

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 19th November 2018 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs T Cole, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, and S Sutton(Chair),

Absent: Cllrs N Aldis, G Leach, J Sparrow, N Thompson

In Attendance: Cllr M Pettitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk), one member of the public.

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (28-2018/19)**
Apologies were received from Councillors Aldis, Sparrow and Thompson. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of interest (29-2018/19)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Public Participation Session (30-2018/19)**
One member of the public was present and would speak in relation to agenda item 6 at the relevant point in the meeting.
- 4 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (31-2018/19)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 1st October 2018 as a correct record of proceedings.
- 5 **Action list (32-2018/19)**
Members reviewed the action list. The Clerk informed the committee that limited feedback on the Council's suggested amendments to the Heads of Terms for the community land at Beeston had been received. The Clerk is due to meet with the project manager for the affordable housing project, which is linked with the transfer of the community land and it is hoped that the project will be able to be moved forward at the start of the new year.

The Clerk reminded Members that the parking survey information had been sought in connection with Members' request that all parking arrangements in Sandy be reviewed. Central Bedfordshire Council have undertaken parking studies across some towns and are working on a parking strategy. Elements of the strategy are still being worked on and once complete the Town Council will be informed.

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The Clerk informed Members that dropped kerbing had now been installed in line with the Council's submission to CBC's Rural Match Fund. Members asked whether CBC would be submitting an invoice for STC's share of the cost. The Clerk informed Members that this seemed very unlikely as CBC had not informed the Council that the work would be taking place or provided any costs for consideration and agreement.

The Rural Match Fund will be running again, with any 2019/20 submissions to be made by the end of January 2019. The matter will be brought to Full Council for consideration.

A Member commented that the signage installed to prevent HGV's going down Cambridge Road did not appear to be working. It was agreed that the Council would contact Traffic Master and ask that satellite navigation information is updated for Cambridge Road and Fallowfield.

Admin

6 **Assistance Dogs in Bedford Road Recreation Ground (33-2018/19)**

M. Runchman, who was present to speak on the item as a volunteer explained that as part of the training for an assistance dog, it must encounter as many situations and environments as possible during its development. As part of this process the dog needs to become familiar with play equipment and children. The dog will be paired with a deaf person after one year's training. It was explained that the dog will be kept on a lead, will not be taken on to the football field and will be cleared up after. The volunteer will be wearing a top which identifies her as a trainer of hearing dogs and the dog's lead will have a tag explaining it is in training.

It was **RESOLVED** to give permission for the assistance dog in training to be allowed into Bedford Road park. Any future requests will be dealt with separately on their own merits.

7 **Sandy Greenwheel Development (34-2018/19)**

Members considered a request to provide a financial contribution towards further development of the Sandy Green Wheel. The Council had previously agreed to contribute £2,000 in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years.

Members stated that they were not against the request in principle and that the development of the Green Wheel was a worthwhile and beneficial project. However, all Members expressed some concern that the detail of work to be undertaken in the next two years was vague and did not provide any indication that physical

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improvements or development to the route will be made. There is no clarity on what the priority areas of work will be.

A Member raised an issue over the poor maintenance of parts of the route, which in some parts were becoming inaccessible. While the Council are investing £2,000 a year towards the development of the Wheel, what is happening with the ongoing maintenance and whose responsibility is this?

A Member commented that the Council needed to receive greater evidence of how and where the money is spent.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the committee recommend to the Policy, Finance and Resources committee that a £2,000 contribution be included in the 2019/20 budget considerations and that the Clerk obtain proposals on how money will be spent, and which parts of the route will benefit.

Town
Clerk

The Clerk will also raise maintenance issues with CBC's Rights of Way officer.

8 **Bulletin (35-2018/19)**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on the Council's use of the Bulletin. The Clerk informed Members that the Bulletin had stated their circulation in Sandy was 5,000 homes and 290 homes in Beeston.

A Member stated that getting reliable people to deliver the Bulletin was an issue for the publication. Every household in Sandy should receive a copy.

Use of the Bulletin helps the Council get news items out in hard press on a regular basis and meets requirements of the Local Council award scheme. Importantly the Bulletin is a free publication which is delivered to residents. Finding another similar publication would be difficult.

