

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle (late), A Gibson, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Deputy Mayor), P Sharman

Absent: Cllrs J Hewitt, A M Hill, M Scott, S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), CBC Cllrs S Ford and T Stock and four members of the public

The Chairman offered condolences on behalf of the Council to Cllr Sutton on the loss of a family member.

| | Action |
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| <p>1 Apologies for Absence (78-2019/2020) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Hewitt, A M Hill, M Scott, S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.</p> | Admin |
| <p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (79-2019/20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - Noneii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Noneiii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None | |
| <p>3 Public Participation Session (80-2019/20) Four members of the public were present, and two people wished to speak on Item 6, these questions would be taken at the relevant item on the agenda.</p> <p>A Member raised a question from a resident, regarding when the bus shelters on London Road and Engayne Avenue would be sited. The Clerk said that he would ask Central Bedfordshire Council for an update and let Council Aldis know.</p> | Town Clerk |
| <p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (81-2019/20) RESOLVED to: Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 5th August 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p> | |

Sandy Town Council

5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (82-2019/20)

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 12th August and 2nd September 2019.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 12th August 2019. The Clerk referred to Items 7 and 8 and said that these items were RESOLVED under the committee's delegated authority and the minutes would be amended and approved at the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council offer to part fund repairs to a CBC owned bridge adjacent to The Riddy if this gives the work a higher priority and ensures its timely completion.

RESOLVED that Councillor Surgeries would be held every 6 weeks in a local chemist in the winter months and at the Community Stand in the summer months.

- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 2nd September 2019.

RESOLVED that the Council make a contribution of £2,000 towards the ongoing development and management of the Sandy Green Wheel for the next two financial years (2020/21 and 2021/22).

RESOLVED that the Financial regulations be amended and adopted by the Council.

- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 9th September 2019.

RESOLVED that the Council continue with its current external Human Resources adviser for a further year.

Sandy Town Council

6 **Planning Application (83-2019/20)**

Members considered planning application CB/10/02313/FULL residential development of 37 dwellings including parking, access, landscaping and all associated ancillary works at The Sidings, land east of Sandy Railway Station, Stratford Road, Sandy SG19 2AA.

The Clerk briefed Members on the first planning application stating that both Sandy Town Council and Central Beds Council had objected. The new application reduced the number of dwellings to 37 from 45. However, there would still be fewer parking spaces than recommended by CBC's parking policy, archaeology work would need to be undertaken and the proposal does not meet affordable housing requirements. The Clerk also reminded Members that east west rail had responded to the previous application expressing its concern over any development which might impact the future of the project. CBC's Local Plan team previously stated that the site was outside the settlement envelope and there were objections raised about the impact the development would have on listed buildings in Stratford Road.

A Member of the public spoke to say that although the housing blocks had been reduced in height, they were still three stories high, which is inappropriate for the area. Access is dangerous on the roundabout, Stratford Road is not wide enough and there would be parking on Stratford Road blocking access to houses and the cemetery.

Another member of the public said that the development was outside the settlement area, that wildlife would be destroyed, and it would spoil the countryside setting.

CBC Cllr Stock said that they would call this application in and speak on the Town Council's behalf. She said she would notify the Clerk of the date. A Member suggested that the Town Council send a representative as well.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to object on the same grounds as the previous application.

Cllr Doyle joined the meeting.

7 **Planning Application (84-2019/20)**

Members considered planning application CB/19/02094/FULL demolition of existing single storey dining area and construction of a new dining area with flats over first floor level at Quince Court,

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

Engayne Avenue, Sandy. Total new build of 25 new on-bedroom flats over two storeys.

The Clerk stated that Highways had commented that there is no access for a fire tender and the SUDs teams have commented that they are unable to support this application due to a lack of information. A Member said that delivery vans can access the site so does not see a problem.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to support the application, as this was much needed accommodation and the Town Council welcomed it.

Town Clerk

Additional Agenda Item

The Chairman then referred to an Additional Agenda Item: Street Naming and Numbering.

Members considered the additional agenda item regarding street naming and numbering of 5 new dwellings replacing 27a and 27b Kings Road. The council previously resolved that these dwellings should retain the Kings Road street name with the addition of letter suffixes or continuation of numbering. The Highways Authority did not accept this and stated that under their definition, the new properties will have a defined new street and therefore a new street name is appropriate.

Members considered the suggestion of 'Daunt Place' which had been put forward by a member of the public. The Clerk referred to correspondence and an article from the Sandy Historical Research Group which related to Dr Daunt and other doctors who had worked at the surgery which previously stood on the site. The Clerk informed Members that the resident who put forward the suggestion would concur with the use of 'Doctors'.

A Member said that the names did not link to the location of Kings Road and suggested that "Kings Close" be put forward. There were other examples of areas in the town where this was the case, such as Swansholme Gardens and Swansholme Garden Court. Another Member suggested "SPA Close" after Sandye Place Academy".

CBC Cllr Stock said that for clarity a new development requires a new name and if a name of an individual is used it can only be named after a deceased person.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to put forward "Kings Close" as the Council's suggestion.

Town Clerk

Sandy Town Council

8 **Appeal by Pigeon Land Ltd (85-2019/20)**

Members noted that the appeal hearing for CB/18/01674/OUT land the north of Sunderland Road is to begin on 1st October 2019 and is scheduled to last 4 days. Members considered whether representatives from Sandy Town Council will attend the hearing.

Members were told that if representatives wish to speak it will be at the discretion of the Inspector. The Council's written representations had already been submitted to the inspector and the deadline for representations had passed. The Chairman suggested that if the Council wished to send someone to speak on the matter this should be to provide additional information to that already submitted.

