**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 20 August 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

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| **Present:** | Cllrs N Aldis, W Jackson (Chairman), A Maycock, C Osborne (substitute for Cllr Scott), Mrs M Runchman, R Smith and Mrs S Sutton |
| **Absent:** | Cllrs J Ali, K Lynch, M Scott. |
| **Members in attendance:** | Cllr D Sharman  The Town Clerk was also in attendance. |

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Lynch and Scott. |
| **2** | **Declaration of interests**   1. **Personal Interests**   None   1. **Pecuniary Interests**   Cllr Aldis declared a pecuniary interest in all items pertaining to the allotments as he held an allotment tenancy with Sandy Town Council. |
| **3** | **Minutes of previous committee meetings**  **It was resolved:** to approve the minutes of meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 25 June 2012 as a correct record of proceedings. |
| **4** | **Market**  A report from the Clerk had been circulated in advance of a meeting on 25 June 2012 but the item of business had been deferred to this meeting. Members discussed a range of issues pertaining to the market including its position, timing, rental costs, rates, the number of stall holders and the involvement of the Town Team in its future.  In order to encourage the market to continue **it was resolved** to recommend to Council that   1. the existing stallholders be encouraged to remain in situ in the town car park on Fridays at the present fees 2. that new stallholders be encouraged to set up market stalls on the pavement outside the chemist and chip shop rather than in the car park. A deposit equivalent to the sum of the first month’s rent would be taken from new stall holders but rent would not be charged until the second month of trading (provided the stallholders had set up a stall at each market in the first month). The deposit would be used to pay this rent and thereafter rent would be collected in the usual way from the third month. 3. the Clerk would seek guidance about whether a reduction in market rates was available as there were now fewer stalls 4. a list of potential stallholders held by the Town Team would be used to make contact with new traders and existing “free” publicity channels (eg the Bulletin) would be used to advertise the changes.   The Clerk noted that this recommendation could be taken to the Town Council meeting on Monday 10th September by which time additional information could be obtained about the feasibility of using the pavements for the Friday market and a rate review could have been requested. Members noted that only a single stall of each type would be permitted as at present. |
| **5** | **Pinders Circus**  A request from Pinders Circus to use Sunderland Road Recreation Ground on 8th, 9th, and 10th April 2013 was considered.  **It was resolved:** to grant permission for the Circus to use part of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground on the dates requested at a fee of £55 per trading day. |
| **6** | **Tesco Bus Stop**  A report from the Deputy Clerk requesting feedback from Council on the proposed specification of a bus shelter had been circulated in advance of the meeting.  **It was resolved:** to approve the bus shelter specification as described in the report. |
| **7** | **Benches outside Quince Court**  A report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Members noted the reduction of bench provision outside Quince Court and it was agreed to include provision of additional benches at this site in the estimates process for 2013/14. The Clerk explained that an insurance claim was not possible as the criminal damage to the benches predated the street furniture cover recently acquired by the council.  **It was resolved:** to contact Aragon housing and the manager at Quince Court to encourage donations and/or fundraising for replacement of these benches. |
| **8** | **Review of Communications**  A report had been circulated before the meeting which described Council’s current arrangements with the Bulletin and Councillors Surgeries and this was discussed.  **It was resolved:** to continue to use the Bulletin as a vehicle for a single page advertisement for the Town Council on a monthly basis and to ensure that copy was prepared with the new distribution deadline in mind.  **It was resolved:** to continue to use the Sandy Library as a venue for Town Council surgeries but to hold all surgeries on Saturdays to coincide with CBC members’ surgeries.  The Clerk invited members to contribute suggested copy to the office for inclusion in the Bulletin either in the form of articles, ideas or suggestions for articles. |
| **9** | **The Limes**  A report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting following a resident’s request that a previous decision of Sandy Town Council be reconsidered. The resident (who had apologized that he was unable to attend the meeting) wished to purchase or lease land behind his property in Lime Avenue. Members had attended a site visit with the Deputy Clerk and this visit together with the report was discussed. The implications for Council were considered in some detail. The committee was minded to make no charge for the land because of its size. No other neighbours had expressed an interest in acquiring additional garden land. Members noted that permission for any land transactions would still be required from the proprietor of the land marked on the title deed BD214333.  **It was resolved:** to recommend to Council that the resident be given permission to formally acquire the land at no charge save the payment by him of all legal fees on both sides.  **It was resolved:** to write to all neighbours informing them that there might not be a cost in them acquiring the land (although it would be made clear that all legal fees on both sides, planning permissions etc would not be borne by the Council) and to ask whether this altered their views. |
| **10** | **Allotments**  *(Cllr Aldis left the meeting and did not participate in this item of business.)*  A report from the Clerk detailing work undertaken to secure allotment sites in Sandy during the past year was received and noted.  **It was resolved:** to follow the recommendations contained in the report and to pursue the possibility of compulsory leasing of a specific site.  *(Cllr Aldis returned to the meeting.)* |
| **11** | **Christmas Lights**  The Christmas Lights Working Group was not scheduled to meet until Wednesday 22 August at 5 pm so a formal report was not available. Meanwhile the Clerk reported that work had been undertaken to obtain a range of quotations for illuminations from alternative suppliers and this work continued. The Clerk reported that although there had been communication between the Council and the Chamber of Trade a meeting between the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk and representatives of the Chamber of Trade which was included in resolution 48/2012-2013 at a Town Council meeting on 23 July had not yet been arranged due to pressure of work and other priorities. The Chamber of Trade had offered to donate their existing supply of lights and it was anticipated that the Working Group would want to accept this offer. There was further discussion of plans for a switch-on event and Members noted the short timescale until the lights were due to be installed (approximately 9 weeks). |
| **12** | **The Riddy**  Members noted a brief report concerning the Riddy and were advised that an officer meeting would be held on 10 October 2012 to discuss the management plan for the Riddy now that the Council had achieved Higher Level Scheme qualification. In response to a question the Clerk advised Cllr Sharman who had spent many years working as a conservation volunteer on the Riddy that he would be welcome at the officer meeting and details would be supplied to him. However, the Open Spaces Committee which previously dealt with strategic management of the Riddy had ceased to exist and strategic decisions about the Riddy would be made at the Community Services and Environment Committee. A report from the officers’ meeting would be supplied to the committee. |
| **13** | **Press Release**  None |