

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Monday 17th August 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott (Chair), P Sharman, and S Sutton

Absent: Cllr R Lock, N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), CBC Cllrs Maudlin and Stock, Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Mrs A Elliott-Flockhart (Administrator), one member of the press and two members of the public were present.

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (22-2020/2021)

Apologies had been received Cllr Lock and CBC Cllr Ford.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (23-2020/21)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – None
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

3 Public Participation Session (24-2020/21)

Cllr Aldis raised a question on behalf of a member of the public asking when the new cemetery car park would be open. The Chair responded that this would be discussed at a Cemetery Working Group meeting to be held in September. It was hoped work on landscaping the new cemetery may be able to start this year and this might impact on use of the car park.

Cllr Osborne thanked Cllr Hewitt for updating Members on the operation of Shannon Court Surgery, as members of the public were concerned about the level of service and lack of information provided.

Cllr Hewitt sits on the Shannon Court Surgery PPG. She explained that over the lockdown period Shannon Court surgery was closed in line with NHS protocol and used as the administration hub for those staff who are in high risk categories.

Now that shielding restrictions have relaxed Shannon Court is open again, providing regular clinic services, by appointment only.

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Doctors were also on duty at the surgery. The surgery is not open to 'walk ins' and calls are being triaged and directed through the Biggleswade surgery. General questions and non-urgent concerns can now be logged online via the new Saffron Health partnership website.

Cllr Hewitt was thanked for her update and asked to keep Members up-to-date on developments.

Cllr
Hewitt

The Clerk informed the Council that a member of the public had raised a question over the Council's donation for the Audrey Boothby prize which is awarded by Sandy Secondary School. It was queried whether the Council should still be making this donation based on the lack of information it receives back. The matter will be brought to the next Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for discussion as part of the 2021/22 budget.

Town
Clerk

4 **Motion (25-2020/21)**

A Motion was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Aldis that the Town Council purchase its own mobile solar powered Speed Indicator Sign (SID) for use within the parish.

After discussion, the motion was supported by Members and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council purchase a SID sign with the Clerk investigating further the type of sign and costs involved. A report would go to the Policy Finance and Resources Committee meeting and the committee would have authority to approve the purchase.

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Clerk

5 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (26-2020/21)**

RESOLVED to:

Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 29th June 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

6 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (27-2020/21)**

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 Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 13th July 2020.

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RESOLVED that the draft Environmental Plan is adopted by the Town Council and that a working group of Cllrs Aldis, Blaine, Hill and Sutton work to develop the action points within the plan.

Cllrs
Aldis,
Blaine,
Hill &
Sutton

ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 13th July 2020 and 3rd August 2020.

iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 3rd August 2020.

RESOLVED that the Town Council provide up to £150 in match funding for the purchase and installation of a library box at Beeston Green. Funding to come from the Community Events Support budget. That the Beeston Green Working Group be delegated authority to approve the final design and location of the box.

Beeston
Working
Group

RESOLVED that the Council approve the publication of the 2019/20 Annual Report subject to amending page 15 of the report to clarify the purpose of a grant payment to Sandy Secondary School.

Admin

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (28-2020/21)

(i) Members received verbal reports from the Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

Cllr Stock gave a Covid-19 update and said she would send the data sheet to the Clerk for distribution. She said that on the 2/8/20 there were 3 cases in Arlesey but cases were going down.

She said she would send a link to a survey regarding the merger of the CCG (Bedford, Milton Keynes and Luton hospitals) to the Clerk, the closing date was the 13/9/2020.

The second round of the Community Asset grant was open for applications - £240,000 is available. The first round had 15 applications and £260,000 was granted.

Members raised questions regarding the use of the Days Inn site owned by CBC and Cllr Stock said it was for transitional accommodation for families, some confusion had been caused following a recent social media post. It was agreed that Charlotte Gurney from CBC would be invited to attend a CSE Committee

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meeting to explain more about CBC's Homeless strategy and use of the Days Inn Site.

A Member raised the question of the former Days Inn Conference centre and what it would be used for. No decisions had been made yet and CBC were considering potential uses.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Members' ideas for the use of the conference centre be discussed at the next Community Services and Environment Committee meeting.

A Member raised the question of the appalling condition of Station Road. Cllr Stock said that the Member's issues had been sent to Highways.

She said that the take-up of the new green bin for garden waste had had a good response so far.

Members raised the question of speeding on Sunderland Road and Cllr Stock said that CBC were working on solutions for this. Cllr Ford had taken a lot of action on the matter in terms of pressing for a resolution.

A Member enquired about the position regarding Sandye Place school grounds. The Clerk said that he was waiting to hear from CBC with a date for a meeting.

(ii) Members received and noted the notes from a meeting of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors.

8 Planning Application (29-2020/21)

The following applications submitted for comment by Central Bedfordshire Council were reviewed and comments agreed.

