

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 9th August 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), P Sharman, S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs W Jackson, S Paterson, M Scott, N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford

In attendance: CBC Cllrs C Maudlin and T Stock, Mr C Robson (Clerk), and Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 **Apologies for Absence (73 -2021/2022)**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs W Jackson, S Paterson, M Scott, N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford.

Admin

2 **Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (74-2021/22)**

(i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None.

(ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – Cllr Osborne declared an interest in agenda item 15(ii) as his wife is on the Chair of Governors of St Swithun's Primary School.

(iii) *Dispensations* – None.

3 **Public Participation Session (75-2021/22)**

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk informed Members he had received communication from a resident regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing on the High Street. This would be deferred to Item 15(ii).

4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (76-2021/22)**

Members considered the minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 5pm on Monday 28th June 2021 and the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 28th June 2021 and **RESOLVED** to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (78-2021/22)**

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:

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- i) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committees held on 28th June 2021 and 19th July 2021.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 19th July 2021.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 26th July 2021. The Chair of the committee mentioned that the next meeting would be discussing the budget process and all Members of Council were welcome to attend.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on the 5th July 2021

6 Scheme of Delegations (79-2021/22)

- i) Members received the Council's Scheme of Delegations. The Clerk said that points 4.2 and 4.14 would need to change. A Member thanked the Clerk for his record keeping during the pandemic. **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Scheme of Delegations.
- ii) **RESOLVED** that Council noted and ratified the decisions made by the Council and resulting actions recommended to the Clerk under the temporary scheme of delegations.

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7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (80-2021/22)

CBC Cllrs Maudlin and Stock reported that:

The COVID cases are dropping in Sandy but there is a rise in cases amongst 19-20-year-olds. Now 16-17 year olds can be vaccinated. On 16/8/21 you will not have to self-isolate if you are notified but you will have to do a PCR test. 30,000 LFT have been handed out, but a nasal swab test will be used when the LFT have run out.

An update letter has been handed out to all residents in the Winchester Road regeneration area and work is starting now and being completed in October. A Member asked if the trees that were being removed because of the work would be replaced and was told that a planting scheme would start in October.

The garden waste collections have been temporarily stopped due to lack of operatives because of self-isolation during the pandemic. A

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Member asked if CBC would be monitoring any increase in fly tipping because of the lack of green waste collections and it was reported that CBC would be reviewing alternative assistance. A Member said that the tidy tips were open for green waste to be disposed of there.

CBC Cllr Maudlin said that volunteers were being asked to join the Street & Dog Watch scheme.

8 **Planning Application (81-2021/22)**

Members received and considered amendments to an application for 416 dwellings on land north of Biggleswade, SG18 0HB which Council considered in January 2020 and supported Biggleswade Town Council's objections.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Council reiterates its previous objections to the proposal and includes reference to the fact that Historic England has recently designated new Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the vicinity of the site.

9 **Action List (82-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the action list.

East/West Rail Link: The Clerk to write to the Hon. Richard Fuller MP reiterating the Council's response to the most recent stage of the East West Rail consultation.

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A1- Local issues: Members noted that signage at the north end of Sandy had been altered to prevent directing traffic off the southbound A1 into Sandy at London Road. There have also been improvements to the Beeston sliproads, but foliage has not been cut back on junctions. CBC Cllr Stock will chase up the line painting. She also said that she would arrange for a joint consultation to be set up regarding whether to close the gaps or keep them open at the A1/New Road and Beeston junction.

CBC Cllr Stock

SPA: It was noted that the Clerk was to arrange another meeting with the Council's Single Point of Contact at CBC to ascertain if there were any further updates or information on the SPA site.

Town Clerk

10 **Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC) Membership (83-2021/22)**

Members received and approved representation to the BLEVEC committee and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lock would be the Council's representative, with Cllr Pettitt being the deputy.

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11 Police and Crime Commissioner (84-2021/22)

Members received and agreed a list of questions, issues and policing priorities for the Council. They also received and agreed the following questions which a Member had researched, to be added to the list:

1. What is being done to increase the prosecutions of violent and sexual offenders?
2. Why doesn't anti-social behaviour have any outcomes listed?
3. Why are the drug outcomes listed as "Local Resolution" and what is that?
4. In the last 12 months less than 2% of reported offences resulted in court action with the majority outcomes listed as "investigation completed, or no suspect identified?". What is being done to improve this and gain public confidence?

Members were thanked for the questions submitted to the Clerk.

The Clerk is to arrange a separate meeting with the PCC to allow Councillors to speak with him directly on Sandy related issues. However, Members were also reminded about the Town and Parish Council cluster meeting with the PCC on the 21st September.

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12 Neighbourhood Development Plan (85-2021/22)

Members received and noted a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Cllr Gibson said that the Locality Grant application had progressed to the interview stage. The Chairman thanked the Steering Group for their continued hard work.

13 Skatepark Project Contractor (86-2021/22)

Members received and considered a report and recommendation from the Skatepark Working Group on the appointment of a preferred contractor to partner with the Council in moving forward its new skatepark project.

