

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), P Sharman and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllrs A Gibson, M Scott and N Thompson, CBC Cllrs Ford and Maudlin.

In attendance: CBC Cllr T Stock, Mrs N Sewell (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Mrs A Elliott-Flockhart and four members of the public.

The Mayor spoke on various matters including Mr Robson, the past Clerk leaving on the 11th March 2022 and welcoming the new Clerk Mrs Nicola Sewell to the Town Council. He welcomed back Cllr Aldis after his stay in hospital and reminded Members that Cllr Gibson's husband's funeral would be at 12.15pm on the 13th April at Bedford Crematorium.

The Mayor then read the following tribute to the late Cllr Hill.

"All members are aware our colleague of 7 years but for many a friend for decades Cllr Max Hill sadly died on Friday 1 April. Details of the funeral are likely to be announced during this coming week.

"Max became a member of Sandy Town Council in 2015 but his service to the community of Sandy began more than 30 years before when he became Head Teacher at Sandy Upper School. Throughout the 1990s Max immersed himself more and more into the life of the town in so many and varied ways. Max gave wholehearted support to the Sandy Sports & Leisure Association during its formative years when members set about raising the £450,000.00 needed to build the all-weather pitch; the fresh drive and determination Max contributed in support of the existing Twinning Link with Malaunay in Normandy and later forging the new and very different type of link with Skarszewy in Poland.

Like myself, some past Mayors with their spouses and others, notably families and community groups travelled by coach and car to France and students, teaching staff and community leaders by train, aeroplane, coach and yes, even motorcycle to Poland with Max over 30+ years and witnessed his commitment at first hand. Much more I know will be written and said in tribute to Cllr Hill so for now I will leave it there save to say that I for one will miss him, this council will miss him and Sandy will miss him but I will give thanks that I knew him for as long as I did.

Cllr Aldis added that Cllr Hill had been at the heart of the community and the Upper School, an Inspector of Schools, a Chair of Governors of Moggerhanger Primary

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School, a keen cricketer at the over 70's level and a member of Blunham Cricket Club. Cllr Aldis concluded by adding Cllr Hill would be a great loss to the community.

Ward Cllr Stock said that Cllr Hill had been colleague and a neighbour and she echoed that he had been a huge asset to the community and would be greatly missed.

The Mayor then requested everyone present at the meeting be upstanding for a minute's silence in tribute to Cllr Hill.

Action

1 **Apologies for Absence (216-2021/2022)**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Gibson, Scott and CBC Cllrs Ford and Maudlin.

Admin

2 **Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (217-2021/22)**

(i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None.

(ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – None.

(iii) *Dispensations* – None.

3 **Public Participation Session (218-2021/22)**

The Mayor said as four members of the public were present to speak on Item 13 this item would be moved and taken after Item 5 on the Agenda.

He went on to say he had received an email from a resident with various questions for Central Beds Council. He tabled the email and he said that Central Beds Council were best placed to respond to the questions set out in the email and CBC Ward Member Cllr Tracey Stock agreed and said she would respond direct and send a copy to the Town Clerk. The Chair also indicated he would respond directly to the resident's request for a copy of the report of an historic meeting on this subject as well as report on his recent meeting with Mr Richard Fuller MP.

CBC

4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (219-2021/22)**

Members received the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 7th March 2022 and **RESOLVED** to approve them as a correct record of proceedings with the following amendments that both Cllr Aldis and Cllr Sutton were recorded as being in attendance, rather than absent as incorrectly stated.

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5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (220-2021/22)

Members received and noted 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 Committees held on 7th March and 28th March 2022.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 14th March. **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the 21st March 2022 and that the following addition be made at the next CSE meeting to Item 4 'the Clerk would investigate if the land is available for use as allotments'.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 28th March 2022.
- iv) The minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on the 4th April 2022 would be deferred.

Town Clerk

13 Planning Application (221-2021/22)

Four residents spoke regarding the planning application. The residents stated they did not object to houses being built, just to the access and parking problems they felt would result to the surrounding residents. A Member stated that she had read the application thoroughly and did not object to the building of houses, just the access and parking it will cause.

