

# Sandy Town Council

**Minutes of the annual meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, J Ali, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson (Exiting Mayor), C Osborne (Incoming Mayor), M Pettitt, D Quick, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and S Sutton

**Absent:** Cllr G Leach, Cllrs C Maudlin and P Smith (CBC)

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

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Election of Town Mayor (1-2016/2017)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Cllr C Osborne as Mayor for the municipal year 2016/17.</p>	
<p><b>2 Declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor (2-2016/2017)</b> The declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor was made by Cllr Osborne. He thanked everyone for their votes and support and thanked the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Jackson, and his wife Sue for all they had done for Sandy during the previous two years. This was endorsed by the Council. He then presented Cllr Jackson with his Past Mayors Badge.</p>	
<p><b>3 Election of Deputy Town Mayor (3-2016/2017)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Cllr M Scott as Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2016/17.</p>	
<p><b>4 Apologies for Absence (4- 2016/2017)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Leach.</p>	Admin
<p><b>5 Public Participation Session (5 -2016/17)</b> A member raised the question of it being difficult to obtain an appointment at either of the town's doctors' surgeries, an issue which residents had raised on social media sites. The residents were concerned at the length of time it took to gain an appointment and that receptionists were giving advice instead of doctors. They were very disillusioned with the service provided.</p> <p>The Clerk briefed members that a letter had been sent to Central Bedfordshire Council, the NHS and local surgeries concerning the problems. Other members commented that they had experienced the same problems. Cllr Stock stated that this was a nationwide</p>	

# Sandy Town Council

problem but that she had raised it with Alistair Burt MP.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk issues a press release explaining to the public what measures the council had taken in this matter, it would also be placed on the council website, sent to Alistair Burt MP, the NHS and Central Bedfordshire Council.

Town Clerk

Members raised the question that the horse crossing lights control boxes at the entrance to the RSPB HQ were too high to use.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council and ask for the control boxes to be lowered.

Town Clerk

## 6 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (6 -2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 11 April 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 7 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (7-2016/17)

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 note the minutes of meeting of Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on 18 April 2016 with **RECOMMENDATION** that Company C is the preferred tenderer and the tender bid be accepted.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 25 April 2016.

## 8 Financial Matters (8-2016/17)

- i) Members noted a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 18 April 2016).
- ii) Members noted 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 held on 18 April 2016)

## 9 Standing Orders (9-2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to approve the Council's agreed Standing Orders.

# Sandy Town Council

## 10 Scheme of Delegations (10-2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to approve the Council's Scheme of Delegations with the amendments that the Clerk's appraisal will be carried out by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Resources and the deletion that each standing committee will elect its Chairman, as the Council's Standing Orders state Chairman of standing committees will be elected by Council.

Admin

## 11 Elections (11-2016/17)

- i) **RESOLVED** that the Policy Finance and Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Blaine, Cole, Hill, Jackson, Osborne, Pettitt, Scott, D Sharman and P Sharman and that the Chair be Cllr Scott.
- ii) **RESOLVED** that the Development Scrutiny Committee comprise of Cllrs Ali, Blaine, Jackson, Leach, Pettitt, Quick, D Sharman, P Sharman, Sparrow and Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Pettitt.
- iii) **RESOLVED** that the Community Services and Environment Committee comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Ali, Cole, Hill, Leach, Osborne, Quick, Scott, Sparrow and Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Sutton.
- iv) **RESOLVED** that the Human Resources Committee remain with the existing members Cllrs Aldis, Cole, Hill, Jackson, Osborne, Pettitt and Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Hill.
- v) **RESOLVED** that the Grievance and Complaints Committee comprise of Cllrs Ali, Leach, Quick, Scott and P Sharman.

## 12 External Representation (12-2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to elect the following members to serve as representatives on outside bodies.

		<b>2016/17 Councillor Representative</b>
1	22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee	Cllr Sutton
2	Talk of the Town Transport Committee	Cllr Hill
3	Village Hall Management Committee	Cllr Sparrow
4	Sandy Twinning Association	Cllr Pettitt

# Sandy Town Council

5	Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights	Cllr Aldis Cllr Ali Cllr Hill Cllr Jackson Cllr P Sharman
6	Sandy Charities	Cllr P Sharman
7	Sandy Sports and Leisure Association	Cllr Hill
8	Sandy Walkers are Welcome	Cllr Jackson and Cllr Leach  (Cllr D Sharman sits on the committee as a member of the public)
9	Sandy Carnival Committee	Cllr Cole
10	Chamber of Trade	Cllr Blaine
11	SG19 Road Safety Group	Cllr Aldis
12	Sandy Community Children's Centre	Cllr Quick

**RESOLVED** to write to all organisations to notify them of their new representatives and ask them for the date of their next meeting.

Admin

**RESOLVED** that reports from representatives to outside bodies be added as a standard item to the Council agenda and that representatives should submit written reports on the activities of the outside body on which they sit at least once a year.

