

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 22nd August 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, J Ivanciu-Wilkinson, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), M Scott, P Sharman, and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllr N Thompson

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk) and Mr Anthony J Lock (Co-Optee)

Action

1	Apologies for Absence from (72-2022/2023) The Clerk had received a communication from Cllr Thompson on 8 th August to say that due to an accident he was in hospital. The Clerk awaits a further update on his circumstances. Apologies were also received from Ward Cllr Stock	Admin
2	Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations number (73-2022/2023) <i>i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None</i> <i>ii) Non Pecuniary Interests – Cllr R Lock Item 4 for a personal relationship to the candidate.</i> <i>iii) Dispensations – none</i>	Admin

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3 Public Participation Session (74-2022-2023)

No members of the public were present; however, the following queries were raised through Members:

1. The Mayor had received a query from a resident asking why there were no roadside glass collections in Sandy. *The Mayor reported he had referred the issue to Ward Cllr Stock, who had referred it to Cllr Ian Dalgarno at CBC.*
2. Cllr Aldis had received a request to reposition a dog waste bin by the Mill triangle further away from the bench there. *The Mayor requested Cllr Maudlin investigate if the bin could be moved and the best new location for it as it is a CBC asset not owned by STC. Cllr Aldis to advise on the new location.*
3. The Clerk had received a complaint regarding the flouting of Burial Regulations at the Cemetery and had been asked what was being done to ensure rules were kept to. *The Clerk informed Members that she was aware of the situation and had contacted the families concerned to resolve the issue. Staff would review the cemetery on a regular basis and deal with any further breaches accordingly.*
4. The Mayor had received several questions, all from the same resident regarding his meeting with Cllr Ford and Cadent about the current works taking place on the High Street. The Mayor read the questions to members present and *stated that he would respond to the resident separately. A statement had also been published on STC's website and Facebook page about the meeting and its outcome.*
5. The Mayor had received an email on behalf of the SG19 group requesting a meeting of appropriate bodies to discuss the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet works and other A1 matters and proffering a suggestion for use of a £5,000 donation from Anglia Water (see item 12) to be used to undertake investigations into traffic issues in Sandy or to carry out a traffic survey in the Town to determine what the issues were. *The Mayor deferred the query to Cllr Aldis as the Council's representative on the SG19 group.*

Cllr R Lock left the room

4 Co-option for Vacancy at Pinnacle Ward (75-2022-2023)

The Chairman welcomed Mr Anthony J Lock who had applied for co-option and was in attendance.

The Clerk confirmed that two applications had been received for co-option but unfortunately, one candidate had apologised for being unavailable to join the meeting. However, in line with the Council's Co-option Policy the process would continue, and

Cllr Maudlin and Cllr Aldis

Town Clerk

Cllr Pettitt

Cllr Aldis

Admin

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Members would need to base their decision on the absent candidate's application form. Members were reminded that a candidate needed a proposer and seconder to move on to a vote. Voting would be done by ballot as per the Co-option Policy.

Mr A Lock was invited to speak on why he was applying for co-option to the Council. He expanded on his application form, his interests, and his skill set, which he felt would help him in the role of Councillor.

When asked he elaborated on the fact that he was keen to dispel misinformation circulating among residents, especially around the future use of Sandye Place, which seems to be steeped in unfounded rumours.

One Member stated they had been impressed by his commitment to other groups in the area and queried if those commitments would impact on his ability to serve as a Council Member. Mr Lock replied that a change in work circumstances meant that he had more time to spare and looked forward to using that time to support the residents of Sandy as a Council Member.

The Chairman asked if there were any proposers for either or both candidates. Mr Anthony J Lock and the second candidate were both proposed and seconded.

Members moved to vote on the proposed candidates by Ballot. Mr Anthony J Lock received a majority of votes and was therefore co-opted to the Council.

The Chairman announced the result. Mr Lock signed his Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting. The Mayor offered him his congratulations and welcomed him to the council.

The Mayor requested the Clerk write to the unsuccessful absent candidate saying they should not be deterred from re-applying in the future or standing at the next election.

