

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow, and S Sutton (Chair)

**Absent:** Cllrs T Cole, M Hill, G Leach and N Thompson

**In Attendance:** Cllrs P Blaine, M Pettitt, and Mr C Robson (Clerk)

## Action

**1 Apologies for absence (71-2018/19)**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cole, Hill and Thompson.

**Admin**

**2 Declarations of interest (72-2018/19)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting (73-2018/19)**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.

**4 Public Participation Session (74-2018/19)**

No members of the public were present. A Member raised a question which had been asked by a Member of the Public. The Council were asked if they would support the installation of a bus shelter at the stop on London Road. It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Council support the installation of a bus shelter on London Road and make an application to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of such a shelter.

**Admin**

**5 Action list (75-2018/19)**

Members reviewed the action list.

Parking Restrictions: Members reviewed the action list and noted that progression on Central Bedfordshire Council's Parking Strategy was still awaited. A contractor had now been commissioned to complete work on the draft strategy, however no time scales had been provided. It was agreed that the matter should remain on the action list for another cycle and that an update be brought to the new council.

Play Parks Equipment: The Clerk informed Members that the Sunderland Road play park had now been opened and that ROSPA

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had inspected the equipment. The temporary fencing is to be removed from site this week. The importance of making sure the park was open in time for the school Easter holidays was stressed and the Clerk confirmed this would be the case. There are still some concerns over the uneven surfacing and the contractor is attending site the week of 1st April 2019 to rectify the issue.

**Town  
Clerk**

Great British Spring Clean: Members noted that the Council's outdoor team will look to hold a litter picking event in the school holidays and that this will focus on the Sand Hills. Three community groups had come forward to borrow litter picks from the Council as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Pictures from their event have been requested.

## **6 Town Council Car Park (76-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a request for a bulk purchase of car park passes for the Town Council car park. A Member commented that he had some sympathy for the Royal Mail's situation and that it was a shame they could not have negotiated parking with the Co-op. The request being made was for too many cards, although a lesser number could be supported.

Members agreed that the request for 20 cards was too large and that the impact this would have on an already busy car park would be too great.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Council approve the purchase of 10 cards by Royal Mail for use by employees.

A Member spoke against the proposal, stating that the car park was up to capacity and that it can be very difficult to park. He felt that the Council may still need to revisit the introduction of charges following an initial free period. The car park must be of benefit to the town's traders. The Member therefore spoke against issuing any more parking passes at this time.

A Member queried whether the employees who were to use the cards are considered as 'essential employees' and would there be an impact on services if they were unable to park?

A Member asked whether the cards could be monitored. The Clerk confirmed that data can be downloaded from the barrier which shows which cards have been used and when. The connection is getting old and in the past the barrier maintenance company have experienced some difficulty downloading the data.

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Members voted on the proposition on the table and it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Royal Mail be permitted to purchase 10 Cards for use by Royal Mail employees working at the Sandy depot.

**Admin**

Members voted on the recommendation with the Clerk's report and it was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the income generated from the cards be earmarked for expenditure on maintenance of the car park.

**Town Clerk**

The Chair commented that the limited parking restrictions in the car park meant that it was being used as residential parking, including overnight parking. The Clerk commented that there are some cars that are parked for long periods of time. Checks show that they are insured and MOT'd so cannot be moved under the car park's current parking rules.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a report be brought back to the new Council on the use of the car park so that the matter be considered in greater detail.

**Town Clerk**

## 7 **Charity Bins (77-2018/19)**

Members received information requested on permission for a charity clothes bank in the Town Council car park. Members doubted that the clothes bank had been in position for 8 years.

A Member commented that it would not be far short of the suggested 8 years and that feedback he had received suggested that it had proved popular and was well used. The main issue created was the often-untidy appearance of the area of car park the bank is located in. The charity operating the clothes bank must give an undertaking to ensure the bank is regularly maintained and donations collected. It was suggested that the charity should provide a schedule of collections and let the Council know when a collection was to take place, and this would help the Council monitor the situation.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the charity bank remains in place and that the charity is advised that a schedule of regular collection dates should be provided to the Town Council. The charity is to be advised that the area will be monitored and failure to take responsibility for the maintenance and emptying of the charity bank may lead to permission for its siting being withdrawn.

**Admin**

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## 8 **Allotment Heads of Terms (78-2018/19)**

Members received and considered updated Heads of Terms for community land at Beeston from Central Bedfordshire Council. Members raised some points of concern around the notice period, the legalities of having no rent as opposed to a peppercorn rent and clarification around the terms of underletting parts of the land for allotment use.

Members wished to move the matter along following some frustrating time delays in receiving Heads of Terms back from Central Bedfordshire Council. The details of the agreement itself should not be the next focus.

**RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Heads of Terms be approved by Council subject to the following amendments/clarifications;

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- The notice period be extended to 24 months.
- Rent be listed with a peppercorn amount.
- Clarification on the limit of no more than five years' underlet without permission from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Clarification be sought on what Central Bedfordshire Council define as someone who is 'not of financial standing acceptable to the landlord' and how this will be decided.

Members expressed some concerns over the length of time it would take to create the new allotments as they are reliant on the building of six affordable houses by Central Bedfordshire Council. Members felt that if suitable health and safety precautions could be agreed, site preparations and potentially even the start of allotment lets could be done separate to the house building and pedestrian access could be arranged via the Crescent. It was suggested that the Town Council suggest some suitable house builders to Central Bedfordshire Council to try and help move the project along.

## 9 **Sandy Green Wheel Report (79-2018/19)**

Members received and reviewed a report from Cllr Gibson on the Sandy Green Wheel. A Member thanked Cllr Gibson for a comprehensive report which provided the Council with a good update.

A Member noted that some matters could not be resolved or further developed until certain times due to existing leases over land. He asked if it was possible to get a timescale or date for expected completion of the cycle route. It was agreed that this could be raised at the June meeting of the group.

Cllrs  
Gibson /  
Aldis

Town  
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Members commented that an annual walk or cycle was a good idea and the establishment of a 'Friends of Sandy Green Wheel' group would help facilitate more use and publicity of the event.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the committee recommend that the Community Services and Environment committee of the new council look at the establishment of a 'Friends of Sandy Green Wheel' group.

Town  
Clerk

## 10 **Specialised Market (80-2018/19)**

Members noted that the French Market due to attend Sandy on 28th April had cancelled and said they would not be able to attend Sandy until October. The office had contacted other continental market organisers but was informed that no bookings were currently being taken. The Market Square Group was able to provide a World Village Market on the same weekend, which would feature crafts, clothes, food and drink.

A Member commented that the events budget had been increased for 2019/20 to help support such events and he hoped that we would do as much as we could to advertise the events to make sure they were a success and that organisers would return. It was suggested that the local radio station be used to advertise the market.

The Clerk reminded Members that the first 'Food Fest' market was due to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

## 11 **Future High Street Fund (81-2087/19)**

Members received updates issued from Central Bedfordshire Council on the Future High Street Fund. Members noted that only two projects would be put forward within Central Bedfordshire. A Member commented that some interactive installations for children may have merit, such as the musical boards located in Bedford town centre or large chess sets.

Further updates on the process and the Town Council's opportunity to get involved will be brought to the newly elected council.

## 12 **Chairman's Items (82-2018/19)**

The Chairman thanked Members of the committee for their hard work over the last four years and their service to Sandy Town Council.

## 13 **Date of Next Meeting (83-2018/19)**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

# **Sandy Town Council**