

Sandy Town Council

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

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

Absent: Cllrs G Leach, S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllr T Stock (CBC), Cllr P Smith (CBC), Mr R Sparks (RBL), Mrs C Watkins (Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator) and three members of the public

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor presented Mr R Sparks and Mrs C Watkins with a cheque for £505.35 which was from donations for remembrance lamppost poppies and soldiers for the RBL Poppy Appeal. Mr Sparks thanked the Town Council on behalf of the RBL Poppy Appeal and stated he had enjoyed working with the Council on the recent Nations Tribute event.

		Action
1	Apologies for Absence (120-2018/2019) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.	Admin
2	Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (121-2018/2019) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	
3	Public Participation Session (122-2018/2019) A member of the public, Brother Michael Bartlett, spoke regarding the building vacated by Barclays Bank on the High Street. He said that he lives in the houses at the back of the building and the building is the subject of vandalism. People are managing to gain access to the roof of the building at night and are scaling a ladder, before coming back down and leaving a gate open. This raises serious safety concerns as well as disturbance for near neighbours. He said that he had contacted the landlords VPS Group of Peterborough and asked them to put anti-climb paint on the bars and asked whose responsibility it was but had received no reply. He asked if the Town Council would write to VPS Group and ask what the position is with a new tenant for the property. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the group.	Town Clerk

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A Member, Cllr Aldis asked whether the gate between the Health Centre and the Market Square would be re-opening again. The Clerk said that he had been in contact with the landlord of the properties and asked for an onsite meeting with him to discuss the re-opening of the gate but was awaiting dates.

Town Clerk

Cllr Aldis asked on behalf of a resident if the Town Council would contact Tesco regarding the access road to the store as it was unsafe for pedestrians. It was agreed that Cllr Aldis ask the residents to write to Tesco personally to complain. This matter would be put on a future Community Services and Environment Agenda.

Town Clerk

4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (123-2018/2019)**

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 29th October 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings subject to the amendment that Cllr Hill had reported that the Polish delegation would not be attending the Remembrance Weekend, and this should be included in the Minutes.

Admin

5 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (124-2018/2019)**

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 5th November 2018 and 26th November 2018.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Extraordinary Human Resources Committee held on 19th November 2018. Cllr Hill informed Members that a new member of the Outdoor Team had been appointed.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on 19th November 2018
- iv) The Chairman of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee asked when the Town Council is going to

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discuss what the Council would like to see on site at Sandye Place School and agree a view. A Member said that this had already been discussed and that the Community Plan states the Council's views. He said that this should be deferred until January 2019. Members commented that they felt it was important to have a meeting of all Members to discuss the site and formalise Sandy Town Council's views on the future of the facility.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that an extraordinary meeting be held on Monday 17th December 2018 at 7pm before the Human Resources Committee meeting to discuss the matter.

The Chairman of the PFR committee said that with regard to Item 10 of the Minutes that councillors had changed their minds at both CSE & PF&R Committee meetings and resolved something else regarding CCTV savings and upgrades.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that a Working Group be set up to work with the Clerk before the budget meeting in January 2019. It would comprise Cllrs Blaine, Gibson and Hill. The Clerk would arrange the meeting. He also said that he had had a meeting with the CCTV Manager and awaited a quote for the car park camera to be moved.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED to receive and note the minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on 26th November 2018 and to approve that the Fallowfield lighting and CCTV scheme be budgeted for in 2019/20; to approve that the funds for the Fallowfield lighting and CCTV scheme be taken from the Fallowfield reserves; and to approve that the Council budget for repair works to the Village Hall access road in the 2019/20 budget and that the Clerk includes the best price obtained for the work in budget calculations.

6 Financial Matters (125-2018/2019)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to 31st October 2018 (previously circulated and scrutinised at

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a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 26th November 2018).

- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 26th November 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 26th November 2018).

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (126-2018/2019)

Members received reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors and noted Central Bedfordshire Council's briefing notes which had already been received. Cllr Stock apologised that the briefing notes were late.

A Member asked if the East West Rail Western Section (Phase 2) objection by Central Beds Council would affect Phase 3, Cllr Stock said it would not impact on the next phase.

A Member asked about recycling and said that it had been at 51% for the last 10 years. Cllr Stock said information would be sent out to all residents on how and what to recycle in the future to try and recycle more.

Cllr Stock said that the library portal was not working properly, and residents should attend the Wednesday CBC sessions in the library with any questions.

She said that Highways had started white lining in the High Street and re-surfacing would be starting in Pym's Way and Cottage Road on the 28th January 2019.

There was a meeting being held with the Town Council regarding the regeneration of Winchester Road this month. In January/February 2019 a community event was being held for the Winchester Road residents to view draft plans for the area which will consist of approximately 97 more car parking spaces being created and to hear their views. In March/April 2019 the work should be started.

