

Minutes of the Town Council meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.36pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, J Hewitt (Chair), R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, M Pettitt, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson.

Absent: Cllrs S Baker and C Osborne

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk), Ward Cllrs Bell, Ford and Pashby (until 20.00) and the developer for Planning Application CB/24/01744/FULL discussed at Item 12

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (54-2024/2025) Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Baker and Osborne.</p>	
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (55-2024/2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Scott declared an interest under Item 12 as the owner of the land relating to Planning Application CB/24/01744/FULLii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllrs Hewitt and Sharman declared a personal interest in Item 12 as named supporters of Planning Application CB/24/01744/FULL. They both stated they would leave the meeting for the item and it was proposed that Cllr Aldis, as Chair of DS, chair the item in their absence. Cllr Sutton also declared a personal interest in Item 12 as knowing the owner of the land relating to Planning Application CB/24/01744/FULL and stated she would not therefore take part in any voting on the matter.iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	
<p>3 Public Participation Session (56-2024/2025) No members of the public were present during this item.</p>	
<p>4 Minutes of Extra Ordinary Meeting of Town Council (57-2024/2025) Members received the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 24th June 2024 at 7.30pm and approved them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (58-2024/2025) Members received and noted the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees: RESOLVED:</p>	

- i) to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 1st July 2024.

6 Development Scrutiny Terms of Reference (59-2024/2025)

Members received a request from the Chair of the Development Scrutiny (DS) Committee to update the Committee's Terms of Reference to allow it to consider significant planning applications before Full Council. The change will enable DS to request additional information and/or make a recommendation to Full Council on each application.

A proposal to keep the Terms of Reference as they currently stand was made and seconded but rejected during the vote.

RESOLVED to update the Development Scrutiny Terms of Reference to allow DS to receive and consider significant planning applications prior to consideration by Full Council, in order to request additional information and/or make a recommendation to Full Council. Decisions for significant planning applications would remain with Full Council.

Town Clerk

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire (60-2024/2025)

Ward Councillors gave no reports as they said there was nothing new at the time to report on, however offered Members the opportunity to ask questions:

Cllr R Lock asked how the garden waste arrangements were going. Cllr Bell reported that other than one particularly difficult situation for one resident she was not aware of any significant issues that had been raised and that only around 20 residents across the whole CBC catchment area had reported difficulties with payments for the service. Cllr Bell would confirm numbers with the Clerk at a later date.

Cllr Pettitt asked how the structure of CBC has changed following recent events and the reporting of resignations from the Executive Leadership Committee. Cllr Ford answered that Cllr Whitaker was no longer an executive member and that he had also stepped down from that post. While Cllr Zerny as Leader of the Council and Cllr Hares had also both resigned, to ensure the Council was legally compliant Cllr Zerny would remain as leader of the Council and Cllr Hares would step into the role of Member for Children's Services until a new executive team had been voted in. This he added would need to take place before the next meeting on 18th July. Cllr Bell commented that Ward Councillors would keep Members informed of the changes.

Cllr Sutton mentioned that the Planning Application for a Care Home (CB/23/03546/OUT) on the A1 had been refused and asked on what grounds the decision had been made. Cllr Bell responded

it was down to location, as it was deemed highly unsuitable for a care home for dementia patients to be sited in that particular location, due to health and safety concerns. She added that the decision would be appealed.

Cllr Blackley reported ongoing activity at the waste site located in Beeston, which currently had an enforcement order on it. Cllr Bell advised that the enforcement order required the site to be re-instated to the condition it was in before any work took place. She also dismissed 'rumours' that a planning application had been made for the site.

8 Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group (61-2024/2025)

Members receive the minutes of the Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group held on Tuesday 11th June 2024.

RESOLVED to note the Minutes

Cllr Aldis commented that the meeting had taken place following a site meeting to view progress of the build and stated that a completion date of 10th September had been quoted.

Cllr Pettitt added that it was disappointing that the electrical equipment to control the floodlights for the All Weather Pitch was not accessible from the new reception area of the Jenkins Pavilion as had been agreed previously, allowing the leisure management company to control the lighting from this area. CBC had since requested Pentaco to undertake work to move the electrics, for completion before the winter months come in.

He also reported that after a request to the team CBC would be getting a quote to have gravel around the All Weather pitch replaced with a permeable bonded resin, to prevent debris littering the pitch area and causing damage to the pitch surface. Sandy Sports and Leisure Association had stated they would be willing to contribute to the costs of this.

