

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee of Sandy Town Council which was held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 20 June 2022 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, W Jackson, R Lock, C Osborne (Chair), M Scott and P Sharman

Absent: Cllrs M Pettitt

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1 Apologies for absence (1-2022/23)

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pettitt.

Actions

Admin

2 Election of Policy, Finance & Resources Committee Deputy Chairman for the Council Year 2022/23 (2-2022/23)

Cllr P Blaine was nominated, seconded and duly elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations.

3 Declarations of interest (3-2022/23)

Cllr Blaine under item 15 Training Policy as Chairman of the BATPC, Cllrs Scott, Jackson and Aldis under item 7.1 as Members of Sandy Horticultural Society.

4 Minutes of previous meeting (4-2022/23)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 16th May 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

5 Public Participation Session (5-2021/22)

One member of the Bowls Club and two members of the Sandy Horticultural Society were present to talk about requests for funding under item 8 and item 7.1 respectively. The Chair agreed for each Member to speak in support of their requests under the relevant agenda item.

6 Financial Reports (6-2022/23)

i) Members considered the balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for April 2022. The Chairman took Members through the report page by page.

Town Clerk

A Member queried whether there were enough funds in the General Reserves. The Chair confirmed there was.

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RESOLVED to note the report.

ii) Members received and considered a budget report from the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED to note the report.

iii) Members scrutinised a schedule of payments made since the previous meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the list of April 2022 payments.

iv) Bank reconciliations and statements.

RESOLVED that the Chair of Policy Finance and Resources check and approve the bank reconciliations and statements.

Cllr
Osborne

7 Grant Applications (7-2022/23)

7.1 Members received and considered a grant application from Sandy Horticultural Society.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to Sandy Horticultural Society.

Admin

7.2 Members received and considered a grant application from Let's Get Going.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £880 to Let's Get Going.

Admin

8 Bowls Club (8-2022/23)

Members received a request from Sandy Bowls Club to purchase maintenance equipment for the Club.

It was **RESOLVED** that due to a lack of funding provision for the year 2022/23 that an application for funding to purchase such an expensive piece of equipment could not be granted at this time. Members committed to give the request serious consideration when setting the budget for 2023/24 in the Autumn. The Clerk was asked to contact the Bowls Club nearer the time of this decision being made.

9 CCTV (9-2022/23)

Members received a verbal update from the Clerk on progress into the issues found at Bedford Road Recreation Ground.

The Clerk explained that visits by ADT and UK Power Networks had not been able to locate a power source for the CCTV unit, even with

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the use of a CAT scan. Until the power source could be located the issue at the site remains unsolved and both ADT and UK Power Networks had advised that an electrician would be required to identify this. Members resolved to defer the item to another meeting when more information would be available. The Clerk was instructed to continue investigations to resolve the issue.

Town Clerk

10 Replacement to Equipment at Bedford Road Recreation Ground (10-2022/23)

Members received a recommendation from CS&E to replace play equipment at Bedford Road Recreation Ground.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve replacing the play equipment subject to the Clerk being able to secure funds through the Council's insurance and that funding also be pursued under the Community Assets Grant Funding Scheme.

Town Clerk

11 Repairs to Equipment at Bedford Road Recreation Ground (11-2022/23)

Members received and considered a report on the costs of repairing equipment at Bedford Road Recreation Ground.

It was **RESOLVED** to pay for the cost of replacement parts for the Youth Shelter at Bedford Road Park caused by the equipment being misused as a climbing frame. Members requested funding be pursued for this under the Community Assets Grant Funding Scheme and that the Clerk look to also have climbing apparatus installed on site to alleviate the problem. Signs to be placed on the equipment to advertise that it is not safe to climb on.

Town Clerk

12 Sandy Sports and Leisure Association Lease (12-2022/23)

Members reviewed and considered Land Registry Prescribed Clauses to the Lease of Sport and Leisure facilities Land West of Sunderland Road between Sandy Town Council and Sandy Sports and Leisure Association.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the Prescribed Clauses being incorporated into the Lease of Sport and Leisure facilities Land West of Sunderland Road between Sandy Town Council and Sandy Sports and Leisure Association.

13 Grave Digger Fees (13-2022/23)

Members noted that from 1st May 2022 Grave Digger fees increased from £240.00 to £300.00 per funeral.

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It was **RESOLVED** to note the increased cost in Grave Digger fees and requested that the Clerk make enquiries to other local councils to ascertain the fees that they are paying.

14 Community Asset Grant Scheme (14-2022/23)

Members noted the opening of the bidding round for the Community Asset Grant Scheme, and the criteria and deadline for applications.

It was **RESOLVED** for an application to be made for a Bedford Road Recreation Ground Equipment Improvement Scheme to fund the repairs/replacement of damaged equipment at the site and the installation of a new piece of equipment (see items 10 & 11).

15 Updated Policies (15-2022/23)

Members reviewed and agreed the following updated policies:

- Council Training

It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Council Training Policy.

- Privacy Notice

It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Privacy Notice.

- Website Accessibility Statement

It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Website Accessibility Statement with the amendment to include the new Clerk's name and contact details.

Admin

16 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. **(16-2022/23)**

16.1 Reversal of Resolution – Christmas Lights Staging (17-2022/23)

Members noted a report to consider reversal of resolution (106-2021/22) and received quotations for staging for this year's Christmas Lights Switch on Event following a very poor experience of the original selected contractor during the Platinum Jubilee Event.

The event highlighted poor practice and customer service by the company that the Council did not wish to repeat.

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It was **RESOLVED** to reverse resolution 106-2021/22 and award the contract for the Christmas Lights Staging to Company B, on the provision that they could meet the sound requirements for the headline band. The Town Clerk was instructed to investigate and if this were not the case then the Council would go out to re-tender.

Town
Clerk

16.2 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting. **(18-2022/23)**

17 Chairman's Items (19-2022/23)

There were no Chairman's items.

18 Date of Next Meeting (20-2022/23)

Monday 8th August 2022.

The meeting closed at 20:52