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Cllr Smith reported that Central Bedfordshire Council had written to the Police Crime Commissioner to express their view that policing in Bedfordshire was not value for money and there was a different model used for rural areas, as Luton and Bedford get more resources and money than crime in rural areas.

He said that as a Governor of Sandye Place school the closure would be orderly and the books would be closed in December 2019. The school was in close discussion with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding how to police the site at the end of July 2019. He said that both the staff and teachers' contracts would finish at the end of August 2019. There would be two events being held to celebrate the school with past pupils invited.

A Member said that credit was due to Highways as the Station Road area roads had had a makeover which was more than just patching. Cllr Stock said that the two large sunken potholes outside the Ghandi restaurant were being monitored as this was due to a collapsed drain. She said that more yellow lines would be put in Woolfield after a resident survey and after another survey Willow Rise did not require any more yellow lines.

A Member enquired if Cllr Smith would attend the extra meeting on the 17th December, as he was a Governor of Sandye Place School and he said he would attend. Cllr Stock reiterated that the ward councillors were still avidly pursuing Central Bedfordshire colleagues regarding this matter.

The Clerk said that the directional and extra parking bays for the surgery line-marking in the council car park which came under the Market Regeneration Scheme, would hopefully be undertaken overnight on Thursday 13th December.

8 Action List (127-2018/2019)

Members noted the action list.

A1 – Local Issues: The Clerk tabled a letter to Alistair Burt from Highways England regarding the A1. Mr Burt is chasing Mr Graying's response.

Sandy Sports Centre Leisure Facilities: The Clerk tabled emails marked Internal to Council from various partners. The Clerk advised that the DPO had confirmed that the information sent

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to him can be distributed to councillors but is not to be made public.

A Member asked how this matter could be taken forward as each partner had declined to attend a meeting with the Town Council. It was pointed out that the latest response from CBC Leisure indicated Sandy Leisure Services would continue as normal for the foreseeable future and that a larger strategic study was to be carried out to assess demand and need across central Bedfordshire, the town council would be consulted as part of this process and a large public consultation would be carried out.

It was suggested that a Press Release be issued informing residents that the Town Council had tried to arrange a meeting between all parties but to no avail and that the Town Council had progressed the matter as far as they could for the time being. A Member said that we cannot force people to talk to the Council but that the Council should continue to push the matter. As it has now been confirmed nothing will change in the foreseeable future, people should be encouraged to return to the leisure facilities to ensure it continues to be a viable operation.

A Member stated that she was appalled that the invitation to facilitate a meeting had been declined and the Town Council were not receiving any more information than a resident who had asked similar questions. The Council should inform Central Bedfordshire Council that they are not happy and make the public aware of the situation and that the Town Council is being blocked. CBC Cllr Stock said that the ward councillors were in the same situation as the Town Council and were equally as frustrated by the lack of communication. Another Member said that he agreed, and all the parties should get together and move the matter on without pausing.

Members stated that it appears that the Council gets asked last and must insist on being central to discussions on current and future provision of leisure services in Sandy.

Members raised concerns over the proposed strategic study and whether this would lead to other areas getting more facilities as Sandy has not had as much development.

Members agreed that the Town Council, although not directly involved in the agreement covering leisure facilities at the

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school, had a responsibility to ensure it is involved in any discussion on provision in Sandy and as such a meeting of all parties is still needed.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** to issue a Press Release regarding the decline of the meeting and to write to Cllr Dalgarno of Central Bedfordshire Council with the Town Council's comments and that a meeting be convened in the third week of January 2019.

9 Central Bedfordshire Council Rural Match Fund (128-2018/2019)

Members received and considered information on the 2019/20 rural match fund.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that this matter be deferred to the Community Services & Environment Committee Meeting on the 14th January 2019 and Members advise the Clerk of any schemes they wish to submit.

Councillors

10 Internal Audit Report (129-2018/2019)

Members received and considered the internal audit report.

The Clerk briefed Members on the report. A Member said that under the Minutes of Meetings paragraph the frequency of full council meetings was every 6 weeks not monthly and payments were not agreed prior to payment to suppliers but were checked and agreed by three signatories and reported at each meeting. The Clerk said that a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was due to be carried out at the start of 2019.

11 Local Council Award Scheme (130-2018/2019)

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council meets the criteria for the next level of the Local Council Award Scheme and that an application be submitted.

Town Clerk

12 Remembrance Parade (131-2018/2019)

Members received and considered a recommendation on the organisation of the 2019 Sandy Remembrance Parade.