CB/20/02464/PADO First Floor Shannon Court High Street Sandy SG19 1AG	Prior notification of change of use from first floor offices (B1) to nine self-contained flats (C3) Comments: Members have concerns over the car parking and would like to reiterate that the flats will not be able to park in the town car park.
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CB/20/02569/FULL Land at Girtford Bridge House London Road Sandy SG19 1NA	Redevelopment of the site to provide 2 drive-thru's (Use Class A3/A5), 3 restaurant units (Use Class A3 and 1 Restaurant/gym unit 9Use Class A3/D2, following demolition of the existing buildings Comments: This application has much to commend it but in order for it to be acceptable matters of access, traffic and pollution need to be dealt with appropriately. There are particular concerns of the impact the development could have on the A1 traffic flow and the proposed traffic lights and crossing.
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9 Cemetery Working Group (30-2020/21)

Members received the notes from a meeting of the Cemetery Working Group. Members discussed the report and a Member queried whether it was not more appropriate for the Council to first decide on future use of the chapel before agreeing works, potentially budgeting Council money for works if needed. Members of the Cemetery Working Group commented that by getting redecoration works completed, the chapel would be ready to use for whatever purpose the Council saw fit and that it meant use could potentially restart in early 2021. The use of the chapel was not being discussed today and would need further discussion. A Member commented that funeral services were the most appropriate use and that he would like to see it limited to such a use for the first couple of years. It was clarified that it was important to recognise that by accepting the generous offer for redecoration works, the Council was in no way setting any expectations on the use of the chapel in the future. Use will need to be agreed by the Council.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council accept the offer for specified works to be undertaken in the chapel on the understanding that there are no future obligations and expectations on the use of the chapel.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that authority be delegated to the Cemetery Working Group to agree specifics of any work undertaken at the chapel as part of the proposed refurbishment, such as the type of flooring to be installed or products to be used.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that works by the proposer and their company be treated in the same way that all contractor works are dealt with, including risk assessments,

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specifications of work and insurance provision. That the Clerk ensure all required information is in place.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Cemetery Working group consider and bring back recommendations on future use of the chapel.

Cem.
Working
Group

It was agreed that future use of the chapel was a separate conversation that would need further consideration and discussion by the Town Council and the community. If members had ideas for the future use of the Chapel, they should submit them for the next Cemetery Working Group to consider.

It was noted that following a meeting between the Cemetery Working Group and the developer of the new depot, further works were to be undertaken on sections of the building's cladding. A review of the works would then be had in September to see if the alterations had worked and the remainder of the depot cladding be altered in the same way.

10 Consultations (31-2020/21)

(i) Members noted that Central Bedfordshire Council had released a decision on Public Space Protection Orders following the consultation to which the Town Council responded.

A Member asked how this would be enforced as he had noticed that dogs were not on leads in the parks. Cllr Maudlin asked that Members emailed into the Enforcement Officers, the times when they saw dogs not on leads (e.g. morning, afternoon or anytime) to enable them to visit the parks. A Member asked if Town Council staff would have devolved powers and she said that she would check and email the Clerk. A Member asked if the order would be enforced if there were no marked pitches in the parks. The Clerk would contact a CBC Officer to clarify the position, he also said that the signage would be checked with CBC as they provided it and it would be improved if necessary.

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(ii), (iii) and (iv) Members received and noted the papers from NALC and the MHCLG regarding changes to the current planning system.

Members commented that the consultation documents were large, and it would take time to fully understand the proposed changes to the planning system. In addition, it was noted that there were a lot of questions from NALC, many of which were difficult to understand. After discussion it was felt that the papers were not very clear and

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further support should be sought from NALC and CBC. The consultation is important, and time should be allowed by the Development Scrutiny Committee to discuss the consultation and formulate the Council's response.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact other organisations for support and that the Development Scrutiny Committee consider the consultation further and formulate a response over its next three meetings.

11 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (32-2020/21)

Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Committee. At present it is still not known if a Christmas Light Switch On event will be able to be held.

12 Joint Working with Sandy General Practitioners (33-2020/21)

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on a potential joint project with Sandy General Practitioners and to approve use of the council car park.

The Clerk informed Members of a joint request from Sandy Health Centre and the Shannon Court Surgery to make use of most of the town centre car park during several weekends in the Autumn for the purpose of a drive-through flu clinic. The Clerk explained that the clinic would help the practices provide vaccinations to a larger number of patients in the local area and this was needed due to the expansion of those eligible for the flu vaccine this year. An outdoor drive-through clinic would reduce risks associated with COVID-19 and allow for a larger number of vaccines to be administered. Both practices in Sandy are already working together, along with the NHS and other partners to hold drive-through clinics in three towns.

A Logistics Group is to be set up, including representatives of the NHS, Fire Service, the two Sandy surgeries and STC. The surgeries are asking for the council's assistance on the weekends in relation to use of the car park. The Clerk will join the logistics group and more details will be provided as a plan is finalised. Cllr Stock said that this is a national scheme and all vaccinations should be completed by 31st December 2020.

RESOLVED that the Council approve use of the car park and the Clerk work with the Events Working Group to confirm clinic arrangements with the surgeries.

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13 News Release (34-2020/21)

It was agreed to issue news releases on the following matters:

- The Mayor has sent a commemorative present to Sandy's partner town Skarzewy. This was in response to a gift the Mayor had received from the town in recognition of the long-standing link with Sandy.
- Green Wheel Celebration Fortnight

14 Chairman's Items (35-2020/21)

The Mayor informed Members that Cllr Sarah Doyle was intending to tender her resignation from the Council as she was moving back to London. He wished to thank her on behalf of all Members, for her time and work for the Council and wished her well for the future.

Cllr Doyle responded that it had been an interesting 14 months with the Council and thanked everyone for welcoming her and for being generous with their time and supporting her, including Cllrs Sutton and Aldis who had assisted her when she first joined the Council. She also wished to thank the Clerk and the team who she thought were the most respectful, diligent and hardworking team she had come across in her time in public service.

15 Date of Next Meeting (36-2020/21)

Monday 28th September 2020.