

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 23rd September 2019 commencing at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs S Doyle, M Scott, N Thompson

In Attendance: Cllr M Pettitt, Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Cllr Sutton thanked Cllr Gibson for chairing the meeting in her absence on the 12th August 2019.

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (48-2019/20)**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Doyle, Scott and Thompson. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (49-2019/20)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (50-2019/20)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 12th August 2019 as a correct record of proceedings with the amendments to Items 7, 8 and 9. Admin
- 4 **Public Participation Session (51-2019/20)**
There were no members of the public present, but the Chair advised that a resident had sent in comments which would be taken at Item 12.
- 5 **Action list (52-2019/20)**
Members received and noted the action list.
- 6 **Request to Use Town Council Land (53-2019/20)**
Members received and considered a request from K9 Dog Training and Behaviour Centre to promote responsible dog ownership and decreasing anti-social behavior in Sandy.

A Member said that the request was welcomed and that it should be publicised to tell residents when and where it would be happening. It was suggested that they meet at the Community Stand where residents could join in and train their dogs and where parking would be available. A Member said that The Pinnacle and Sandhills areas

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be offered to the group too.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the request from K9 Dog Training and Behaviour Centre to promote responsible dog ownership and decreasing anti-social behavior in Sandy be accepted.

Town
Clerk

7 **Sandy Football Club (54-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a request by Sandy Football Club to use portable floodlights at the pitch on Bedford Road Recreation Ground.

Cllr Osborne declared an interest as he was Vice President of the club, although not involved in the running of the club. He said that the floodlights would be sited close to the clubhouse, so as not to over-use the pitch. He also asked that in the wet, winter months the Town Council ground staff advise the club where to train to protect the pitch.

Outdoor
Team
Leader

A Member said that the residents in the surrounding streets would not be accustomed to bright lights in the park. A Member replied that that the training would be on a Wednesday 18:00 to 20:30 (at the very latest) and possibly Thursday 19:00 to 20:00. He also confirmed that the Secretary of the club had been in contact with Sandy Secondary School and Stevenage Leisure to see if there was any availability for the club to train at the school or on the astro-turf but was told there was not.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Sandy Football Club be allowed to use portable 6ft high floodlights outside the clubhouse on Bedford Road Recreation Ground.

Town
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Cllr Aldis joined the meeting but did not vote on this item.

8 **New Siting of Bus Stop (55-2019/20)**

Members received and considered information on relocating a bus stop.

Cllr Aldis briefed Members on the request for moving a bus stop. The report referred to a request to move a bus stop along the High Street into a parking layby. Cllr Aldis instead suggested that the bus stop be moved in front of the row of cottages on the High Street and not in the layby as previously suggested.

A Member was pleased that another location was being suggested to allow the layby to continue being used for parking, as residents

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in the High Street cottages use it and also people use it to visit the vet's surgery and setting down and pick up from the school. He said that the town had insufficient parking already and to take any parking facilities away would be detrimental.

Members considered the suggestion that the High Street bus stop be relocated in front of the row of cottages but felt that the suggested location would be dangerous as it would be on a crossroad of junctions. Also, the bus stops on the other side of the High Street would have to be moved. A Member queried how many people had brought this request to Council.

It was proposed and seconded that the Town Council contact Central Beds Council and say there is strong evidence to move the bus stop into the layby. A Member reiterated that the town already had insufficient parking and to take the layby away would be detrimental and he would object to the proposal to protect parking in the town.

Members voted against the proposal and it was further proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9 **Sandy Green Wheel (56-2019/20)**

Members received a report on the Sandy Green Wheel and the recent anniversary walk.

Cllr Gibson reported that there had been good feedback on the day and that this event should be repeated, potentially on a seasonal basis. It was noted that there was still work to be undertaken along the route, e.g. more signage to be added and the existing signs to be cleaned, litter bins not emptied and the area around the bins to be cut back, the bridge to be repaired, the A603 crossing is very overgrown and the path is lost into the Fallowfield estate and more information boards could be placed along the route.

