

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, G Leach, M Scott (Deputy Mayor), D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllrs T Cole, C Osborne, M Pettitt, S Sutton, CBC Cllrs P Smith and T Stock

**In attendance:** Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and Cllr C Maudlin (CBC) and Chief Inspector D Boyle

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence (153-2017/2018)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs T Cole, C Osborne, M Pettitt, S Sutton, CBC Cllrs P Smith and T Stock.	Admin
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (154-2017/2018)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	
<b>3</b>	<b>22 (Sandy) Squadron Air Cadets (155-2017/2018)</b> The Chairman introduced Civilian Instructor Jeffery Henshaw to the meeting. Civilian Instructor Henshaw has recently been presented with an award for his work with the 22 (Sandy) Squadron Air Cadets, by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis. Mr Henshaw explained that he had been presented with several awards over the years for his work with the air cadets, and that he took over the role of Commander of the squadron otherwise it would have disbanded. The squadron was commended for being the third best squadron out of thirty and had thirty four members. He thanked the Town Council for their support over the years. Members congratulated Mr Henshaw and the Chairman asked that letter of congratulations was to be sent to Mr Henshaw from the Town Council.	Town Clerk
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Participation Session (156-2017/2018)</b> The Chairman noted there were four questions to be raised by councillors on behalf of the public.  1) Cllr Sparrow stated that the crossing by Shannon Court was obstructed by 'A' boards from the businesses in the court and it was difficult to see small children at the crossing. There was some discussion on the requirement	

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of a pelican crossing, however Cllr Maudlin said that it would be too expensive to re-instate such a crossing. The Town Clerk would raise concerns over the placement of 'A' boards with Central Bedfordshire Highways.

Town Clerk

2) Cllr Sparrow stated that the markings on the roundabout at New Road and Potton Road had worn away. Cllr Maudlin suggested a zebra crossing be put at the junction and the Town Council could support this through rural match funding.

Town Clerk

3) Cllr Aldis asked if the Town Council had been advised of the changes to the number 73 bus timetable. The Clerk informed the Council that he had not received any information on changes and would investigate further.

Town Clerk

4) Cllr Aldis asked if the Clerk could update members on a date for the meeting with the highway officials on the issue of the A1. The Clerk said that he was still waiting to hear from Alistair Burt's office with a date. Mr Burt's office had confirmed they were chasing the matter up with officials from the DoT.

## 5 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (157-2017/2018)

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 17 Crime and Policing (158-2017/2018)

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector David Boyle who attended the meeting to answer questions raised by the Town Council. He said that he would be sending more detailed answers to the Clerk.

1. Unlawful Encampments: The Police may act under Section 61 of the Criminal & Justice Order but had to abide by certain criteria which had to be taken into consideration; namely how many vehicles were present, two or more people had to reside there, damage/abuse to the landowner, a senior police officer may ask them to leave. Most people arrive for a reason e.g. a funeral, to use local amenities or hospital needs. If none of this criteria takes place the local authority under Section 77 can go to court for an order to remove the people. If criminal acts are involved the police can video vehicles

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and caravans, take names and dates of birth of all present, the people cannot return within three months. If evidence of criminal activity is found on site, such as cabling at the Sandy site the police will try and trace the source. A Member asked if the police could search local scrap merchants for stolen cabling etc and Chief Inspector Boyle said he would check.

2. Drug Dealing: Residents can liaise with the Serious Crime Team in Bedfordshire. If dealers are supplying users and the users need the drugs medically the police help with rehabilitation. If you suspect dealers in the area contact the local PCSO's. He will supply the Clerk with statistics anti-social behavior action and results.
3. Homewatch: Twenty-two thousand people have signed up in Bedfordshire and there are co-ordinators at Central Beds Council. (Speedwatch, Streetwatch, Faithwatch, Horsewatch, Neighbourhoodwatch). The police work with all the watch organisations and confirmed that they find them to be a valuable asset in tackling crime.
4. Thefts from Vehicles: In Sandy there is a slight rise from 57 to 64 in the same period last year, with four thefts since January 2018. Residents need to report the incidents. A Member said that they had seen a drugs deal in progress and had called 999 but was left hanging twice so gave up in the end. The Chief Inspector said that this should not happen, and the call should have been diverted. It was agreed the Councillor would provide the Chief Inspector with the dates and times of the calls, so he could look into the matter.
5. A Member asked if Sandy was a target for crime due to deprived areas. The Chief Inspector said that the statistics did not highlight Sandy or certain areas as standing out with a particular problem.
6. A Member asked if a new 'Action Take' column could be added to the crime statistics received by Council. Chief Inspector Boyle said he would provide that information to the Clerk to inclusion on future reports.
7. A Member asked why the speed cameras on the A1 were covered over and the Chief Inspector said that the matter

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was dealt with by another area of the police and he would investigate the matter.

