

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 6 August 2018 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Deputy Mayor), M Scott (Mayor), P Sharman, J Sparrow, S Sutton and N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllrs G Leach and D Sharman and CBC Cllrs C Maudlin, P Smith and T Stock

**In attendance:** Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), and one member of the public

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence (56-2018/2019)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs D Sharman and G Leach.	Admin
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (57-2018/2019)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> - None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> - None	
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Participation Session (58-2018/2019)</b> Cllr Aldis raised two queries: (a) Many residents had spoken to him regarding the path between Northcroft Health Centre and the Market Square between McColls and the smaller Britannia Pharmacy. The path is not a Right of Way but an unofficial permissive route. The Surgery has provided a paved surface up to the gate which is opened every morning by staff at Britannia Pharmacy, this has been the practice for many years. The gate has been shut whilst conversion work goes on at the barn at 17 Market Square. The Project Manager has said that the owner wants to use the area in front of the conversion as amenity space and he is also trying to purchase two parking spaces from the NHS to be used by the property. The Surgery Manager knows nothing of this plan. The alternative for patients walking from the surgery to the pharmacy is to go via Pleasant Place, an unadopted, unpaved surface which floods in heavy rain and is very uneven and hazardous to pedestrians with walking issues. This is a vital route between the	

# Sandy Town Council

Surgery and the Market Square and must NOT be lost to residents.

Cllr Aldis asks 'will the Town Council do all in its power to persuade the land owner that this is a very important route for patients and will it be retained for public use on weekdays?'

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ascertains who the land owner is and write to them. Also, to check the situation of the Pleasant Place road which was investigated a few years ago.

Town Clerk

- (b) Sandy is one of the most polluted places in the country and much of this pollution is caused by car and bus exhausts. In the Market Square, drivers have been asked to turn off their engines when waiting but will not as they have air conditioning on in their cars. Buses do not have air conditioning so could the Town Council write to Stagecoach and other bus companies who use the Market Square, to instruct their drivers to turn off their engines when ahead of time?

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to the bus companies.

Town Clerk

A member of the public wished to speak in relation to Item 9.

## 4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (59-2018/2019)**

**RESOLVED** to receive the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 25 June 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 5 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (60-2018/2019)**

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:

- i) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the Minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 2 July 2018 and 23 July 2018.

A Member welcomed CBC's refusal of the planning application for development to the north of Sandy and

# Sandy Town Council

wished for this to be recorded. He added that if it goes to appeal, the Town Council should be able to attend to make a strong representation.

- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on 23 July 2018.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation that charges for the 2018/19 season include a separate charge for use of mini pitches agreed at:

Casual use of mini pitches - £10 + VAT  
Seasonal use of mini pitches - £55

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation that the committee agree in principle to the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights becoming separate to the Council with its own bank account, subject to the group becoming a constituted charity and agreeing clarity over financial arrangements and areas of responsibility.

A member of the FOSCL confirmed that research had been made into a constitution and this would be further considered and agreed at their next meeting. A Member commented that there still needed to be clarity on who was responsible, both in terms of management and financially. The Chairman stated that this would need to be decided as early as possible to be put on the Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting Agenda on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. The Clerk would meet with the Chair of the group to discuss this matter.

- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the Minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on 2 July 2018.

## 6 Financial Matters (61-2018/2019)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to 30 June 2018 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 23 July 2018).

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 23 July 2018).
- iii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 23 July 2018).

## **7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (62-2018/2019)**

There were no CBC councillors present.

## **8 Action List (63-2018/2019)**

Members noted the action list.

## **9 Report from Councillor Meeting with Representatives of Highways England (64-2018/2019)**

Members received and considered notes from a meeting held with representatives of Highways England to discuss the proposed speed reduction scheme along the Biggleswade to Beeston section of the A1. Members welcomed the introduction of average speed cameras on the A1.

Mr Allen of SG19 tabled notes which detailed areas of concern along the Sandy section of the A1 from a site trip previously held with Highways England.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the meeting with Highways England.

## **10 Report from Councillor meeting with Alistair Burt MP (65-2018/2019)**

Members received the report from a meeting between Sandy Town Council representatives and Alistair Burt MP.

Members heard from Mr Allen of SG19 about the group's concerns and action they had taken to raise concerns with Highways and governmental departments. Mr Allen stated that a representative from Highways England had suggested there was due to be a change in the way funding was generated and that in the future it may come from Road Tax. This would give Highways far more money to work with. Mr Allen questioned why the 1994 route for the realignment of the A1 could not still

# Sandy Town Council

be considered, much of the land proposed for the route was still available. SG19 have been promised that they will be invited to take part in the Road Investment Strategy phase 2. From SG19's point of view the top priorities for the A1 are;

- 1) A bypass of Sandy
- 2) Local Improvements
- 3) Central Bedfordshire Council to take action on improving New Road

Members discussed the matter at length and commented that;

- Sandy has a far larger population than those parishes which may be affected by a re-route of the A1 and Mr Burt should take this into account when considering constituents representation. As a Council we must be more effective in getting Mr Burt's help.
- There needs to be a practical plan for a strategy to get a re-route of the A1.
- A Member commented that if the proposed community boards come forward the future of the A1 could be a matter that was discussed between neighbouring parishes to establish their stance on the realignment of the A1.
- It was noted that Mr Burt had stated that he was not able to get major infrastructure decisions made but could pursue more local improvements or actions. At the meeting he had asked the Council for specific points he could move forward with.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** for the Town Council to put forward to Mr Burt clear points it felt could be identified to improve safety on the A1.

