

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 1st July 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, M Hill, C Osborne, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, N Thompson

In Attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and two members of the public.

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (19-2019/20)**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Knagg and Thompson. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (20-2019/20)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (21-2019/20)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 20th May 2019 as a correct record of proceedings. Admin
- 4 **Public Participation Session (22-2019/20)**
A member of the public was present and would speak in relation to Agenda Item 6 at the relevant point in the meeting.
- 5 **Action list (23-2019/20)**
Members received the action list.

The Clerk informed Members that Woodfines had contacted him and would be sending through quotes for work required regarding both the SSLA lease and the Allotments and Community Orchard lease.

Members noted that the parking restrictions problems would be discussed at Item 8.
- 6 **Bus Stop at London Road (24-2019/20)**
A member of the public requested that a new bus shelter be placed at the stop on London Road. She explained that the No: 73 bus was frequently either delayed or cancelled and because of the exposed location of the site and that a number of older people use the stop, she specifically requested an enclosed or semi-enclosed

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shelter.

The Chairman explained that Central Beds Council have funds for new enclosed shelters with seats in both in London Road and Engayne Avenue and they should be installed in September 2019. This would make the existing Engayne Avenue shelter available to be sited elsewhere. A Member asked that consideration be given to site this shelter on St Neots Road.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to ask Central Beds Council to consider this request.

Town
Clerk

7 **Sandy Green Wheel (25-2019/20)**

Members received the report from Cllr Gibson and the Clerk on the establishment of the Friends of Sandy Green Wheel.

Cllr Gibson said her thoughts were to report problems to BRCC and give a call-out for volunteers or other groups who may wish to join in with the promotion and usage of the Green Wheel, carrying out litter picking and light pruning when paths become overgrown, reporting maintenance issues and littering to the Town Council and to suggest improvements to the Sandy Green Wheel Development Group (via a STC representative).

A Member said that Sandy Enhancement Group mainly concentrated on the Market Square area and Sandy Good Neighbours had arranged a litter pick this week.

A Member suggested contacting the Angling Club who regularly maintained the Sandcaste Path area.

A Member asked who should do maintenance work along the Green Wheel? She was told that it was the Central Beds Council's Rights of Way and Bridleways and Highways departments responsibility and that any maintenance issues should be fed to the Town Council and they would be reported to CBC.

A Member said that an article should be put in the next issue of The Bulletin asking for volunteers.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the FoSGW be an informal independent group of volunteers not requiring formal membership, structures and reporting. Once established the volunteers will act independently and report back to the Council. Volunteers will work together at organised events/activities such as litter picks and pruning of specific areas and on a more regular

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basis it's hoped that volunteers will monitor areas of the Green Wheel, litter pick and report issued to the Council as part of their use of sections of the Wheel.

A call for volunteers be put on the STC website and Facebook pages, in local newspapers, Biggles FM, word of mouth to dog walkers, local youth club and regular walking groups, BRCC mailing lists, make contact with the Ivel valley Volunteers to establish what work they carry out on the Green Wheel areas and connect them with FoSGW volunteers. Costs should be minimal and once established each volunteer should be provided with a litter picker and pruning scissors.

Cllrs Gibson and Aldis as the SGW representatives work on the actions above and report back to the next CS&E meeting.

Cllrs
Gibson &
Aldis

8 **Parking Strategy (26-2019/20)**

Members received a report from the response group set up to review and feed into CBC's Parking Strategy.

The Chairman confirmed that there was a three-hour parking limit at Sandy Tesco's which was missing from the report.

The Clerk explained that CBC had two strategies. The Parking Strategy had been put on hold because of a Local Plan not being in place and there would possibly be a consultation in 18 months' time. The second was a Parking Management Strategy which would develop how CBC may address certain problems, such as residents only parking schemes and how these might work. The Town Council would continue its surveys into the parking problems in Sandy and report back to CBC with its thoughts.

Members commented on Item 4 of the report regarding one-hour parking that this was in place on the Market Square, the High Street, outside the church and Station Road before the station. Regarding Item 5 a planning application had been submitted for car sales on land next to the existing car park. It was commented that there were potentially more problems on St Swithun's Way than Kings Road. A Member said that residents of Kings Road were anxious about problems that may occur when development of the old doctor's surgery site starts. Regarding Item 7 the yellow lines seem to be working at the entrance to Woolfield and Willow Rise but further into the estate parking has increased. Centurion Way may also have a parking problem in time. A Member said that there was not enough short-term parking even though the group said there was.

