

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 December 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, R Lock, M Pettitt, M Scott (Chair), P Sharman, S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs J Hewitt, W Jackson, C Osborne, N Thompson, CBC Cllrs S Ford, C Maudlin

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and CBC Cllr T Stock. Six members of the public were present.

Action

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| <p>1 Apologies for Absence (125-2019/2020)
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Hewitt, W Jackson, C Osborne, N Thompson and CBC Cllrs S Ford and C Maudlin.</p> | Admin |
| <p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (126-2019/20)
i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None
ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – None
iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p> | |
| <p>3 Public Participation Session (127-2019/20)
A member of the public spoke on the subject of telecommunication companies worldwide and the roll out of 5G technology. The resident provided information on what she felt were health risks associated with 5G technology and the lack of up-to-date independent safety studies. The resident commented that Brussels and Geneva have halted the 5G roll-out and in the South West, seven councils have invoked the precautionary principle, including Town Councils Glastonbury and Frome.</p> <p>CBC Cllr Stock agreed to meet with the member of the public to discuss the matter and this item would be put on a Town Council meeting agenda when appropriate.</p> | Cllr Stock/
Admin |
| <p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (128-2019/20)
RESOLVED to:
Receive the minutes of the meeting of the Sandy Town Council held on Monday 28th October 2019 and of the Extraordinary meeting of</p> | |

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Sandy Town Council held on Monday 11th November 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (129-2019/20)

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 4th November and 25th November 2019.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 4th November 2019.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 25th November 2019.

RESOLVED that the Council becomes a member of the Rural Services network at a cost of £150 per year. That the Council review the benefits it has received from being a member after a 12-month period.

6 Financial Matters (130-2019/20)

- i) Members noted a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to October 2019 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 25th November 2019).
- ii) Members noted a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 25th November 2019).
- iii) 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 on 25th November 2019).

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7 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (131-2019/20)**

Cllr Stock confirmed that the Town & Parish Conference will now take place on the 22nd January 2020 with the same agenda as the cancelled meeting.

Cllr Stock updated Members on the recent Winchester Road Regeneration Meeting and said that Ringway Jacobs would be preparing a detailed plan for the work to be undertaken. A Member said that there would be a phased approach to the work and additional funding was to be found. Cllr Stock said that new sites would be found for the trees removed from the site around Sandy. She also said that Grand Union would match any new funding she acquired. The last meeting was positive, and the project is moving forward.

Cllr Stock informed Members that Beeston speed cameras would be replaced by digital cameras. The government would not at present be bringing in average speed cameras, but this would continue to be pursued.

Cllr Stock reported on a recent meeting between SG19 Group and Ian Dalgarno whereby they drove around Sandy and it was discussed that on Station Road a crossing was needed together with line markings at the station, New Road needed a path, and St Swithun's needed a crossing.

A Member said that he had put photos of potholes in Sandy on CBC's website on Tuesday, the potholes had been marked on Wednesday and repaired on Thursday, proving that the website reporting works. It was agreed to promote the service on the Town Council's website and prepare a Press Release to alert residents to this service.

A Member said he was pleased to hear the Winchester Road regeneration was taking shape finally because the estate looks tired and there has been a lack of maintenance over the years. He also mentioned that a crossing needs to be put at the entrance to Sunderland Road from the roundabout, as pedestrians are not sure when to cross. Cllr Stock said that she would look at this. Another Member said that the whole of St Swithun's Way needs to be re-surfaced as the sub-structure was in bad repair making filling of potholes impossible. Cllr Stock said that the regeneration of Winchester Road would be sorted out first but other areas would be looked at. She said

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she would stress again the junction at Sunderland Road and St Swithun's Way needs re-surfacing.

8 **Action List (132-2019/20)**

Members noted the Action List.

East West Rail Link: A Member said that it had been reported that this would be looked at again after the General Election, depending on which party was elected.

A1 – Local Issues: A meeting would be arranged with the new MP for North Bedfordshire.

Sandye Place Academy: There were no comments from Members on the meeting notes from the meeting with Tony Keaveney held on the 18th November 2019.

9 **CB/SN/19/0094 – 27a Kings Road, Sandy SG19 1EJ (133-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a further report from the Clerk. It was noted that the developer had rejected the Council's proposal of 'Doctors' and the Council were now being asked to consider 'Royal'.