A Member said that the Parade Marshall should be invited to attend.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

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- 1) The Council agree to act as organiser of the annual remembrance parade and make an inclusion within its insurance policy to cover the event.
- 2) The Council give the Sandy and District Branch of the Royal British Legion authority to facilitate the 2019 remembrance parade and service on its behalf.
- 3) The Council manage the event via a Council working group, which will consist of the Mayor, two Councillor representatives, the Chairman of the Royal British Legion, the rector of St Swithun's Church and the Town Clerk. The Parade Marshall be invited to attend.
- 4) Councillor representatives to the working group be appointed at the Council's annual meeting in May 2019.

13 Greensands Country Festival 2019 (132-2018/2019)

Members received and considered correspondence on the Greensands Country Festival 2019.

CBC Cllr Smith said that CBC Cllr Maudlin was involved with this project and Central Bedfordshire Council supported it.

The Clerk said that he would ask BRCC to get involved as part of the Greenwheel and he would check if the 20th December was the final deadline for the booking form to be returned.

Town Clerk

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the Community Services & Environment Committee meeting on the 14th January 2019.

14 Crime and Policing (133-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted the recent CCTV incidents.

A Member said that the statistics sum up that the Council believes the camera identification is poor and a better system is needed. Another Member asked that the council put on their Facebook page that residents can request evidential DVD's from Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership. A Member asked if DVD's served as police evidence and would an attack outside the Co-op this month be recorded on CCTV and possibly used in evidence?

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It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that information on requesting DVD's would be added to the Council's Facebook page.

Admin

- ii) Members received and noted the most recent crime statistics for Sandy.

The Clerk said that after a considerable amount of time spent, he has not able to tally the statistics sent from Central Bedfordshire Council with those from the Police.org website. There were a number of crimes committed in September and their current status were summarised within the report. A Member asked what the council intended to do with the information? A Member informed the Council that the police will be introducing a new Neighbourhood Policing Strategy in the future. The Police Crime Commissioner would be asked to visit again next year when the new council was formed.

15 Reports from Representatives (134-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association AGM.

Cllr Hill corrected two errors in the report namely, that Tony Payne was a committee member not a trustee and that there was almost £200,000 in the bank not £20,000.00. Cllr Pettitt thanked Cllr Hill for his report and stated that Mike Tipper met with Notts Sports recently who surveyed the astro-turf pitch and a feasibility report will be available for the next meeting on 22nd January 2019 at 6pm at the council offices. There will be a shortfall in funds for the refurbishment of the pitch and a new tractor, but they will be looking to apply for grant funding.

A Member commented that the floodlights to the astro-turf pitch were being left on during the daytime. Cllr Pettitt informed Members that this was the responsibility of the facility managers who paid the electricity costs.

- ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association.

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Cllr Hill said that a Polish delegation did not attend the Remembrance Day celebrations on the 11th November, as it was Polish Independence Day. Skarszewy has a new mayor and they wish to continue being associated with twinning and Cllr Hill will be visiting another Polish town regarding a new summer school project next year. He also said that in 2020 Sandy will have been twinned with Skarszewy for 20 years.

16 Correspondence (135-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted correspondence received regarding a request for support for an initiative from the Masonic Fishing Charity. The charity wished to buy and develop a fishing lake for special needs children to visit and asked for the council's support. A Member said that he had attended a fishing day for the children and it was a joy to see the children's faces light up.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support this initiative.

- ii) Members received and noted an invitation for two representatives to attend Central Bedfordshire's Youth Parliament and Youth Central Manifesto Launch event on the 12th March 2019.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Cole and Gibson attend.

17 News Release (136-2018/2019)

- Leisure facilities at Sandy Secondary School

Town Clerk

18 Chairman's Items (137-2018/2019)

The Chairman said that the Remembrance Day and Battle's Over celebrations were very well organised in conjunction with the RBL and St Swithun's and well attended by the public. He also thanked Cllr Sutton and Liz Fuller a former employee of the council, for their contributions to the event.

He said that the Mayor's Tribute Night on Friday 23rd November at the Conservative Club was an enjoyable evening and well supported. £660.00 was raised for the Mayor's Charity.

Over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd December the St Swithun's Tree Festival was visited and enjoyed by 1500 visitors this year. The Christmas Lights Switch-On event on Sunday 2nd December

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was a success and he thanked the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights committee and the Town Council staff for all their hard work to enable the event to take place.

The Mayor's Civic Service at St Swithun's Church in October raised over £300.

He reminded Members that the community Carol Service at St Swithun's Church is being held on Saturday the 22nd December at 4pm.

**19 Date of Next Meeting (138-2018/2019)
Monday 21st January 2019**

The meeting closed, and the Chairman invited everyone to enjoy a drink and a slice of cake and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas. A Member thanked Mrs Scott for baking the wonderful Christmas log for the occasion.