Admin

## 13 Action List (13-2016/17)

The Town Clerk presented the Action List and updated Members on the Kings Road Surgery relocation and the Road Investment Strategy A1. Dr Graffy wishes to tie everything together at his end before meeting with the Town Clerk. The Department of Transport has acknowledged the Town Clerk's letter on the A1 Investment Strategy and has passed it to their project team.

# Sandy Town Council

## 14 Working Groups (14-2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to elect the following members to the council's Working Groups.

<b>Cemetery Working Group</b>	Cllr W Jackson
	Cllr M Pettitt
	Cllr M Scott
	Cllr P Sharman
	Cllr D Sharman
	Cllr J Sparrow
	Cllr S Sutton

<b>Beeston Working Group</b>	Cllr M Hill
	Cllr M Scott
	CBC Cllr T Stock

<b>Community Plan Working Group</b>	Cllr N Aldis
	Cllr .P Blaine
	Cllr Mrs T Cole
	Cllr M Hill
	Cllr M Scott
	Mayor
	Chair/Vice Chair of Development Scrutiny

<b>Events Working Group</b>	Cllr N Aldis
	Cllr M Hill
	Cllr W Jackson

## 15 Cemetery Extension (15-2016/17)

The Town Clerk stated that contractors he has contacted confirm that the overall project could be run with two contractors working alongside and he will be taking the project forward by meeting with the approved archaeological contractor and potential building contractors. He confirmed that the existing Mess Room could be used by the archaeologists during the excavation and that the groundstaff will require the portacabin for extra storage when the new depot is completed. He also confirmed that near neighbours would be informed of the date and the timescales for the work to be carried out. The Clerk will work with the Cemetery Working Group and will report back on the project.

# Sandy Town Council

## 16 Planning Enforcement (16-2016-17)

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting he had recently attended with Cllrs Hill and Pettitt at Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) offices with Mr W Holloway from CBC's enforcement team.

The Clerk informed members that they had discussed three main points around enforcement action at the Bartram's site in Beeston.

- 1 – Breaches currently under review.
- 2 – Broader issues around the size and development of the site.
- 3 – Local issues around roads and vehicle movement.

The Clerk informed Members that they also discussed damage to the village green as a result of lorry movement. Mr Holloway had informed the Clerk that all enforcement action must be proportionate and if it can be resolved via a retrospective planning application this would be the chosen method. It was acknowledged that operating hours on the site were of concern to CBC and that that there was a large mixture of vehicles entering and exiting the site which was causing damage to the village green. Mr Holloway is due to meet with Highways to discuss what road improvements or changes might be possible, this includes discussion on the practicalities of entering and exiting from the site directly on to the A1. CBC enforcement are working with Bartram's planning agent in regards an application for amended operating hours, the application is under determination. Mr Holloway will come back to the Clerk following his meeting with Highways and planning.

## 17 Road Safety (17-2016-17)

After discussion on the various issues reported and that the council could not have a Road Safety Policy as it was not in their jurisdiction it was **RESOLVED** that the police and the Highways Department of Central Bedfordshire Council were made aware of the speeding, poor driving, use of mobiles, pedestrians and especially children's safety on the road crossings.

It was also **RESOLVED** that road safety be brought forward to the next Community Plan meeting.

## 18 Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy (18-2016/17)

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to note the document and that members reply individually if they wished.

## 19 Central Bedfordshire Councillor's Report (19-2016/17)

Cllr Stock stated that a written report would be sent to the Town Clerk on the matters discussed at the Annual Town Meeting on the

Town  
Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

25 April. In the future a regular monthly report will be sent from CBC councillors to the Town Clerk for distribution to Members ahead of council meetings.

Cllr Stock informed Members that some local projects had been put forward for the upcoming Cheering Volunteer awards and that this included the Sandy Drop in Café.

## 20 News Release (20-2016/17)

Doctor's Surgeries issues  
New Mayor and Deputy Mayor  
30 years of Twinning with Malaunay

Town  
Clerk

## 21 Chairman's Items (21-2016/17)

There were no items from the Chairman but a member raised an item regarding the RSPB's Top 10 Reserves of which The Lodge in Sandy is the UK's 3<sup>rd</sup> most wildlife-rich site. The facilities at The Lodge are not very good and are in need of renovation. Following discussion the Town Clerk informed Members he would write to the RSPB asking for a Visitor Centre and cafe to be considered.

Town  
Clerk

Cllr M Pettitt, who acts as the Council's representative on the Twinning Association, informed Members that the Cllr. Osbourne had welcomed guests from Malaunay, Sandy's twinned town from France, at a reception organised by the Twinning Association.

The Mayor of Malaunay presented the Mayor of Sandy with a commemorative book marking 30 years of Malaunay, in which the twinning relationship between the two towns featured. Members expressed their thanks to the Mayor of Malaunay for the kind gift. The Mayor of Sandy would write to the Mayor of Malaunay conveying the Council's gratitude.

## 22 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20th June 2016