

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, A M Hill, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow, S Sutton (Chair), N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllr T Cole, T Knagg, G Leach, Cllr C Maudlin (CBC)

**In Attendance:** Cllr M Pettitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and one member of the public

## Action

**1 Apologies for absence (94-2017/18)**

Cllrs T Cole and T Knagg.

**2 Declarations of interest (95-2017/18)**

i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None

ii) Non-disclosable Interests –

Cllr S Sutton declared an interest in Item 8 as President of the Royal British Legion Sandy Branch.

Cllr Dr N Thompson declared an interest in Item 11 as Chairman of Friends of Fallowfield and Ivel Park.

iii) Dispensations – None

**3 Minutes of previous meeting (96-2017/18)**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as a correct record of proceedings.

**4 Public Participation Session (97-2017/18)**

i) A member of the public wished to comment on the drainage at Sunderland Road recreation ground and this would be dealt with on Agenda Item 6.

ii) A Member on behalf of a member of the public, raised the question of the condition of the roadway leading to the Village Hall and into the car park being uneven and eroded. The Clerk will investigate ownership and the issues raised.

**Town Clerk**

iii) The Clerk tabled an email received from a member of the public regarding the untidy state of the Winchester Road estate. She had been on a litter pick organised by Sandy Good Neighbours around the area and was appalled by the

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rubbish and flytipping left in gardens and on the estate. A Member thanked the group for organising the litter pick which collected 17 bags of rubbish but had had to leave a lot of the detritus behind. He went on to say that residents should assist with influencing behaviour in the area and that better community engagement was needed.

After discussion which highlighted several areas of concern namely parking on verges, the GLC estate being in need of repair and the cutting back of vegetation on the railway embankment. A Member asked what exactly Aragon Housing Association and Central Bedfordshire Council were responsible for in Sandy and the Clerk was asked to put a request in to find out.

Town Clerk

The Clerk to reply to the member of the public's email.

Town Clerk

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** to send a copy of the member of the public's email to both Aragon Housing Association and Central Bedfordshire Council for their comments and for the Town Council groundstaff to look into cutting back the railway embankment bordering the GLC estate.

Admin

## 5 **Action list (98-2017/18)**

The Action Report was received and updated.

Beeston Green, Orchard/Allotments: The Clerk stated that the draft Management Plan would be on the next Full Council agenda. The Clerk had been advised by Central Beds Council that the draft HoT would be with him this week.

Town Clerk

Parking Restrictions: The Clerk advised that he would be having a meeting with Central Beds Council regarding the parking survey on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Community Plan: The Clerk informed the committee that the Community Plan had been adopted and the consultation plan is being prepared.

Rural Match Fund: The Clerk informed the committee that the application had been agreed in principle and costs and feasibility will be drawn up by CBC Highways for financial Q2 2018/19.

Fallowfield Recreation Area – Dog Complaints: On Agenda Item 10.

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The Pinnacle Lease: The Clerk advised the committee that dates were being arranged for a meeting with the landlord.

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Play Areas: This item would be updated at the next meeting.

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Clerk

## 6 **Sunderland Road Recreation Ground Drainage (99-2017/18)**

The Clerk's report and correspondence from Mr Wilson was received and considered.

A member of the public expanded on an email he had sent the Council about the maintenance of Sunderland Road recreation ground. The Member of the public pointed out that the purpose of his comments was to be helpful and instructive. He stated that while it was not expected that the grounds would be maintained to a professional standard more regular sports pitch maintenance was required, including more frequent and well-timed aeration, harrowing and cutting. It was pointed out that the Council could obtain a free survey of the field with a resulting recommendation report from the Institute of Groundmanship (IOG).

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for his contribution. Members considered an offer from a resident to help design improved drainage for the sports field.

A Member stated that he recognised the football pitches at Sunderland Road are boggy and suggested taking the resident up on their offer.

A Member stated that it was good that the public were engaging with the Council but that drainage schemes had been considered in the past and were too expensive. Equipment was bought to help improve the land. It was suggested the Council should have the IOG report commissioned and to see where improvements could be made. Following this report, the Council could respond to the resident.

A Member stated that the pitches had improved over the years. Although quite a few games had been called off in recent months due to weather conditions the number of games cancelled was less than in other local areas.

After discussion it was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** to obtain a free report from the IOG for drainage schemes at Sunderland Road recreation ground and to thank Mr Wilson for his offer but advise that the Council will be taking other advice in the

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first instance.

