

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman) and N Thompson
c.c. Cllrs S Baker, J Hewitt, M Pettitt and P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE on Monday 18th December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
13th December 2023

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community, Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 6th November 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

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4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

5 Action List

To receive the Action List and any updates. (Updates from the Committee meeting in November will be made at the meeting).

Appendix I

6 Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Pavilion Drains

Further to the last meeting of the Committee initial investigations by a contractor have discovered issues affecting the drains serving the Pavilion including the public toilets. A contractor was instructed to carry out further investigations of the drains which were completed on Friday 8th December 2023. As landowner these costs will be borne by the Town Council. A verbal report will be made at the meeting.

7 Riddy and Pinnacle Working Group

To consider the minutes of the Working Group held on 6th November 2023.

Appendix II

- The Committee is asked to include the Pinnacle in the Town Council's tree inspections

8 No Mow May – Proposed Policy

To consider a report on the Town Council adopting a policy for 'No Mow May'.

Appendix III

9 Proposed Allotment Site - Beeston

To consider the response from Central Bedfordshire Council on the potential allotment site at Beeston. At the meeting of Council on 11th December 2023 it was reported that CBC Councillor Simon Ford would supply the Committee with additional information.

10 Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Carpark

Please consider the report – to come

11 Funding for Football Pitches

Further to the meeting of the Council held on Monday 11th December Members expressed an expectation that funding from the Football Foundation would be available. Please see Appendix IV that explains the process the Town Council has to go through in order to qualify for funding.

Appendix IV

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council notes the processes involved in making a funding application to the Football Foundation including the need for match funding and possibly the services of a consultant, and also notes

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Members are invited to observe the Outdoor staff taking samples three times a year.

12 Chairman's Items

13 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th February 2024

Agenda Item 5 - Community Services and Environment Committee - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken Action	Response /Status
Full Council Meeting 20/04/16		
Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land) Min (22-16/17)	Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. The condition of the proposed allotment site. was discussed at the Council meeting on 30 October. The future use of the site now depends on CBC reacting to the poor condition of the site. If CBC does not take action to remove the hard surfaces identified the Council will consider rejecting the site. Further to the Meeting of Full Council on 11 December 2023 to receive an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council on the future of the site for allotments
CSE Meeting 23/08/2021		
Min (33-21/22) EV Charging Points	RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a list of STC owned sites for consideration as part of CBC's EV Charge Point Scheme	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. Tom Price, Senior Sustainable Transport Officer for CBC attended March meeting to give update, including reapplying for grant for Sandy to be included in 2023 plans. A Working Group was set up to consider siting of EV points and impact on capacity of car park. CS&E Recommendations for option 1 agreed at Full Council on 7 th August 2023. However, Option 1 now includes 3 rapid charging points <i>OPTION 1</i> <i>3 x 50kW rapid charge points over 6 bays (wholly BP Pulse funded)</i> <i>4 x 7kW standard charge points over 8 bays (50% grant funding/50% BP Pulse, with some revenue share to Sandy TC)</i> See agenda Item 10.
CSE Meeting 21/03/2022		
Min (118-2021/22) Queen's Jubilee	RESOLVED: that S106 and CBC councillor grant monies be used to supply an additional mosaic for the town.	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. STC to remain in contact with Carolyn Blake in 2023 in the anticipation that the project can get back on track for 2024.

CSE Meeting 09.05.2022		
<p>Min (134-2021/2022)</p> <p>Beeston Green Drainage</p> <p>Minute(40 – 2023/24 refers)</p>	<p>Meeting between Philip Lovesey, Operations Manager at Bedford Group of the Drainage Board took place.</p>	<p>Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text.</p> <p>The majority of this work has been completed</p> <p>A meeting was held on 3 November 2023. Cllr Mike Scott did make a verbal report to the Committee meeting on 6 November 2023.</p> <p>Summary of report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at the northern end of Beeston Green . we inspected the watercourse that runs along Brook End Lane , past the Grange , along past Grange Gardens and out to the A1. It was very clear that many obstacles were in and around this watercourse obstructing its flow, including the Willows in front of Grange Gardens , the bridge into Grange Gardens and the pipework alongside the bridge and then into a very choked area around Willow Island . • The IDB representative agreed that these obstructions were detrimental in keeping these properties clear of flooding and the area could be offered some relief from flood risk as IDB were doing some work in a nearby area . • Discussions took place regarding the new development of six houses beside The Green.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Riddy and Pinnacle Working Group meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023 at 15.30 in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy.