Cllr Gibson said the next meeting of the Green Wheel Group was on the 16th October where she will raise the points in the report. The Green Wheel Group will continue to press for development of the route and report back to the committee.

**Cllr
Gibson/
Aldis**

10 **Town Centre Parking Infringements (57-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a report on issues of vehicles parking on paved areas while making drop-offs to the town centre and consider if there is a solution.

A Member said that there were no loading/unloading bays near to

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the Post Office on the Market Square and vans were parking on the paved areas or blocking the road to unload. The report suggested putting a bay at the side of the Post Office for this purpose, but a Member thought this would be dangerous to pedestrians crossing in Pleasant Place. It was suggested that the bay be located further back by the access to the back of the shops.

A Member said that there was no police enforcement for this problem but that the police were trying to combat anti-social activity and were keen to work with town councils. A Member mentioned that the Town Council had not been represented lately at Police HUB meetings due to illness and that an additional Town Council representative be sought.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the creation of a loading bay in Pleasant Place by the access to the back of the shops be put forward for consideration under the next round of Central Beds Council's Rural Match Fund in 2020.

Town Clerk

It was also proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that an additional Town Council representative be sought to attend the Police HUB meetings.

Town Clerk

11 **Street Food Market Review 2020 (58-2019/20)**

Members received a report reviewing the Sandy Street Food market which was held in the Town Council's car park once a month for six months. Members considered the report and stated that more advertising was needed for next year.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council agree in principle for the markets to return in April to September 2020 and that the Clerk and the Events Working Group work with the organiser to see if the Council can assist in addressing any of the points highlighted in section three of the report.

Town Clerk/
Events Group

12 **Public Space Protection Order (59-2019/20)**

Members considered the proposals put forward in Central Beds Council's PSPO consultation.

The consultation includes a proposal to remove the requirement that dogs are kept on leads near sports pitches. The wording of the current order prevents dogs being off a lead in a park which contains a sports pitch which CBC believes is too onerous. Dogs will not be allowed to foul on sports pitches under the New Order, however dogs will be allowed off leads in a park in which a sports pitch is present.

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A member of the public's email was read out to Members in which the resident explained his concerns about the proposed changes outlined in the consultation. Members agreed with the member of the public's statement and said that CBC should monitor the parks and provide a strong deterrent for offenders.

A Member stated that this consultation was on CBC's website and Members should comment as individuals as well as the Council sending in its objection.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to CBC to object to the change.

Town
Clerk

13 **Bedfordshire Day (60-2019/20)**

Members received correspondence about Bedfordshire Day which is on the 28th November 2019.

Members discussed raising the awareness of Bedfordshire Day in Sandy. At present the Bedfordshire Flag will be raised on the day, and would be publicised on the Council's website and Facebook pages.

A Member said that on the day, Gunns Bakery raised a flag outside their shop on the Market Square which was the home of the Bedfordshire Clanger. She said she would liaise with David Gunn about promoting the day further and that community groups and the library should promote it also.

Cllr
Gibson

The Chair suggested that a photo opportunity of the Mayor raising the flag and eating a Bedfordshire Clanger would be good publicity. She also suggested that the Bedfordshire flag be put on the Council's headed paper to promote Bedfordshire.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Bedfordshire Day be taken to the Events Group meeting to be put on the 2020 calendar.

Cllr
Sutton

14 **Events Report (61-2019/20)**

Members received and noted a report on the Council's events.

The Chair asked for Members to pass on any ideas for themes for the Council's tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, to herself or Katie in the office.

15 **Update on Sandye Place Academy (62-2019/20)**

The Chair stated that the planning application for security fencing at

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SPA had been withdrawn but it was the Council's understanding that a new application would be submitted. She also stated that there had been a break-in at the site over the weekend.

16 Chairman's Items (63-2019/20)

The Chair reported that the railings on the pedestrian crossing outside Bedford Road recreation ground would be painted starting on the 30th September. This work had been arranged by Central Bedfordshire Council and would be undertaken by the Highways contractor.

17 Date of Next Meeting (64-2019/20)

Monday 4th November 2019