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A Kings Road survey sheet was then tabled, and a Member informed the meeting that costs had been asked for from CBC regarding permit parking schemes. It was suggested that “knock and drop” surveys could initially be done in Kings Road and St Swithuns Way.

Some Members commented that it was difficult to park in the Council’s car park between 9am-4pm and at some point the Council should consider looking into putting a timed restriction in place e.g. a 3-hour free limit, or having short and long term areas of the car park. Another Member agreed and said that the one-hour restriction outside the church was not long enough for church staff to do church work e.g. the church flowers or other church activities. He also said that the car park was not used by shoppers in the town centre.

Another Member said that the car park barrier was deterring commuters parking. It was mentioned that residents of the town centre also parked in the car park long term. The Clerk said a survey prepared two years ago said that 90% of people parking in the car park worked in Sandy.

A Member suggested that a survey of Kings Road was carried out first, but another Member said that there had been more complaints from St Swithuns Way, Cherrycroft and Stonecroft residents and that at some point surveys should be done in all the roads mentioned. The questions could be adapted to each area and a question on how many spaces a resident needed for their property should be added. A Member said a date to return the surveys by should also be included. A Member suggested that residents who do not drive but cycle or walk be included.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a parking survey initially be carried out in Kings Road and St Swithuns Way.

Cllr N
Aldis

9 **Town Entry Signage (27-2019/20)**

Members considered a report on renewing the town entry signage.

Members discussed the various examples of signage and agreed that the signs should be replaced with visible, shaped signs on posts with the Town Council’s crest on them. A Member said that a strapline should also be added perhaps incorporating Sandy’s Roman heritage.

Members also agreed that a fingerpost referring to our twinning

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partners be located in Faynes Corner garden, indicating the mileage to the two towns of Malaunay and Skarszewy

The Clerk said that Greensands Country would supply a sign to go underneath the town sign as well.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the town signs be replaced with visible, shaped signs on posts with the Town Council's crest on them to include a strapline incorporating Sandy's Roman heritage. The new signs costings to go to estimates this year. Members also agreed that a fingerpost referring to our twinning partners be located in Faynes Corner garden, indicating the mileage to the two towns of Malaunay and Skarszewy. The donation by the Rotary Club of £455 be used, acknowledging their donation on the signage.

Members thanked Katie Barker for the report.

10 **CCTV (28-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a report on the Council's CCTV provision.

A Member thanked all involved for the report and said that in the Council's car park. It was commented that the public toilets would not be able to be seen from the proposed cameras and if coverage of the toilets was wanted another camera might need to be considered.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that the Council upgrade all its existing cameras to new infra-red record only cameras and end 24/7 live monitoring of its cameras. That the PF&R committee consider quotations and specifications for new cameras and the annual revenue costs. That new infra-red CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of 10 Cambridge Road and that quotations be considered by PF&R. That new infra-red record only CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of the new council depot and quotations be considered by PF&R.

11 **French Market (29-2019/20)**

Members were asked to approve a request to hold a French Market in the car park on Sunday 13th October 2019.

A Member asked for more information and the Clerk stated that it was the same market that had had to cancel earlier in the year and that they would be trialing this market because it would be the first they have held in Sandy. They wished to use the full length of the

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car park, would set up and take down on the Sunday and also clear all the litter themselves. If the market is successful they will look at coming back next year for two days.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the request to hold a French Market in the car park on Sunday 13th October 2019.

12 **Events Working Group (30-2019/20)**

Members received the Minutes of a meeting of the Events Working Group. The Chairman said that brief Minutes would be prepared for Community Services & Environment Committee meetings with full details available on the relevant action lists.

A Member asked if the Events Budget was available to the Events Working Group? The Clerk stated that the group could spend £300 under its delegated authority from the Town Council.

Community Stand: Five offers of entertainment had been received.

VE Day 75 (8th May 2020): Proposals for this event should be submitted nearer the time.

Air Training Corps Parade & Service: This event has been moved to 9th February 2020.

Sandy & District Horticultural Association Show: Cllr Scott was asked to book a stand for the show for the Council. A photographic display board of recent Council events and posters advertising future events was suggested. Councillors to be on hand to answer residents' questions at the stand.

Christmas Lights Switch-On Event: The Council should have a presence at the event and likely a mulled wine stand.

Members proposals for any of the events to be brought to the next CS&E meeting.

13 **Chairman's Items (31-2019/20)**

The Chairman said that the Clerk would be emailing all councillors regarding setting up visits to assess council owned land with the grounds team.

14 **Date of Next Meeting (32-2019/20)**

Monday 12th August 2019