The Clerk briefed Members on the tender process and said that the application from the company submitting Tender 3 was the Working Group's recommendation. Members of the Working Group spoke in support of the recommendation, stating it was a very good application and presentation from the company. The contractor had a good track record of working with Councils and producing high quality skateparks. The contractor understood the importance of

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ensuring the project was community led and they had experience in supporting funding applications. A Member said that after the success of skateboarding and BMXing at the Tokyo Olympics, it was a good time to go forward with this project. The Clerk said that the company had worked with two members of the Olympic team.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Council approve the Working Group's recommendation that the company submitting Tender 3 be appointed as the Council's partner in the skatepark project, to consult on, design and build the skatepark.

That following appointment of the preferred contractor, the Working Group meet with said contractor and provide a report to the Community, Services and Environment Committee on the next stages of the project and the contractor's advice on progressing fundraising and community engagement.

14 **Correspondence to Receive (87-2021/22)**

- i) Members received and noted correspondence passed to the Council from the Hon R Fuller MP from Highways England, for information on alteration to an A1 sign.
- ii) Members were asked to identify other locations for siting of electric charging points in the town and submit them for the next meeting of CS&E on the 23rd August 2021.

15 **Consultations (88-2021/22)**

i) Members noted that the government is consulting on a vision for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc and full details are available on the government's website with the consultation closing on the 12th October 2021.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a working group comprising of Cllrs Blaine, Gibson, Hewitt and Sutton respond to the consultation and bring their findings to the Full Council meeting on the 20th September 2021.

ii) Members received and considered a public notice from CBC on the installation of a zebra crossing on the High Street, Sandy. Members commented that the Council had long supported the call for a crossing in this location, for which there is considerable public support and as such, the Council should respond stating that support. The Chairman spoke on representations he had received from a member of the public on the positioning of the crossing, and

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whether this should be moved close to Rectory Court. Members noted that the Notice stated that the position shown on the drawing was 'approximate'. Some Members commented that it made sense to site the crossing at the location of the existing dropped curbs, benefiting users of the school and users of Sandy Green Wheel. It was also commented that moving the proposed crossing closer to Rectory Court may be unsafe because of the narrowing of the path.

CBC Cllr Stock said that CBC Ward Councillors supported the application and if approved it will go the Road Safety Audit for detailed review of the crossing's location, who will ascertain the safest point for the crossing. A Member commented that those most qualified to agree the safest position for the crossing should do so, and that that Council was not in a position to make such a decision.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to support the application of the proposed crossing, for which there is considerable public support and will result in numerous safety benefits for residents, including those using the crossing for St Swithun's School, as well as general use and users of the Sandy Green Wheel. That the Council notes that the Notice states that the accompanying drawing shows the 'approximate' location of the crossing. The position of the crossing must be right, and it is our understanding that a design and road safety audit will be carried out to determine this and advise further.

16 **Leisure Services (89-2021/22)**

Cllr Aldis informed Members that a meeting between representatives of sports clubs that use the Jenkins, representatives of STC and CBC Leisure officers had taken place. The clubs had submitted their feedback to the meeting, and this will be taken forward as part of the consultation by CBC Leisure Officers. An FAQ has been produced by CBC which is to be circulated to the club's representatives.

Representatives of the clubs will be meeting with CBC's Leisure Services Contract Manager again as part of continued engagement during the consultation.

17 **Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (90-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the following reports:

- i) **Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (SSLA):** Cllr Hill said that the work to the Astro-turf would be completed by mid-September and commented that astro-turf carpet is in short supply at the moment. SIS Ltd have signed the

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contract and were sourcing new equipment (dugouts and a tractor).

- ii) **Village Hall:** Cllr Gibson said that it had been her first visit to the Village Hall and the committee were enthusiastic. Members thanked Cllr Gibson for her report.
- iii) **Sandy Twinning Association:** Members noted the report.
- iv) **Talk of the Town Minibus:** A Member asked when it will be running again and was told there was no set date at this time.

18 News Release (91-2021/22)

It was agreed to issue news releases on the following matters:

- Summer Market & Family Fun Day on Sunday 22nd August 2021
- Skatepark Project contractor

19 Chairman's Items (92-2021-22)

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the RBL saying that Hayden Stevens, a standard bearer with the Sandy branch, has been chosen to attend the Royal Albert Hall Remembrance event in November this year. The Mayor will write congratulating him.

Cllr Hill also confirmed that the Christmas Lights Event would be on Sunday 28th November 2021.

20 Mayoral Engagements (93-2021-22)

Members noted a list of recent engagements undertaken by the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor.

21 Date of Next Meeting (94-2021/22)

Meeting of Full Council - Monday 27th September 2021.

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of the Public and Press

It was proposed and agreed that in terms of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, the following terms will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

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22 **Adoption of Taylor Wimpey Owned Land (95-2021/22)**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on the transfer of open space land at the Berwick Way estate.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk instruct the Council's solicitor to continue with negotiations on the transfer of Taylor Wimpey owned land subject to the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The Council left Confidential session.

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