It was noted that the format and range of the Bulletin had changed and it was agreed to monitor how this new format worked over the coming months.

RESOLVED to continue with the regular use of the Bulletin to advertise Council news.

The Clerk was asked to get a quote for a full page in the new format and a quote for a regular page with Inside East Beds.

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9 **Christmas Tree Festival (36-2018/19)**

It was agreed that the Council take part in the 2018 Christmas Tree festival and that a donation of £25 be made. Cllr Sutton stated she would provide the tree and help with the decoration, including possibly baking biscuits to go on the tree. Linda Scott may be able to print a roman coin design which can be placed on the biscuit as an edible decoration.

Members expressed their thanks to Cllrs Sutton and Scott and Mrs. Linda Scott for offering to provide and decorate the tree.

10 **Sandye Place Academy (37-2018/19)**

Members noted with pleasure that the application to have Sandye Place academy registered as an asset of Community Value had been approved by Central Bedfordshire Council. The Clerk would work with the Sandy Historical Research Group (SHRG), who had submitted the application with the Council's support to issue a joint press release. It was commented that this should be accompanied by a picture of the Mayor and a representative of SHRG with the notification of approval letter.

Town
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11 **A Nations Tribute (38-2018/19)**

- i) Members noted that £421 had been raised from the lamppost poppy sponsorship. These funds would be donated to the Poppy Appeal. It was agreed that the RBL branch president and the poppy appeal coordinator would be invited to the next full council meeting to receive a cheque.

Town
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The lamppost poppies proved very popular and were appreciated by residents of Sandy. A request has been received that the lamppost poppies be run again annually, with the public been given the opportunity to once again sponsor the poppies.

RESOLVED that the Council repeat the lamppost poppies event in 2019.

Admin

- ii) Members reviewed the Nations Tribute event which took place on the evening of 11th November 2018. A Member commented that they felt it was a fantastic event and expressed thanks to all the councillors, staff and volunteers who were involved in the organisation and running of the event. The event received a lot of positive feedback, the only negative feedback was that it could have been better publicised. A Member recognised the hard work of Councillors Sharman, Sutton and Scott on the day of the event.

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Members discussed the struggle with publicity and the Clerk commented that social media posts/advertisements could be made shorter as some readers may skip over longer content. It was agreed that the PA system could be rented in for any future events to improve sound quality and range.

Members were in favour of repeating the event at an appropriate date in the future. In 2020 it will be 75 years since the end of WW2.

A Member asked whether there would be a review of the morning's parade as well. It was confirmed that there would be. Members asked that issues over the PA system on the morning of the event be reviewed along with the organisation of the parade itself. The parade and those attending to watch is getting bigger and the parade marshall needs some assistance in organising the parade on the day. It was also noted that some schools, who had confirmed attendance, had been missed off the parade order.

12 **Central Bedfordshire Council Highway Improvements (39-2018/19)**

Members noted that CBC were not able to include resurfacing of Pleasant Place, which is privately owned within the upcoming street projects for which funding has been provided. Members felt strongly that the link between the Market Square and the Health Centre was crucially important and that the Council should pursue the matter further. The Clerk was asked to go back to CBC and emphasise the importance of Pleasant Place and ask the Council to work with us to find a solution.

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13 **Establishing Rights of Way (40-2018/19)**

The Clerk informed the Council that a member of the public had obtained signatures in support of recognising the access route which runs from the Market Square, alongside the pharmacy and through to the Health Centre as a Right of Way. Although the public have used the route for a considerable time it does not appear on CBC's definitive maps of rights of way (ROW). An application can be made to CBC to have it recognised as a ROW, this would require witness statements and any other evidence available to support the use of the route.

A Member commented that the pharmacy had been opening and locking the gate for 20 years, so the route has been used on a daily basis from that point at least.

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Members agreed that the pedestrian link between the Market Square and Health Centre was important and that STC should pursue the matter on behalf of residents. The Council could use social media to ask residents for evidence/statements of use and the Health Centre PPG could be asked to support the application via the collection of witness statements.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk contact the pharmacy to find out more information and identify and approach the landowner.

14 Chairman's Items (26-2018/19)

There were no Chairman's items

15 Date of Next Meeting (27-2018/19)

Monday 14th January 2019.