PRESENT

A Matthews – Senior Reserves Manager (The Wildlife Trust) and R Lawrence - Ecologist (BRCC), Cllrs N Aldis, R Gilbert, J Hewitt R lock, M Scott and I Reed – Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies: An apology was received from Mr N Kiddy

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May - noted

3. Stewardship Grant

No report

4. Riddy Agreement

It was generally agreed it was working well.

Issues raised;

- Communications re Cows on the Riddy.
The Graziers contact/telephone details will be displayed at various points on the Riddy. Experience in other areas showed that having contact details on display was very helpful for the public to report issues and the farmers were able to react quickly to any issues that arose.

5. Wardening on the Riddy - Costs for Budget 2024/25

Due to rising staff costs along with the general trend of an increasing need to make repairs to an aging site infrastructure and carry out site maintenance, the proposal was for a 5% inflationary increase for the Council year 2024/25.

Employment of BRCC proposed £6,204.71

Wildlife Trust costs £2,068.99 A total cost of £8,273.70

The Deputy Town Clerk would report back to the Town Council to ensure that the 5% increase was provided for in the next budget.

6. Works and maintenance schedule

- Fencing in Spring had been reviewed and works carried out to ensure that it was safe for when the cattle were introduced.
- Girtford Layby – fence will be upgraded to ensure it was secure
- Internal Drainage Board – works on cattle drink area was discussed

- Wooden posts being pushed over by cattle- STC had quote from Gilks (fencers) to replace fencing – to be implemented
- Broken Bridge – The Baulk. Waiting for CBC to carry out repairs
- Reed cutting by IDB had been carried out to a satisfactory standard.

7. Reports on The Riddy

Incidents of livestock accessing areas due to kissing gates being dilapidated.

It was noted that the Grazier was complaining stock accessing A1 underpass and gaining access on to The Limes. Gate and post replaced. Smaller animals accessing areas using kissing gates. Posts were giving way from cattle pressure. There were three kissing gates - the posts were old. The wooden one at The Baulk had collapsed.

Cows calving on The Riddy was an issue that was being addressed.

26 Heads of cattle had been on site this year. There was clear evidence of over grazing which was a breach of the grazing agreement. There should be 15 head of cattle on site.

STC to send a letter to the Grazier setting out the concerns about calves on The Riddy and over grazing.

8. IDB ditch clearance

IDB had carried out works at the Riddy to a good standard.

Ditch along A1 completed

Slip Road ditch works delayed.

IDB had created a ford across The Riddy. It was reported old sleepers and stones installed

9. To receive a report from Mr Lawrence on works undertaken on the Pinnacle and any works outstanding.

- Issues re bramble clearance
- Two trees blown on to BT lines
- A tree had fallen on Lord Pym's fence
- Steps needed replacing
- Tree inspections – can they be included on the next Council inspection programme? Deputy Town Clerk to investigate
- Suggestion that the field by sub- station (access off Potton Road) be allocated for the town council to deposit green waste. This suggestion would be supported by Richard Lawrence. It would require the installation of a steel gate for security purposes. This storage area would save on cost of a chipper because green waste would be deposited there
- installation of field gate to be organised by STC in collaboration with R Lawrence

10. Site visit To The Riddy

To be held next Monday (13 November 2023) at 3pm. Attendees to meet at the Mill

11. Date of Next Meetings

A date for the next meeting would be set in early April 2024 and then a further meeting in early October 2024

The Meeting closed at 16.50

Sandy Town Council

Date:	18th December 2023
Title:	No Mow May and CBC Mowing Policy
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To consider a report on Central Bedfordshire Council's No Mow May policy. This is an initiative organised by Plantlife encouraging garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May to 'liberate your lawns and provide a space for nature'.