The Member of the public present thanked Members for their contributions and stated that the recommendations of any report must be enacted. Grounds maintenance responsibilities had increased but staffing had not. A Member stated staffing had increased. The Member of the public invited Councillors to visit Sunderland Road and view the sports field.

## 7 **Specialist Markets (100-2017/18)**

A report from Mrs Liz Fuller – Administrator was received and noted.

The Clerk stated that a meeting with Savoir Fayre Ltd did not take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, due to personal circumstances for the organiser.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be given delegated powers to agree a meeting with Savoir Fayre to try to organise a fayre for this year and that a budget for advertising be available.

**Town  
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The committee thanked Mrs Fuller for her report.

## 8 **WW1 Centenary Remembrance (101-2017/2018)**

The Chair stated that the Bedfordshire Royal British Legion were no longer involved in the 'Silent Soldiers' project.

- i) The requests for event poppies on lampposts and 'There But Not There' silhouettes on benches were received and considered. A Member suggested asking the local shops for sponsorship for the lamppost poppies. A Member suggested that poppies should be placed on all lampposts from the War Memorial in Bedford Road, on the roundabout, through the Market Square and up the High Street to the train station. A Member suggested placing 'Silent Soldiers' on various benches throughout the town and that the council write to St Swithun's Church for permission to include a bench in the churchyard.

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Clerk**

- ii) The dates for the 2018 talk series were noted. A Member suggested that donations could be asked for at the talks for the lamppost poppies.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to purchase six bench 'Silent Soldiers' (£42 each) and lamppost

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poppies (£3 each) to run from the War Memorial, through the town to the train station.

## 9 **Sandy Car Park (102-2017/18)**

The Clerk's report was received and considered. The Clerk presented the approximate cost for installing a pay meter in the car park.

Members discussed the matter at length and commented that;

The car park must act as a benefit to the town and charging for parking will not help attract visitors and potential customers for local businesses. This was echoed by other Members who felt charges would put people off using the town Centre.

The Council must work to ensure the car park is not filled up with commuters who are parking and then travelling elsewhere by train. The barrier helps reduce commuter parking.

A Member stated that in most cases people find a parking space but that the Council must keep an eye on other land that might become available for parking. It was also suggested that the Council could approach regular parkers about doubling up in spaces to help reduce pressure.

A Member disagreed stating he often found it difficult to park. By 9:30 am the car park is usually full. People use the car park to park for long periods while catching trains or buses elsewhere. It was suggested that parking charges should be introduced with an initial 2-3 hours free. This would help generate income for potential improvements.

It was noted that the barrier is getting older and becoming more expensive to maintain.

A Member commented that charging for parking would not necessarily solve the problem of shortage of spaces. People using the car park need to park somewhere and would either continue to use it or park elsewhere, potentially pushing the problem to residential streets. There is a significant set up and enforcement cost. It was queried what the principle behind free 3-hour parking was.

It was suggested that the car park could be zoned for long and short-term parking. However, Members questioned how this would be enforced.

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After discussion, where Members were divided in their opinions, it was Proposed and Seconded to **RESOLVE TO RECOMMEND** that the Council would not pursue the introduction of car parking charges in the car park.

## 10 **Public Space Protection Orders (103-2017/18)**

The Clerk's report was received and considered. The Clerk clarified that Central Beds Council had indicated to the Clerk that they would not put a PSPO in place to cover dogs on lead or no dogs on the Fallowfield recreation ground and that they did not feel it would be a proportionate response to the complaints received. The Clerk informed the committee that he believed the Town Council would need to demonstrate evidence of incidents as well as alternative areas that could be provided for dog walkers to use if they wished to pursue the matter. The Town Council does not have the power to create a PSPO.

A Member stated that a resident had approached him to report issues around the behaviour of dogs on the Fallowfield recreation ground and that Maple Tree School had confirmed reports of problems. Therefore, the Council should formally request that a PSPO be considered and consulted on by Central Bedfordshire Council.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council to apply for a PSPO covering dogs on lead on Fallowfield Recreation Ground.

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Clerk**

## 11 **Chairman's Items (104/2017/18)**

The Chair advised Members of the WW1 Remembrance Talk on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 at the council offices.

The Clerk stated that after 5 weeks of Barclays Bank Pop-Up in the council offices, the average number of visits per session was 5 or 6 customers. It was also stated that the Pop-Up was closed or not open at all on 3 separate occasions. A Member requested that the Clerk arrange a review meeting with the Bank to discuss the facilities available.

**Town  
Clerk**

## 12 **Date of Next Meeting (105-2017/18)** **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**