


Sandy Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 9th February 2015 at 6.00pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below



A W Jackson, Town Mayor
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
4th February 2015

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

A G E N D A

- | | | Reports |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence
To receive any apologies for absence | x |
| 2 | Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations
<i>Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)</i>
<i>This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIS and also those who wish to do so may draw attention to their stated DPIS and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.</i>
i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
ii) Non Disclosable Interests
iii) Dispensations | x |

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Staffing issues

To consider matters concerning staffing arrangements.* To follow

*** Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

Additional Agenda item Monday 9th February 2015

2. Breach of confidentiality

There has been a serious breach of the code of conduct, with confidential matters discussed at a council meeting being distributed to members of the public. This is despite members being reminded by the Mayor that the proceedings should be kept confidential.

This breach is likely to have serious financial implications for the Council and as a result, the taxpayers of Sandy. It is my duty therefore to draw members' attention to the following:

"Individual members and officers of local authorities are not generally liable for the authority's acts or omissions. Section 265 of the Public Health Act 1875 provides councillors and local authority officers, when acting in the course of their duties and in good faith, with statutory immunity for the actions they take."

However:

"If the wilful misconduct of a councillor is found to have caused loss to a local authority, the councillor may be held liable to make good such loss to the council (section 161(4) of the Local Government Act 1972)."

"Where the local authority is found to be vicariously liable for the acts or omissions of an employee or member, the authority arguably has a duty to pursue a contribution from that employee or member."

Obviously it is too early to consider the possible implications of the present situation but it may well be something members need to consider in the future and they need to be aware that their office does not convey complete immunity for their behaviour upon them.