The Council identified the following priorities:

- a) Introduction of an average speed camera scheme throughout the Sandy stretch of the A1
- b) Improved signage along the A1
- c) Improved line markings at New Road junction
- d) Pursue answers to the creation of a longabout at the Beeston cross-over

# Sandy Town Council

Members agreed that while the short-term improvements addressing current issues on the A1 are important, the long-term priority for Sandy and its residents, remains the re-alignment of the A1 and as such, the Town Council wished for it to be known that getting a decision to create a new route for the A1 remains the top priority for Sandy and its residents.

A Member noted that Mr Burt had asked the Council what it thought Sandy wanted to be. Members agreed that the town needed sustainable growth and should be in a position to benefit from the technological growth that will come from the East West Rail link. However, until decisions were made on the future of the A1 and the route of the East West Rail link, it was impossible to plan for sustainable growth in Sandy. The failure to make decisions on infrastructure is holding development of the town back.

Members agreed that the future of Sandye Place Academy was an important aspect of the Town's future and its protection as a community asset must be ensured.

Members suggested that a business forum may be a good way to establish contact with local business across the town. It was agreed to see if Mr Burt would support such a forum.

## **11 Model Standing Orders (66-2018/2019)**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments to the Council's standing orders which are in line with changes to NALC's model standing orders issued on 31 July 2018.

## **12 Section 106 Funding (67-2018/2019)**

Members noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Scouts had been successful in obtaining Section 106 funding for works to ensure the future of the Sandy HQ.

## **13 Play Park Improvements (68-2018/2019)**

Members noted that new play equipment for Beeston Green was installed on 1 August 2018, but the equipment for The Limes would be installed this week due to equipment problems. Therefore, the new swings and slide to be installed in the Fallowfield play area will be confirmed at a later date.

## **14 Consultations (69-2018/2019)**

- i) Members received details from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils on a Natural England consultation on the use of SSSI's byelaw-

# Sandy Town Council

making powers. The SSSI's in this area, namely the RSPB and The Riddy Nature Reserve could benefit from the proposals put forward.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council support the proposals within the consultation in principle.

- ii) Members noted that the Town Council had been invited to participate in the London Luton Airport consultation on the potential expansion of the airport.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Jackson would attend a consultation event and report back to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The Clerk will write to the consultation to inform them that the Council's official response will be forthcoming on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

## 15 Crime and Policing (70-2018/2019)

- i) The CCTV statistics were noted. The Clerk informed Members that CCTV in July had recorded two incidents. Police attended on both occasions and no arrests were made.
- ii) The Clerk stated that the police had changed their systems and Central Beds Council could not now access information for the crime statistics for June and July 2018. CBC are addressing this with the Police.

The Clerk was asked by a Member to contact the British Transport Police and ask for crime statistics reported on the railway.

- iii) Members noted an update on investigations into broken planters and damaged signage. The Clerk stated that the police were unable to take the matter further and that part of this was because it was not felt that the footage from the CCTV camera was of good enough quality to circulate in search of culprits. A Member asked why we were paying money for a CCTV system that could not identify individuals committing crimes and asked that the matter be brought back to a Community Services and Environment Committee.

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

- iv) It was noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner would be holding a public roadshow event in the Council chamber on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Members would receive an official invitation.

Cllr Thompson asked Members for key priorities for him to take with him to the next Police/Parish Priority Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. Subjects were anti-social behaviour, problems with off-road bikers and retail crime in the Market Square.

## **16 Reports from Representatives (71-2018/2019)**

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the recent trip to Skarszewy. He said that the trip was not a Twinning Association event but an invitation to the Council and staff to attend but no-one was available this year. He asked that councillors and staff advise him if they would be interested in attending next year, as this was an annual invitation.
- ii) Members received and noted a report on the last Town Councillor's Surgery. It was commented that all these questions could have been dealt with by the office in the week rather than wait for a surgery. A Member said that the location for these surgeries would be better in one of the local chemists to attract more footfall. A review of the surgeries would be taken to the next Council meeting. Cllrs Knagg and Thompson would be attending the next surgery on the 8 September.

## **17 News Release (72-2018/2019)**

A1 discussions

Archaeology

Town Council responds to A Burt's article in The Bulletin

## **18 Chairman's Items (73-2018/2019)**

The Mayor's Quiz in July raised £700 and was a very successful evening and he thanked everyone who attended.

He said that the Mayor's causes for this year would be "Improving the lives of the elderly".

## **19 Date of Next Meeting (74-2018/2019) Monday 17 September 2018**

Town Clerk



# Sandy Town Council