

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 20 May 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair), and N Thompson

In Attendance: Cllrs M Pettitt, P Sharman and Mr C Robson (Clerk)

Action

1 Apologies for absence (1-2019/20)

Apologies were received from CBC Cllrs Maudlin and Stock.

Admin

2 Declarations of Interest (2-2019/20)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Election of Vice-Chair (3-2019/20)

Cllr Amanda Gibson was nominated and seconded as Vice Chair of the Community Services and Environment Committee. No other nominations were received. **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Gibson as Vice Chair for the 2019/20 civic year.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting (4-2019/20)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 1st April 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

5 Public Participation Session (5-2019/20)

There were no members of the public present. Cllr N Thompson raised concerns brought to him about evidence of drug use in Council managed recreation grounds. Dates, times and location details should be provided to the police if possible, and it was agreed that Cllr Thompson should raise these matters with the police at the next Police Priority Setting meeting.

6 Action list (6-2019/20)

Members received the action list. The Clerk informed Members that CBC's Mr L Newton had responded to the Council's points on the Beeston community land Heads of Terms and agreed that;

- A peppercorn rent should be charged
- The notice period will be extended to 24 months
- That the stipulation over the Town Council sub-letting plots to people of a financial standing acceptable to CBC be removed.

A date to sign the Heads to Terms was now awaited from CBC.

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Members noted that CBC expect to receive a first draft of a parking strategy by the end of May and that it is anticipated this will go to the Oversight Committee in June. A Member commented that the Council should be more proactive in putting forward the problems and potential solutions to parking issues in Sandy.

Another Member commented that it should be published that CBC are working on a strategy and Members of the public should be invited to give us comments on areas which have issues in Sandy. It was proposed that a working group be set up to consider the matter and respond accordingly. Given the short time period, other Members did not feel that a working group was appropriate and that a number of Members could quickly discuss and collate issues to submit to CBC.

It was **RESOLVED** that a response group consisting of Cllrs Aldis, Knagg and Thompson meet to discuss and collate parking issues in Sandy and submit these to CBC for consideration as part of their strategy.

7 **Street Food Market (7-2019/20)**

Members received a brief review of the first two Street Food Markets held in the Council's car park. A Member spoke on the matter to say that he was encouraged by the report and that the organiser wished to continue with the event. There was some concern expressed over the need to charge for entry and that this didn't appear to be at a fixed rate. Members asked if there was anything the Council could do to assist in resolving the matter.

The Clerk informed Members that he had been in contact with CBC Licensing and that no charge was required in Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard because they had Charter Market status. As Sandy did not have a charter and there was no regular market to which this event was joined, CBC have said it cannot be classed under the market licensing laws and must be ticketed. The organiser is continuing to pursue this matter with CBC.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the recommendation be approved.

A Member said that the Council should do as much advertising as possible as some people still didn't know about the events.

A Member commented that public reaction on social media had been positive, but that many asked why it couldn't happen in the

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market square. The Clerk informed Members that the organiser had preferred the car park as it meant they could set up a more controlled event to meet CBC's licensing requirements for charging entry. Use of the market square would also require road closures. A Member said that use of the market square may form part of a wider debate about the town centre.

RESOLVED to support future market dates with publicity and promotion and that no charge is made for the next two markets while the organiser continues to establish the event and make it viable.

Clerk

8 **Boundary Residential Access (8-2019/20)**

Members considered a request from a resident to install a gate from the rear of their property to the Council owned car park.

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A Member stated he was sceptical about the request the impact this would have on spaces and the Council's freedom to do as it wished with the car park in the future. There does not seem to be an overwhelming need for the gate and the Council must protect the car park. Any previous permissions given for other gates should not have been granted.

A Member stated that he was not going to object to the request and did not remember the Council previously giving permission for access/gateways. While the Member was not going to object to the request this would be on the proviso that no access was granted.

A Member stated that they were concerned that continued access over time could one day develop into a right of access. This could also set a precedent and lead to more requests. In the long term there could be an impact on the parking spaces and the Council's future use of the land as a result of access being established.

Members suggested that any approval should be accompanied by the condition that no right of access was granted, any permissions would be for the current owner only and that the barrier which would need to be removed would be put on a hinge, so it could be reinstated when not in use. All costs would be met by the resident.

Members questioned whether the conditions would have legal weight and that seeking advice could be costly.

Members debated the matter further and it was **RESOLVED** that the request be declined and that no access would be granted due to concerns over the impact on the car park.

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9 Highways England Mobile Exhibition (9-2019/20)

Members considered a request from Highways England to locate a consultation van in the Council owned car park. Members felt the van should be located somewhere more visible if possible, such as the market square or passageway between the Car park and town centre.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the request to site the exhibition van in the car park but that alternative, more visible locations are also offered for consideration.

Admin

10 Rural Match Fund (10-2019/20)

Members noted correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council on the Council's recent application to the Rural Match Fund. It was noted that the application had been rejected. The Clerk reminded Members that this had been for speed signage on Sunderland Road and re-surfacing on Cambridge Road footpaths.