It was felt the methodology that the planners had used to determine any detrimental effect on parking and traffic to the site was not robust as it had been based on other towns outside of Sandy, which were not comparable, and therefore could not demonstrate an accurate parallel.

30.03.22	CB/22/01057 FULL Land to South of Faynes Court, Sandy	Construction of 8 dwellings with associated car parking and refuse storage at land to South of Faynes Court, Sandy. Resolved: to make no objection in principle to there being residential development on this site.
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However, to object to this application as an over development of the site. The additional parking needs will negatively impact on the residents of existing adjacent properties. The layout of the proposed new dwellings would result in each new property being overlooked and in turn overlooking the existing adjacent residences.

6 **Appointment of Committee Membership and Chairmanship (222-2021/22)**

- 6.1 It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Paul Sharman to be a committee member to the Human Resources Committee. There were no other nominations.
- 6.2 It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Will Jackson to be committee Chairman to the Human Resources Committee. There were no other nominations

The Clerk stated that a Councillor vacancy notice would be issued by Central Beds Council only after the late Cllr Hill's funeral.

7 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (223-2021/22)**

Cllr Stock reported:

COVID: Numbers were going down weekly but hospital cases were high. Unless there is pressure on the NHS, we will have to live with it.

Day of Action: Cllr Stock said that Sandy Town councillors attended the event to answer questions. Problem areas in Sandy were visited by the various organisations involved and residents were asked if they felt safe. The drugs problem was mentioned by residents. Overall, the event was well received. She said that SWEAT (homeless) was launched last Friday and numbers were available.

Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum were monitoring and managing the fuel disruption.

Town & Parish Conferences: These were monthly and were going well and the next meeting would be on the 11th May 2022.

Highways: Station Road: The raised table is staying but the markings are not being re-installed in June. There will be an additional crossing with markings. A Member said that the markings on the roundabout and junctions would need to be re-done urgently. Swan Lane: A Member said that double yellow lines had been agreed at each end of the Lane and requested Cllr

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Stock to do all she could to hasten implementation. The new trees were welcomed.

A Member asked why the access to the Central Beds website was difficult and Cllr Stock said she had difficulty in accessing it too and would ask Communications at Central Beds why. The Member asked why Cllr Ford had not been to any meetings lately and Cllr Stock told him that Cllr Ford had been unwell and would hopefully return to work in two weeks' time.

8 Action List (224-2021/22)

Members received and noted an action list on Full Council items.

East/West Rail Link: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had a meeting last week with Mr R Fuller MP in Biggleswade and an announcement would be made in May. Cllr Blaine said that a report had asked how councils wished to be kept informed.

A1 – Local Issues: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor together with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade and Richard Fuller MP met on the 6th April 2022 at Biggleswade. The Mayor reported that Mr Fuller would take back the points made regarding the gaps in the A1 and other issues.

9 Call to Action - Civility and Respect (225-2021/22)

Members received and noted the Clerk's report and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council email their MP asking that he back an Early Day Motion calling for the Government to establish an appropriate and effective sanctions mechanism to deal with local councillors who have been found guilty of bullying and harassment following an independent investigation.

10 Vandalism at Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Update (226-2021/22)

Members received and noted a report from the Clerk on the recent vandalism.

The Clerk included a verbal update stating that she was waiting on a report from ADT regarding the CCTV power source at Bedford Road. She reported the previous CCTV suppliers had been contacted to ascertain where the power source came from in the past. A Member asked if all CCTV cameras were monitored? The Clerk explained that footage was viewed directly

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from the cameras via the laptop, not as per the previous contract where the footage was monitored by a third party.

A Member requested the Clerk report back to Members what the current contract covered and it was agreed that regular checks be carried out on all camera as a matter of course (monthly) to ensure all were operating correctly. A Member asked if there was a service agreement in place. A member requested an item be placed on the next Policy, Finance & Resources Committee to re-evaluate the costs.