There was a discussion amongst Members putting forward alternative names for the new development of 5 houses in Kings Road. Members did not feel that Royal was suitable for an infill development of this size and had no connection to the history of the site or the town.

A Member stated that the Council's proposal of 'Doctors' showed a historical community link, which CBC's street naming guidelines urge Town and Parish Councils to endorse. A Member stated that this represented a perfect opportunity for those at the most local level of government to make decisions on a matter that will have a long-lasting legacy in the communities that they live and work in. The naming of a street is a very appropriate element of local decision making which Central Bedfordshire Council passes to town and parish councils. As such, it was proposed and seconded that the Council should reject the name 'Royal' and reiterate 'Doctors'.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to reject the suggestion of 'Royal' and retain the suggestion of 'Doctors' Close asking that this be presented to CBC's Director of Regeneration and Business to be decided on against the developer's submitted name of 'Royal'.

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10 Electrical Car Charging Points (134-2019/20)

Members received and considered a proposal on the installation of electric charging points in the Council's car park.

Members agreed that electric cars were a thing of the future and charging points had the potential to bring people into the town centre to use the points. This may have a knock-on impact on the use of shops and facilities.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council agree to Chargemaster carrying out a full site survey with a view to signing a hosting arrangement for charging points in the Council's car park and that the Council express its preference that the grid connection for the charging points be separate to the Council's supply.

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11 Police Engagement Report (135-2019/20)

Members received and noted feedback from the Police on community engagement carried out in Sandy's Market Square.

12 Consultation on Strengthening Police Powers (136-2019/20)

Members received and considered a report on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

It was agreed that Cllrs Blaine, Hill and Knagg would arrange a meeting with the Clerk to work through the questions in the report and Members were to let the Clerk know if they wished to see the answers before they were submitted. The Clerk would also check when it had to be submitted. (19th February 2020)

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13 Consultation on Ward Boundaries for Central Bedfordshire (137-2019/20)

Members received and considered information on the consultation for proposals for new council wards and ward boundaries for Central Bedfordshire Council. A Member stated that this could have an impact on the number of Ward Members Sandy might have, depending on how boundaries might move.

Members noted that final proposals would be coming out in 2020 and agreed that until a proposal was received, there was no evidence to change the wards in Sandy.

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14 Polling Places, Polling Districts and Polling Stations Review (138-2019/20)

Members received and considered Central Bedfordshire polling districts and places.

A Member said that Swallow Crescent should read Swallow Crest in the report. It was thought that there was a concentration of polling stations around the town centre, but it was noted that this was because they were serving either Pinnacle or Ivel ward. Another Member commented that schools should not be used as polling stations to allow students to attend school and the polling stations should remain as they were.

15 Sandy Centre Group Representative (139-2019/20)

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hewitt who attends the meetings of the group already, be appointed as the Council's representative.

16 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies (140-2019/20)

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Pettitt on the 2019 NALC conference. Cllr Pettitt questioned the value of a member attending this conference in future. He asked that Members noted the concluding points and that the Council consider climate change and engaging more with the young people in the town, which were two of the major issues to emerge from the conference. The Chairman suggested that these items be placed on future agendas.
- ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Aldis on the Councillor Surgery held on 25th October 2019. Cllr Aldis said he was accompanied by Cllr Doyle on the day. He asked that an 'A' board be available on the day to advertise the next surgery.
- iii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Talk of the Town Minibus. Cllr Hill said that there was a problem with the bus steps which was being resolved.
- iv) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association. Cllr Hill advised that the next meeting would be on the 9th January 2020.

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- v) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on Sandy Twinning. Cllr Hill said that there were already 23 students signed up for next year and that over the years, 500 Sandy students have attended the summer schools.
- vi) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Gibson on the Sandy Carnival Committee.

The Mayor thanked all Members for their work in producing their reports.

17 Mayor's Engagements (141-2019/20)

Members noted the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements.

18 News Release (142-2019/20)

- Encourage residents to report potholes on CBC's website.

19 Chairman's Items (143-2019/20)

There were no Chairman's items. The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to enjoy the drinks and Christmas cake provided.

20 Date of Next Meeting (144-2019/20)

Monday 20th January 2020.

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