

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 September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, M Hill, W Jackson, G Leach, M Pettitt, M Scott (Deputy Mayor), D Sharman, P Sharman, and J Sparrow.

Absent: Cllrs J Ali, C Osborne (Mayor) and S Sutton

In attendance: Cllr P Smith (CBC), Cllr T Stock (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mr B Groom (Administrator) and two members of the public.

| | | Action |
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| 1 | Apologies for Absence (56-2016/2017) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Osborne and Sutton, and CBC Cllr C Maudlin. The meeting was Chaired by the Deputy Mayor Cllr M Scott. | Admin |
| 2 | Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (57-2016/2017) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None | Admin |
| 3 | Public Participation Session (58-2016/2017) The Clerk informed Members that he had received two questions from the public; A Mr and Mrs Blaine of St Neots Road, Sandy wished to know the status of the Mosaics Project and whether they would be subject to public consultation. The Clerk informed Members that they were in the process of tendering for the Mosaic Artist and that he had attended a tender review at CBC to shortlist candidates. There will be presentations from shortlisted candidates at the end of the month and once an artist is appointed the project's consultation with the public can begin. The second question was about repairs to the Market Square bus shelter. The Clerk confirmed that repair work was being looked at ahead of the maintenance being taken over by the same company CBC uses. A Member spoke on behalf of a resident about the habitual dangerous parking in Swan Lane, which causes dangers to other traffic. Cllr Stock explained that the issue had been raised at a | Town Clerk |

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CBC councillor surgery and asked that the details and pictures be forwarded to her so she could look into the matter from CBC's perspective. Wayne Humberstone, who was in attendance on behalf of Bedfordshire Police, said he would also look into the matter and report back to the Clerk.

Cllr
Stock

A Member said that a number of residents had spoken to him about the state of the paths and grassed areas around the town, including the footpath near Bidlake Memorial. Cllr Stock stated she would look into this with CBC.

4 **Central Bedfordshire Police (59-2016/2017)**

Members heard from Wayne Humberstone, Head of Bedfordshire Police Force's Control Room on the new policing model and its implications for the town. He spoke about Operation Salcoat and informed the Council that they were continuing to increase Special Constable recruitment with some neighbourhood constables. A team of 20 Specials will be located in Biggleswade and will cover Sandy, in the future it is hoped that Sandy would receive a dedicated Special Officer. The Force currently has 272 Specials and wishes to reach 500 in total. There is an emphasis on community engagement work, which includes action days with mobile police units in specific towns, 6 such operations have been completed to date. Members confirmed Sandy would be interested in hosting such an operation and it was agreed that the Clerk work with Mr Humberstone to agree a date in Spring 2017. In addition budget cuts were not as bad as previously feared and the Force will be recruiting 100 more officers across CBC in the next 12 months.

Town
Clerk

A Member asked about CCTV and whether it provided value for money. Mr Humberstone explained that in his opinion CCTV was extremely beneficial and it would be a regressive step to remove CCTV. Footage acts as key evidence and the Force have a good relationship with Stevenage CCTV who monitor our cameras. A Member questioned whether evidence of value for money could be provided; Mr Humberstone said he would look at what data was available and come back to the Clerk.

A Member stated that Community Home Watch does not work well in Sandy and asked whether the Police could help get the community engaged in the programme. Mr Humberstone confirmed this formed part of Operation Salcoat and that Special Constables would be working with the various Watch bodies.

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| 5 | Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (60-2016/2017) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 1 August 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings. | Admin |
| 6 | Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (61-2016/2017) To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere. | Admin |
| | i) RESOLVED to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 8 August 2016 and 5 September 2016 and approve the Recommendation that: | |
| | Lack of Central Bedfordshire Planning Enforcement action and responses in relation to the Bartram Timber site is discussed at Full Council. | |
| | Members went on to discuss issues around lack of response from CBC and how this could be addressed. It was suggested that as a particular officer was not responding to Councillors emails this, along with Members enforcement concerns, be raised up the chain to CBC management officers and CBC executive. A Member proposed that CBC's formal complaint procedure should be followed and this was seconded. Cllr Stock confirmed she has been in discussions with CBC officers and noted that the lack of response was not acceptable. She offered to speak to those involved. It was agreed that Cllr Stock speak with the officers involved to ensure STC receive responses. Should this not happen, STC would review and consider submitting a formal complaint. | |
| | ii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 8 August 2016 and approve the Recommendation that; | |
| | The office and grounds team continue to map and catalogue all trees and that quotes for a 4 year inspection programme be acquired, with further negotiation on areas of inspection with a selected contractor. These quotes will be brought to an appropriate Policy, Finance & Resources Committee. | Town Clerk |
| | iii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 22 August 2016 and approve the Recommendation that: | |

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The Council repair all three highlighted sections of The Riddy fencing and that the required funds are taken from the Nature Reserve Maintenance budget with the remainder coming from the Council's reserves.

7 Financial Matters (62-2016/2017)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 22 August 2016).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 22 August 2016).