11 Sandye Place and Jubilee Event (227-2021/22)

Members received a verbal update from the Clerk regarding ongoing challenges with the use of Sandye Place for the Town Council's Jubilee celebrations.

Grounds maintenance

The Clerk reported on recent meetings and that she had received a large quote from Central Beds Council for them to re-instate the grounds of the school. The Clerk had written to the Leader and Chief Executive Officer of CBC asking them to step in and waive the unexpected fees, requesting a response by 23rd March. That response had not been forthcoming and as such Ward Cllrs Stock and Maudlin had spoken internally to CBC Members to try and resolve the issue.

Following subsequent correspondence between the Clerk and Cllr Eugene Ghent, Head of Assets at CBC, it was agreed the Clerk would meet with Ben Pollard Corporate Landlord/ Operational Services Manager to agree a way forward and a meeting was set up on 8th April on site attended by the Clerk, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members of the Outdoor Team.

At the meeting it was made clear that CBC did not see the maintenance of Sandye Place Grounds as their responsibility to make it ready for the Sandy Town Platinum Jubilee Event and that STC was still expected to cover some, if not all of the costs for this. It was noted that STC had not had sight of any quote for the works which constituted:

- Grass maintenance
- Tree maintenance
- Clearance of debris from hardstanding.

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Ben promised to go back to CBC to discuss the matter and report back with a way forward. By 17:43 on the evening of the meeting no communication had been received.

Licensing

The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) that STC needed to apply for a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) as two licensable events were due to take place – the playing of live music and selling of alcohol.

Conditions of a TEN are that numbers must be restricted to 499 including staff and entertainers. The Clerk was advised by SAG that a Premises License may need to be sort. This would require a larger fee and 28 days to advertise the application.

Members expressed their frustration that a decision on Sandye Place still remained unresolved and that the need to apply for a premises license left the council in an untenable position as the date for the event was fast approaching.

Cllr Hewitt request 48 hours to resolve the issue and that if no progress could be made in that time an emergency meeting would be called to agree a way forward. Members agreed Cllr Hewitt should be given 48 hours to take matters forward.

12 Christmas Lights Tender (228-2021/22)

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk following receipt of tenders for the Christmas Lights. She said that three tenders had been received and she would prepare a full report to go the next meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources committee on the 16th May 2022.

14 News Release (229-2021/22)

Details of the Annual Town Meeting.

15 Chairman's Items (230-2021/22)

Jenkins Pavilion

The Chair reported that there were proposed changes to the car park as part of the new expansion plans and would triple the existing capacity.

The Heads of Terms were still awaited and that environment and travel plans still needed to be submitted for planning purposes.

Exit interview of former Clerk

The Chair said that a final exit interview had been held with himself, Cllr Hewitt and Chris Robson via Zoom and this should go on the former Clerk's personnel records.

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Rotary Club

He reported that at a recent Rotary Club Lunch a Ukrainian lady who lives in Biggleswade had spoken and said that seven families were due to come from the Ukraine to be temporarily accommodated in the area. The Chair said that he had offered the council chamber as a collection point for items that had been requested eg. baby equipment and various other items that the families may need. The Chair would supply more information in due course.

16 Mayoral Engagements (231-2021/22)

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Cllrs Hewitt, Sutton and Osborne and Mrs Osborne and Mrs Elliott-Flockhart for standing in for him at the Civic Service whilst he had COVID.

Please note due to an administrative error no agenda item was listed under 17.

18 COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION (232-2021/22)

19 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC (233-2021/22)

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting.

20 STAFFING MATTERS (234-2021/22)

Members received a report and recommendation from the Human Resources Committee and **RESOLVED** to agree the recommended action.

21 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC (235-2021/22)

RESOLVED: that the confidential business having been concluded the Press and the Public be readmitted to the meeting.

22 Date of Next Full Council Meeting (236-2021/22)

Monday 23rd May 2022.

Meeting closed at 21:50