Councillor R Lock returned to the meeting

5 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (76-2022-2023)

Admin

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 25th July 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

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6	Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein - number (77-2022-2023)	Admin
	To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.	
	i) RESOLVED to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 25 th July and 15 th August 2022.	
	ii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 8 th August and RESOLVED to approve the recommendation to proceed with a £10,250.00 payment to CDS to enable them to install three permanent ground water monitoring wells at the site of the cemetery extension.	
	iii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 25 th July 2022. <i>Cllr Sutton reported that the next meeting of CS&E Committee had been moved to 6.30pm on 19th September and that she would prepare a draft response to the On Street Parking Consultation for Members to review before this meeting.</i>	Cllr Sutton
	iv) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the meeting of Human Resources Committee held on 4 th July and the extra ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 15 th August and RESOLVED to approve the recommendation that a maximum of £5,400 be used from the Staffing budget to pay for staff cover for an expected prolonged staff absence.	
7	Election of HR Committee Chairman (78-2022-2023) Cllrs P Sharman and L Ivanciu-Wilkinson were both duly nominated and seconded. Following a secret paper Ballot it was RESOLVED that Cllr L Ivanciu-Wilkinson be elected Chair of the Human Resources Committee.	Admin
8	Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees (79-2022-2023) It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that: Cllr A Lock serve on the Grievance and Complaints Committee following the resignation of one Member.	Admin
9	Working Groups (80-2022-2023) It was agreed that i) Cllr J Ivanciu-Wilkinson join the Cemetery Working Group. ii) Cllr Sutton join the Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group.	Admin

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- iii) Cllr A Lock join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- iv) That following the Skate Jam event on 24th September the Skatepark Project Working Group be disbanded.

10 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Council (81-2022-2023)

Due to Ward Cllr Ford's commitments and the need to leave the meeting, the Chairman moved this item to before item 7 on the agenda.

Cllr Ford congratulated STC on the completion of its Skatepark at Sunderland Road and said that when he had visited it had been packed with visitors, both children and adults, using the facility.

He added that he was also working with the younger members of Sandy and that 50 children were due to attend a defibrillator training course being hosted at Sandy Fire Station.

He reported that he was aware that further delays to the building works at Sandy Secondary School had been announced and that these were due to issues with the Highways Department. The works would now not likely commence until January 2023. He said he would put together a report to share more detail on this.

Following queries about the closure of the ticket office at Sandy Railway Station, Cllr Ford said he had been in discussions with Paul Cod on the matter and at present there were no plans to close the ticket office. Cllr Pettitt asked how those without access to the internet or apps would get tickets if the closure were to take place, pointing out they would be at a disadvantage if it did.

Cllr Sutton added that the current ticket machine did not accept discount cards and as such could not be used by those holding Senior Railcards, Young Persons Railcards or similar and that the only way they could access tickets was to apply online for them. Cllr Ford noted Members concerns.

Cllr Maudlin reported that she had been working with a resident from Quince Court looking at issues of accessibility along Sandy pavements and walkways for wheelchair and mobility scooter users and the difficulties to navigation being caused by the placing of street furniture and under maintained verges, hedges, and trees along the main routes. She said she hoped that some action was going to take place to mitigate access problems.

Having been made aware that the Platinum Jubilee Mosaic project was short on funds both Cllrs Ford and Maudlin had agreed to give £1,000.00 each from their Ward Councillor Grants to pay towards

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the deficit. The Mayor and Members of the Council gratefully received this generous donation.

Cllr Maudlin congratulated Cllr A Lock for his new appointment to Council.

Members then put the following questions, requests, and comments to the Ward Councillors:

1) Over hanging branches along walkways in Sandy needed to be cut back. *Cllr Maudlin would look at this in conjunction with the works being undertaken on the accessibility of routes.*

2) When will we have a full update on the delay to the installation of the crossing on the High Street by St Swithun's Way? *Cllr Ford said the timing for this had been put back to October half term, He was currently trying to find out more about the delays and get firm answers from CBC. He added that access to vehicles would remain open during the works and that vehicular access to businesses would be possible. HGVs would however be kept out of the High Street during the works. He added Traffic Management had approved the works, but Highways had not yet signed it off.*

3) Members were surprised to hear that the office had received a communication that CBC is no longer supplying waste bags etc. to Town and Parish Councils and that residents requiring them will need to apply to CBC direct. *Cllr Maudlin to respond at a later date.*

4) Could more secure parking for bikes be installed at the train station to cut down on thefts from the area. *Cllr Ford to investigate.*

Cllr Ford left the meeting

11 Action List (82-2022-2023)

East West Rail

Cllrs Blaine, Hewitt and Pettitt had met with Cllrs Ben Pitt, St Neots Town Mayor, and Cllr Stephen Ferguson, Chairman of Cambridgeshire CC, on 17th August to discuss matters. At this point there was no new information to bring forth.