1.1 To identify Town Council areas that would benefit from such a policy and also those areas that would not

1.2 To consider the impact of the policies on Sandy Town Council's open spaces.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers a No Mow May policy for Sandy.

2.1 That the Council identifies The Laurels as a suitable No Mow May area to protect flora and fauna.

2.2 That Central Bedfordshire Council be requested to exclude The Green, Beeston from the No Mow May policy due to its impact on the look of The Green, Beeston.

2.3 That the only initiatives identified and promoted by this Council in relation to No Mow May can be progressed. Individuals cannot declare areas for No Mow May treatments.

Background

3.0 A No Mow May policy allows the grassed areas to have a rest, encourages flora and fauna. In some areas local nature reserves are identified to protect the areas in the Spring.

3.1 The Town Council has not signed up to No Mow May. The Council has received complaints from Beeston Green residents and the users of recreation areas like Fallowfield. When the mowing recommences the cuttings can look very untidy as they are not collected.

No Mow May

4.0 The Council has not adopted such a policy and there are limited areas where they would benefit from the policy. However, using the current year as an example as an organiser of events in May the Town Council was asked to mow the fields at Sandye Place for the Big Lunch and the Sandy Carnival. This would have meant these would have to be exempted from the policy.

Financial Implications

5.0 The financial impact is minimal.

Legal Powers

6.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Football foundation and Pitchpower Application for Improvements to Sunderland Road Recreation Ground pitches

In order to be considered for the Football foundation and Pitchpower pitch improvement scheme and funding there is a process that needs to be followed. This process requires us to submit samples of grass roots, soil tests, measurements of grass blade coverage etc over a year 3 times per pitch for each pitch; we have seven pitches at Sunderland Road. Once we have done this and submitted the results it is likely that we will be recommended for a grant. This test process is going to be carried out by Outdoor Team. We also have to prove we Verti-tine the pitches, feed the pitches as well as potentially overseeding; it has also been recommended by Pitchpower we have a 'ripper' machine.

If it was just applying for a grant every village pitch would be applying. It is the process Cllr Simon Ford went through for the Sandy Secondary School pitches and he is advising us on the process. Also, Emma Foxley from Let's Get Going is providing support to the Town Council, e.g., when the Pitchpower representative visited Sunderland Road to go through the process with officers, Emma made extensive notes. Members should be advised that this not going to be a short process. We have to prove our care for the pitches first. For example if a parish council have a pitch that is only mown they would not qualify for funding. Members may want to see the tests on the pitches. The process is 3 tests per pitch (both goal mouths and centre circle) 3 times over a year and analysing and submitting the findings. There are seven pitches at Sunderland Road.

[Football Foundation | Grass Pitch](#)

the application guidance and form for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund is live on the Football Foundation website – link [here](#)

A successful application will provide a 6 year tapered grant with 100% funding in years 1 and 2, 67% funding in years 3 and 4 and 33% funding in years 5 and 6. This is an excellent opportunity to get grass pitches up to a good standard and as we have pitches rated Basic in our last Pitchpower assessment of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground it really is worth an application. It may be worth applying for funding for that site also. I am told that the application process is really very simple.

To complete the application, you need:

- A PitchPower Assessment Report (specifically the Report ID)
- Evidence of security of tenure, which should be in the name of the organisation applying for funding, via either:
 - o Freehold
 - o Uninterruptible lease for the next ten years
 - o Licence agreement in place for the next ten years
 - o A lease or license with 12+ months to run, along with a ['Landlord and Tenant' form](#)
 - o A signed [Grass Pitch Maintenance Agreement pro forma](#) (if don't have a sufficient lease or licence)
- Evidence of match funding
- A [Grass Pitch Service Level Agreement \(SLA\)](#) to demonstrate the community usage on your site(s).

- Quotes for the works that you wish to seek funding for (these should be in line with your Pitchpower assessment)
- To assist with this some applicants use a consultant to ensure all the issues about soil condition, drainage are assessed and are used in the application. The Council will have to determine if it is prepared to match fund the application and possibly secure the services of a consultant.