8 Action List (63-2016/2017)

Members received the Action List and the Clerk informed Members that he had received no further updates from Kings Road Surgery in regards the proposed move to Shannon Court, or from Network Rail with regards to the East West Rail Link. The Clerk confirmed he had circulated the notes from the last A1 Strategic Stakeholder group meeting to Members.

9 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (64-2016/2017)

Cllr Stock reported on the latest briefing note which had been forwarded to Members. A Member asked whether STC had responded to the Library Consultation, the Clerk confirmed that they had. CBC will be consulting on the weight restriction for Orchard Road, a survey by Cllr Stock and Cllr Hill had found residents to be in favour of the restriction. The Council is liaising with Stage Coach over the re-introduction of the No: 73 bus route which is anticipated to return in November. Cllr Smith informed Members that there may be a review in Licensing Laws and that issues around late night drinking should be brought to CBC's attention. Cllr Smith informed Members of the proposed changes to Sandy's school tiers, the Chairman confirmed that Members were aware and had previously discussed that matter.

10 Health Care Provision in Sandy (65-2016/2017)

Members received and discussed a letter from NHS England which was in response to the Council's concerns over the pressure on health care in Sandy. While the letter from NHS looked to assure

Admin

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the Council that all key stakeholders are working together to ensure practice resilience in Sandy, Members felt that it provided little information and that the pressure on surgeries in Sandy is a major issue that needs to be addressed, especially in the light of CBC's Local Plan and any potential development that may arise in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to Mr A Burt, MP, and invites him to a meeting with Members so the Council can highlight its concerns.

Town Clerk

11 Community Plan (66-2016/2017)

Members received and noted a report from the Town Clerk which summarised the findings of the recent consultation work carried out by the Council. Members were reminded that Pigeon Management was holding an open event in regards development to the North of Sandy on 23rd and 24th September at Maple Tree School.

12 Abbey Grove and Surrounding Areas (67-2016/2017)

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on a site visit he had held with Aragon Housing. The Clerk and Aragon officers had reviewed the area and looked at what work was required. Aragon Housing had produced a report in which they have stated they will be carrying out safety checks on redundant garage lighting and covering lights on Aragon owned garages. They will also be carrying out repair work on eroding walls and removing fly tipping on Aragon owned areas. Weed work will also be carried out on Aragon land. The Clerk will continue to liaise with Aragon and monitor progress.

Town Clerk

Cllr P Smith will be liaising with Aragon from CBC's perspective. Cllr Smith mentioned that other areas had seen success with local working parties, comprising of residents and Councillors, who carried out on-site work. It was suggested this could be something the Council could look at forming.

13 Jenkins Pavilion Contract (68-2016/2017)

Members received a report from the Town Clerk which summarised the findings of the working group's initial review of the draft contract. Members discussed the difficulties the Council had in agreeing a contract due to the uncertainty on the agreement between the school, CBC and Stevenage Leisure Ltd and an open, round table meeting between all parties involved should occur to help clarify the situation and contracts.

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Cllr Stock informed Members that the contract between the School and CBC was nearing completion and was currently with solicitors. There had been round the table discussions between the parties over the agreement several times and that had resulted in the current draft document. A Member stated that STC was part of the original agreement and appears to have been excluded from talks at this stage. There needs to be wider conversations between all parties. Cllr Stock informed Members that they needed to sort the CBC/Stevenage Leisure Ltd/School contract first, before moving on to wider discussions. A Member asked whether that agreement included anything STC was responsible for and Cllr Stock said it did not.

Members stated that the discussions with the School should not hold up the agreement with STC.

RESOLVED to respond to CBC's legal team highlighting the comments, changes and questions highlighted by the working group.

Town
Clerk

14 **Vacancy in the Office of Councillor (69-2016/2017)**

The Town Clerk informed Members that CBC had sent formal confirmation that an election was not needed and that the Council could go ahead and co-opt a new Member. Members received the co-optation documents for review.

RESOLVED to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy in Pinnacle Ward which had occurred following the resignation of Cllr D Quick.

15 **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies (70-2016/2017)**

- i) Christmas Light Switch on Event - Cllr Hill informed Members that the RSPB would be getting involved in this year's event by hosting a walk from the reserve into Sandy. There would also be an art display this year by a local group. The group is struggling from lack of volunteers to help organise the event and help on the day, Cllr Hill appealed that if Members know anyone who may be able to help they encourage them to do so.
- ii) Cllr Hill reported on his visit to Poland, stating he had met the Mayor to confirm arrangements for the Twinning visit in November. The Polish contingent will be visiting Sandy 10th-14th November, and will be taking part in the Remembrance Day activities. If any Member would like to host part of the delegation for any evening meal they are

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to let Cllr Hill know.

16 News Releases (71-2016/2017)

To issue press releases regarding the Councillor vacancy and co-option.

17 Chairman's Items (72-2016/2017)

The Chairman reminded Members that the Mayor was hosting a charity meal at the Taj Mahal and that any Member who is able to attend lets the office know as soon as possible. The Chair also asked that any Member intending to attend the Maasai Warrior event at the Sandy Parish Church let the office know if they wish to reserve seats.

18 Date of Next Meeting: 24 October 2016 (73-2016/2017)