8. Chief Inspector Boyle said that if he was available he would attend the Annual Town Meeting and if not, he would assign another member of staff to attend. The Chairman thanked him for attending the meeting and he left.

- i) Members received and noted February CCTV statistics.
- ii) Members received and noted a report outlining Police crime figures for Sandy.

## 6 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (159-2017/2018)

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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the four recommendations from the meeting.

- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## 7 Financial Matters (160-2017/2018)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against the budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and

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scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018).

## **8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (161-2017/2018)**

Members received the briefing notes from Central Beds Council.

Cllr Maudlin reported that they had received 8,000 replies to the consultation regarding bin collections so far. There will not be a consultation in Sandy and the CBC Councillors will be available to speak to residents about the consultation at their councillor surgeries in the library. Sandy Town Council Members expressed disappointment that there would not be a consultation event in Sandy, Cllr Maudlin said CBC ward councillors shared that disappointment.

She said that Sandy would be the pilot town for the Community Boards project as discussed at previous Council meetings.

Nominations are welcomed for "Cheering Volunteering 2018" with the closing date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.

The upgrade of Winchester Road is still under negotiation between CBC and Aragon Housing, CBC have pledged £70,000 via grant funding and Aragon Housing £100,000. They are still seeking finance from other sources. They will be removing unused garages in the summer, for additional parking.

The recent snow affected Sandy's Spring Clean, but Cllr Aldis will be leading a litter pick on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Engayne Avenue area.

## **9 Action List (162-2017/2018)**

Members noted the action list.

The Clerk informed Members that he was still awaiting the notes from the meeting between Mr Burt M.P and the DoT. Mr Burt is pursuing dates for a meeting between the DoT and Town and Parish Councils in the area. The Clerk and Mayor have both spoken with representatives of Mr Burt's office in an effort to push the matter forward.

## **10 Bedford Road Fencing (163-2017/2018)**

The Clerk's report was received and discussed.

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It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the lowest quotation be accepted and that the work be done as soon as possible.

## **11 Community Plan (164-2017/2018)**

Members received and considered the draft Community Plan.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Community Plan for purposes of consultation.

Town Clerk

## **12 Council Risk Assessment-(165-2017/2018)**

The Council's adopted Risk Assessment was reviewed and considered. Members felt that the risks identified were comprehensive and sufficient mitigating actions and procedures were in place.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Risk Assessment Policy.

## **13 Community Grant Budget Underspend (166-2017/2018)**

A Member proposed to earmark a £249 underspend in the 2017/18 grants budget for expenditure in the 2018/19 financial year. It was not seconded and therefore not carried.

## **14 Councillor Surgeries (167-2017/2018)**

A Member verbally reported that only one resident had attended the surgery and reported:

1. Rubbish in Medusa Way/Engayne Avenue/Winchester Road areas – a litter pick would be conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
2. Fly-tipping on the embankment area near Sunderland Road Recreation ground – there are differing landowners (STC, CBC, Aragon) around that area and the Clerk will investigate.

Town Clerk

The next Councillor surgery will be on 12th May 2018.

## **15 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (168-2017/2018)**

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

## **16 Consultations (169-2017/2018)**

The Northhill Neighbourhood plan was received and noted by the Town Council as a statutory consultee. It was commented that

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the Northhill Neighbourhood plan included sections on environmental and conservation matters. The Town Council should consider these matters in their Community Plan.

## **18 News Releases (170-2017/2018)**

To issue news releases on the Community Plan consultation and continued coverage on Barclays Bank Pop Up service.

Admin

## **19 Chairman's Items (171-2017/2018)**

In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor thanked all who supported the Mayor's dinner at The Gandhi restaurant on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 which raised £456.50 for the Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor will be interviewed on BBC Three Counties radio this week about Barclays Pop Up Bank.

The final two mosaics were unveiled at Sandy Library on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 with a large number of people present including cyclists from far and wide. The Lord Chamberlain is visiting Sandy next week to see the mosaics. He is a relative of Captain Sir William Peel depicted on the mosaics in the High Street.

The Mayor's final event is the Civic Service to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3pm at St Swithun's Church, for which invitations have been sent out.

The Deputy Mayor informed Members that Central Bedfordshire NHW AGM will be held in the afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Rufus Centre, Steppingley and asked for a representative from the Town Council to attend. A Member said that he would provide a report for Beeston.

A Member asked why the public toilets in the Car Park were being closed early? The Clerk informed him that this was due to vandalism, but they were to be re-opened following repair works to doors and fittings by the outdoor team.

## **20 Date of Next Meeting (172-2017/2018) Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**