Ward Councillors Bell, Ford and Pashby left the meeting.

9 Website Development (62-2024/2025)

Members received a proposal from the Town Council’s current website providers on a new enhanced website for the Council.

The Clerk commented that further quotes were being sought for the work and that the Council would need to create a full brief before these could be pursued in earnest. She added that it was important that feedback from residents, as the end user of the website, was gathered to inform the brief.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Blackley and Lacey would work with the Clerk and the Community Engagement Officer to create a brief for the new website, so that quotes could be obtained for the next budget planning cycle in October 2024.

Town Clerk/Cllr Blackley, Cllr Lacey and Community Engagement Officer

Cllr Aldis left the meeting at 20.10

10 Cemetery Extension Project (63-2024/2025)

Members received a report from the Clerk that gave CDS’s answers to Members queries regarding the continuation of work on a Section 73 Change of Conditions (Condition 15 Approved Plans) and associated cost estimates.

RESOLVED to agree the quote and contract CDS to complete the works.

Town Clerk

Cllr Aldis rejoined the meeting at 20.14

11 Action Plan (64-2024/2025)

Members reviewed the Full Council Action Plan for 2024/25.

RESOLVED to note the Plan.

Town Clerk

12 Planning Applications (65-2024/2025)

Members considered the following application submitted for comment by Central Bedfordshire Council.

CB/24/01744/FULL	Seddington Nurseries, High Road, Seddington, Sandy, SG19 1NZ Demolition of former Seddington Nursery Garden Centre and replace with 12 small warehouse units for B8 storage and E(g) light commercial industrial use suitable for SME/start-up business.
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It was proposed, seconded and agreed that in the absence of Cllrs Hewitt and Sharman who would be removing themselves from the meeting during this item due to their declared personal interests in the planning application, Cllr Aldis Chair the item. *Cllrs Hewitt and Sharman left the meeting.*

As Chair Cllr Aldis allowed Cllr Scott, as the land owner attached to this application, to answer Members questions about the application before removing himself from the meeting to allow the item to be considered accordingly.

Cllr Scott left the meeting.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED to request an extension from CBC to allow Members to consider the item at the next Town Council meeting in September. This would allow members to view the reports from CBC officers on the application that had not yet been published on the website. Members stated that while they supported the idea of change of use for the site to encourage more work in the area, serious concerns were raised about the safety of vehicular access and egress onto the site, particularly for larger vehicles.

Cllrs Hewitt, Sharman and Scott rejoined the meeting.

13 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (66-2024/2025)

Members received the following reports from Council representatives on outside bodies;

- Cllr M Pettitt – Sandy Twinning Association
- Cllr M Pettitt – SSLA – to receive a verbal report regarding the floodlight cabling at the all-weather pitch and extension into the reception area of the newly extended Jenkins Pavilion.

RESOLVED to note the reports and agree the following recommendations in regard to the Sandy Twinning Association:

- I. That members of Sandy Town Council receive the Accounts circulated separately to Members.
- II. That Sandy Town Council does approve Dissolution of the Sandy Twinning Association in accordance with Section 14. of the Constitution to take effect on a date to be confirmed but by the end of 2024.
- III. That surplus funds at the date of dissolution be transferred to (to be the subject of a further report with recommendations in due course)
- IV. That Sandy Town Council reaffirm its commitment to continue to uphold and encourage the aims and aspirations set out in the Twinning Charter signed on 18th September 1982.
- V. That the Sandy Town Mayor be requested to write to the Mayor of Malaunay setting out and reaffirming the undertaking contained in IV above.

Cllr Pettitt had already spoken on the matter of the SSLA and Jenkins Pavilion during item 8 see **(61-2024/2025)**.

14 Correspondence (67-2024/2025)

Members noted correspondence received by the Town Council since the last meeting of Full Council and any actions arising from such items. All correspondence circulated to Members separately. **RESOLVED** to note the correspondence.

15 Mayoral Engagements (68-2024/2025)

The Mayor would circulate a list of Mayoral Engagement separately.

Cllr Hewitt

16 Press Releases (69-2024/2025)

None

17 Chairmans Items (70-2024/2025)

The Mayor reminded members that an informal meeting about Sandye Place was to be held in the Chamber on Thursday 18th July at 6.30pm.

18 Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd September 2024.

The meeting closed at 21.11