11 Jenkins Pavilion – Stevenage Leisure Request (11-2019/20)

Members considered a request from Stevenage Leisure to apply for an alcohol license for use at functions held in the Jenkins Pavilion. The Clerk informed Members that the duty manager who had requested this had now left SLL and he was unsure as to who would progress this matter.

A Member expressed concern that this may have a negative impact on the Village Hall and its bar. Another Member stated that having an alcohol licence could help clubs as well as SLL bookings and that the facility was more likely to get community use. The Council had previously agreed that the pavilion should not have a licence but it should be noted that this request would be for bookings only.

It was Proposed and Seconded to approve the request in principle.

A Member raised concerns over whether the FA's funding of the pavilion was dependent on there not being a bar. Certainly, the FA would not fund the social side of a project. It was agreed that it was important to clarify this point with the FA.

RESOLVED to approve in principle the request that SLL progress an application for an alcohol licence for use with bookings of the Jenkins Pavilion subject to clarification from the FA.

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12 **Beeston Community Orchard and Allotments (12-2019/20)**

Members considered the idea of setting up a small working group to work with the Clerk and other stakeholders on progressing the lease for community land at Beeston and planning for the Community Orchard and Allotments project.

A Member commented that this is all dependent on the housing development being brought forward by CBC. The Clerk informed Members that the working group could help work on bringing an agreeable lease to committee for decision, rather than waiting for meeting cycles to progress the matter.

RESOLVED that Councillors Gibson, Hill, Sutton and Scott sit on a Community Orchard and Allotment Working Group.

A meeting will be held following receipt of the Heads of Terms for signing.

13 **High Street Improvements (13-2019/20)**

Members received information on the installation of new cycle stands, benches and a community stand and considered usage, management and booking arrangements for the Community Stand.

The Clerk informed Members that work on the installation of the street furniture had come to a halt. CBC had informed the Clerk that this was due to health and safety concerns due to underground services. CBC's Highways Contractor was due to come back to them before the end of May to provide an update.

A Member stated that dependent on the response received by the end of May this matter needed to be raised at a high level within CBC. The work has taken a long time to come forward, with no notice given when it did start. A Highways engineer had spent considerable time investigating the site prior to this work and it seems inconceivable that services weren't accounted for. Furthermore, there were five workmen on site who had a lot of downtime, which does not represent good value for money for the tax payer.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that arrangements for the management and booking of the stand go to the Events Working Group for consideration in preparation for its installation.

The Clerk will circulate updates received from CBC on the installation to all Members.

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14 **2019/20 Action Plan (14-2019/20)**

Members received, considered and developed an action plan for the Community, Services and Environment Committee. Members went through the actions listed and one Member raised concerns about the timescales, with most being due to start over the next couple of months. When considered alongside action plans for the other committees, this amounted to a lot of work and pressure. Another Member stated that there were many points which were already ongoing or where Members could lead.

It was suggested that the further development of the Council's involvement in the Great British Spring Clean and engagement with the Youth Parliament could be pushed back. The Spring Clean was not due to take place again until 2020 and the school academic year was due to finish. Starting actions on both matters in autumn 2019 seemed more sensible.

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A Member commented that the recently announced Passenger Benefit scheme had awarded £80,000 to Sandy station and the Council should be involved in inputting into how it should be spent. There was a short deadline on this and it was agreed to bring the matter back to the July Community Services and Environment committee meeting.

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It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the committee approve the action plan subject to pushing back timescales for the Youth Engagement action points and the great British Spring Clean.

A Member asked that more information on developing a Neighbourhood Plan, perhaps using the Community Plan as a basis be brought back for discussion so that the Council can decide one way or the other on whether it wishes to progress a plan. Some caution over the unknown timescales of East West Rail and CBC's Local Plan were voiced.

A Member asked that given the recent importance placed on trees in urban environments, the Council have an ongoing programme for the planting of trees and that this be brought forward for consideration under September's budget review.

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The Plan to be reviewed each quarter.

15 **VE Day 75th Anniversary (15-2019/20)**

- i) Members received information from ssafa and considered participation in the 2020 anniversary of VE day. The Chair informed Members that the government were thinking about

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moving the bank holiday to a Friday as part of commemoration of this event. It was noted that Town Criers were taking part in events over the weekend. Sandy does not have a town crier but may be able to book a 'locum' or loan a Crier from another town.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit an expression of interest and refer the matter to the Events Working Group for consideration. A proposal will be brought back to the committee for approval.

**Events
Working
Group**

- ii) Members received information on the 'There but not there' D-Day 75 Campaign. This had come to the Council following its participation in the 'There but not There' soldier scheme. It was noted that this was geared more towards individuals and raising funds rather than a specific event. It was agreed that the Council could advertise this on their website for residents to be aware of.

Admin

16 Review of the Fair held on Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (16-2019/20)

Members received a report on the Fair held on the Sunderland Road recreation ground. Members noted that the feedback was generally positive and that this was a valued event for the town. It was noted that the fair had caused disruption to nearby residents on the Sunday evening when they had packed away. It was stated that the fair should be encouraged to return to Sunderland Road but that organisers should be asked to carry out pack up of the site during the day time.

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Clerk**

17 Chairman's Items (17-2019/20)

There were no Chairman's items.

18 Date of Next Meeting (18-2019/20)

Monday 1st July 2019