access during curriculum hours to use of the all-weather pitch in return for users of the pitch outside school hours having access to toilets and changing facilities in the school and whether SSLA envisaged any fundamental changes to this in a new agreement. Cllr Pettitt said he had assured Miss Hayward that while it was true that Members had become frustrated at the prolonged lack of progress towards refurbishment of the relevant facilities in the school, SSLA had not resolved or considered seeking any changes in the long-standing arrangements and anticipated that the draft Heads of Terms referred to above would reflect that position.

- ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Talk of the Town Minibus (TOTT). Cllr Aldis said that he would be dealing with bookings for the service. It was confirmed that the Ivel Sprinter and TOTT did not wish to join together to help in the running of the service.
- iii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Sutton on the Air Training Corps AGM.

18 Mayor's Engagements (46-2019/20)

Members noted the Mayor's Engagements.

19 News Release (47-2019/20)

- Sandye Place Academy closure
- Community Stand
- Three new Councillors appointed
- Fingerpost has been placed in Skarszewy that points to Sandy.

20 Chairman's Items (48-2019/20)

There were no Chairman's items

21 Date of Next Meeting (49-2019/20)

Monday 5th August 2019

Cllr
Pettitt/
Clerk

Admin