A1 Local Issues

Members had noted a news report had mentioned works on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet route were due to start later this year. (See Chairman's Items)

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

Sandye Place Academy

Cllr Maudlin reported that no further updates were available currently. She added she had pursued the idea of grazing sheep in the area but had not yet received a positive response to this suggestion.

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| 12 | Goodwill Payment from Anglia Water (83-2022-2023)
Members accepted the generous donation of £5,000 from Anglia Water towards community use and RESOLVED to hold the funds until a suitable and appropriate project could be identified for its use. Members were particularly mindful of the ongoing financial challenges being faced by residents at this time and felt it inappropriate to rush into spending the money. | Admin |
| 13 | Bedford Road Play Equipment (84-2022-2023)
It was RESOLVED that the short fall of £2,225.75 to cover the cost of replacement play equipment at Bedford Road Recreation Ground should be taken from capital reserves. | Town Clerk |
| 14 | Mosaic Competition (85-2022-2023)
Members gratefully accepted Ward Cllrs Ford's and Maudlin's offer to give £2,000 in Ward Councillor Grants towards this project and it was RESOLVED that the shortfall of £1,226.00 should be made up from capital reserves. | Town Clerk |
| 15 | First Aid Costs (86 -2022-2023)
RESOLVED to agree the recommendation to hire Company C to supply first aid cover for the Skate Jam event on Saturday 24 th September. | Admin |
| 16 | Reports from Outside Bodies (87-2022-2023)

i) Members received and noted the report from the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association.

ii) Members received and noted the report from the Sandy Twinning Association.

iii) Members received and noted the report from Talk of the Town.

iv) Members received and noted the report from Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights. | |

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17 **Mayoral Engagements (88-2022-2023)**

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor requested that the names of two Swan Beavers, who were recipients of the Chief Scout Awards, be noted, they were Zac Howlett and Sally Jacombe.

18 **Cemetery Extension ongoing items (89-2022-2023)**

RESOLVED to agree actions outlined in the report. The Clerk to write to residents and inform them of Members response.

Town Clerk

19 **Budget Setting (90-2022-2023)**

RESOLVED to appoint the services of DCK Beavers to aid the Clerk with the Budget Setting for 2023/24 and request assistance during presentation of the budget to answer any Member queries that might occur.

Town Clerk

The meeting of PF&R on 31st October was suggested as the best date for the budget to be first reviewed to enable Budget sign off at the Town Council meeting on 23rd January 2023.

20.0 It was **proposed and agreed** that in terms of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, proposed and agreed that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded **(91-2022-23)**

20.1 **Staffing Matters (92 -2022-2023)**

Members received a report from the Clerk outlining the extra funds required from the Staffing Budget 2023/24 to cover the costs of the new Deputy Clerk Role. **RESOLVED** to agree the recommended increase be added to the staffing budget for 2023/24.

20.2 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC (93 -2022-2023)**

It was **RESOLVED**: that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and the Public be readmitted to the meeting.

The Chairman changed the order of the next items so that Item 22 was considered before Item 21

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21 News/Press Releases (94 -2022-2023)

- Announcement of new Councillor.
- Decision regarding the £5,000 donation from Anglia Water.
- Members' response to National Highways regarding the Closure of the gap in the central reservation on the A1 at Biggleswade Road by Upper Caldecote (see item 22 below).

22 Chairman's Items (95 -2022-2023)

The Chairman reported that the office had received notice of an order to commence with the closure of the gap in the central reservation on the A1 at Biggleswade Road by Upper Caldecote and that any objections should be made to National Highways before 2nd September. Members raised concerns that the design and planning process during the Woodland Nursery planning application had clearly not taken these considerations into account. The extra pressure that would be placed on traffic moving through Sandy was also raised as Members believed the closure of the gap would force HGVs to travel north from the junction to use the Sandy roundabout to then continue south as they would no longer be able to cut through the central reservation. In addition, extra traffic travelling south on the A1, as expected from the planned works at the A428 Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet route, would inevitably cause further congestion issues and create traffic safety issues around Sandy. Members expressed grave concerns about the impact that both the projects would have on traffic volume travelling through Sandy, and did not believe the plans outlined seriously considered this impact on residents or the safety of road users on these routes. They requested the Clerk write to National Highways to urge them to carry out and publish a comprehensive study of traffic coming into Sandy via these routes, to provide a real understanding of the impact these projects would have on the town, asserting that no work should proceed until this study had been undertaken. A copy of the letter was to be sent to Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, Richard Fuller MP and Lorna Carver Director of Place and Communities at Central Bedfordshire Council.

23 Date of next meeting: 3rd October 2022 (96 -2022-2023)

Meeting closed at 21.47