A Councillor suggested that having someone speak would help clarify the Council's stance and could be of benefit.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Blaine attends the appeal hearing on the 1st October 2019 and that if asked he will clarify the Council's resolved position.

9 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (86-2019/20)**

CBC Cllr Stock said that the September briefing notes had been circulated. Members did not have any questions on the notes.

A Member asked about kerbside glass collections and was told that CBC were still awaiting information from government regarding this.

A Member said that the SPA situation was not progressing, and Cllr Stock said that Mr Keaveney wishes to meet with the Town Council and CBC Councillors to provide updates. A Member asked if there was anything the Town Council could do to speed this up, as residents were asking what is happening with the site. CBC Cllr Ford said that there is a long-term objective for leisure facilities, a care home and Sandy Secondary School in Sandy and talks are happening with CBC Councillors, but that CBC want to get the overall situation for Sandy right. This involves reviewing more than one site in the town. He also said that the Sandy Carnival will be held at the site next year and he is trying to arrange for the Sandy Show to also be held at the site next year. Cllr Stock said that Mr Keaveney is the Quadrant Head and is making Sandy a priority. The site has only been a CBC asset for 16 days.

Sandy Town Council

Cllr Stock stated that the Town & Parish Council Conference will be on Wednesday 13th October and believes primary care and the parking strategy will be on the agenda, which will be finalised in due course. She also mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Winchester Road Group on Tuesday 1st October to discuss a plan and costings.

The CBC Councillors left the meeting.

10 **Action List (87-2019/20)**

Members noted the Action List.

East West Rail Link: No further updates were available.

A1 – Local Issues: The Clerk said that he had received notes from Mr Burt's office which would be circulated. A Member said that the Town Council should put pressure on Mr Burt to make sure actions were taken forward. A Member stated that he was aware Mr Burt was making a portfolio of the issues to ensure a degree of continuity should an election be called.

Sandye Place Academy: A Member proposed that all councillors keep the 21/10/19 and 18/11/19 free for prospective evening meetings with CBC.

11 **External Audit (88-2019/20)**

Members received the external auditors report for the 2018/19 financial year and agreed an action plan for any areas raised within the auditor's report.

The Clerk said that the only action required by the external auditors was to use their reconciliation form next year.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to receive the external auditors report for the 2018/19 financial year and to use their reconciliation form next year.

12 **Central Bedfordshire Council Benchmarking (89-2019/20)**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on CBC's Market Town Benchmarking presentation.

The Clerk attended the presentation last week and is due to receive through the results report. When the report is available, he will circulate this to all Members. Members considered the way in which the results would be reported back. The benchmarking company will give a presentation in a local venue to which the local

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

retailers would be invited. This should include discussions on topics presented to help engage feedback. It was agreed that the Clerk would work with the Town Centre Group to arrange a public forum. An update will be provided to Members once the report has been received and a date for a forum arranged.

Town Clerk

13 Festival for Older People 2019 (90-2019/20)

Members received and considered correspondence from the organisers of the 2019 Festival for Older People.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support the festival by advertising the event on their website and Facebook pages.

Admin

14 Beeston Village Green Access (91-2019/20)

Members noted a report on legal advice received from the National Association of Local Councils on access to properties over Village Greens. The Clerk said that he was still awaiting further advice on the wider issue of protecting the Village Green.

15 Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Council's AGM (92-2019/20)

Councillors Blaine, Gibson and Scott will be representing the Council at the AGM on Thursday 17th October 2019 at 7.30pm at Cople Village Hall.

16 National Association of Local Councils Conference (93-2019/20)

Members noted that Cllr Pettitt will be attending the above conference in Milton Keynes as Deputy Mayor on the 28th and 29th October 2019.

17 Central Bedfordshire Council Consultations (94-2019/20)

Members noted the consultations.

- i) Public Space Protection Orders – Closes 2nd December 2019: The Chairman informed Members that a member of the public had sent comments in about the proposed changes to dog control PSPO's. The Clerk detailed the comments received. Members noted that this item will go to the next Community Services & Environment Committee for Members to review the proposals on change to the PSPO's and discuss in greater detail.
- ii) Sandy Sports and Community Centre – Closes 31st October 2019: This is a "user survey" but a Member said

Sandy Town Council

that leisure classes were already being moved to inadequate, unventilated rooms already and the Council should inform CBC of the feedback it was receiving.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Members would like to register the Council's position, in that they gave financial assistance for the DA1 dining area to be used for public parties and events and removing the bar facility would restrict the number and type of activities that can take place.

18 Reports from Representatives (95-2019/20)

There were no reports.

19 Mayor's Engagements (96-2019/20)

Members noted the Mayor's Engagements.

The Chairman said that as Deputy Mayor he attended HM Lord Lieutenant's Honours Recipients Gathering & Presentation on the 9th September, where Michelle Dobson, a Sandy resident, received an award but did not appear on the official press release.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council write to her to offer their congratulations.

The Chairman added that he had attended other events since the 9th September namely:

- 15.9.19 1st Anniversary of the Green Wheel Walk (am)
- 15.9.19 Potton Civic Service (pm)
- 16.9.19 Skarszewy Twinning Reception

20 News Release (97-2019/20)

- 1st Anniversary of the Green Wheel Walk. The Chairman thanked Cllr Gibson for her efforts in arranging and promoting the Green Wheel walk.

Admin

21 Chairman's Items (98-2019/20)

The Clerk said that a political group had asked to book the Community Stand for an event, as there was no policy in place yet for the use of the stand, he would look into the request.

Cllr Aldis stated that he would be attending the Traffic Management Meeting regarding Station Road on the 17th September.

22 Date of Next Meeting (99-2019/20)

Monday 28th October 2019

Sandy Town Council