

# 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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, A M Hill, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair)

**Absent:** Cllrs T Knagg and N Thompson

**In Attendance:** Cllrs W Jackson (part), M Pettitt, P Sharman, CBC Cllr C Maudlin, Mr C Robson (Town Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and four representatives from Sandy Secondary School

### Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (94-2019/20)**  
No apologies were received. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (95-2019/20)**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (96-2019/20)**  
**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as a correct record of proceedings. Admin
- 4 **Public Participation Session (97-2019/20)**  
A Member reported having been contacted by a member of the public regarding dangerous parking in Winchester Road. The Member asked that a CBC Parking Enforcement Officer visit the area. Another Member said that a meeting of the Winchester Road Regeneration Group would be taking place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January with a view to getting the regeneration works started and CBC Cllr Maudlin suggested that the member of the public be added to the list of residents to receive updates on the regeneration works. The works will result in more parking bays for residents.
- 5 **Sandy Secondary School (98-2019/20)**  
Two pupils from Sandy Secondary School gave a presentation entitled "Planning for the Future" to Members.

The students were representing a group of Year 10 pupils who took part in a nationwide competition called "World Town Planning Day" and received first place within the school and second place on a wider level.

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The presentation covered some of the following points;

Sunderland Road Park: It was a good place to go now it had had new play equipment installed. The students felt that installation of outdoor fitness equipment would be beneficial for residents. In addition improved lighting around the field would be welcomed so that people could use the park all year round after dark. Solar lighting was suggested.

Bedford Road: Again, it was a great place to go but more lighting was needed to allow the park to be used all year round after dark, the public toilets needed updating and the zipline had been taken out of action.

Pollution, A1 Buses: Sandy had high pollution levels especially by the A1. Public transport is very expensive and inconvenient, so more people are using their cars – public transport cost needs to be reduced.

Trains: The rail system as it stands does not connect people to other towns easily. The Varsity Line was decommissioned on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1968 which ran between Cambridge and Oxford, this needs re-instating.

Cycling: The cycle routes need more lighting. Glo in the Dark paths are popular in Europe and are made by TPA.

Sandy Roundabout: This needs a road over the top or underneath to alleviate the traffic problems.

Cllr Sutton thanked the students for their enlightening presentation and stated that they should be encouraged that many of their ideas were similar to those already under consideration.

The Clerk explained that the zipline in Bedford Road Park will be re-instated after grass under the new safety matting has established itself.

A Member said that outdoor gyms had come forward as an idea before and that while funding from Sport England is possible it should be a a community led project with substantial support from the public.

CBC Cllr Mauldin offered her congratulations to the students on all their hard work and would feedback their ideas to Central Beds Council. Councillor Maudlin asked if the presentation could also be

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given to CBC and would liaise with the school directly.

Members stated their congratulations on a professional presentation and the ideas the students had presented.

A Member asked where the students' presentation would go next. The school's Executive Head explained they will be following up on the work and developing key skills but unfortunately the competition itself had folded. A lot of work would continue to be done within the school.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Council would investigate and raise with CBC and the local MP:

1. Look into more lighting and 'Glo in the Dark' materials for the cycle paths and walkways
2. Pollution in Sandy from the A1 and bus fares being expensive
3. Sandy Roundabout traffic congestion

It was **RESOLVED** that lighting in the Council owned playparks would be considered on a future agenda.

Cllr Jackson left the meeting.

## 6 **Action list (99-2019/20)**

Members received and noted the action list.

### Community Land, Beeston

The Clerk updated Members that he had heard from CBC today that Lee Newton had now returned to work and that he will now be progressing the matter further. CBC Cllr Maudlin confirmed she would chase up the delays in providing the lease.

## 7 **Youth Central (100-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a request from CBC Youth Services in connection to the establishment of a Youth Central Sandy group.

Members discussed the Clerk's report and the Clerk clarified that the club was being held at the Youth Club within the grounds of Sandye Place. They wished to relocate to add a level of formality to the group and provide the children with a quiet area to hold their meetings. The meetings would last for one hour and would take place fortnightly.

A Member welcomed the initiative and the opportunity to feed the

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Town Council's ideas to the group and this was an excellent way to start youth engagement. Another Member agreed and said that a quarterly feedback session for Councillors would be a good idea.

Another Member said that the recent NALC Conference had involved discussions sessions on the youth councils and the benefit of youth engagement. It was suggested that Members take turns attending the meeting to open and close the council offices and take part if invited. With the recruitment of a new cleaner, it may be possible for the times to overlap for locking up. Members agreed that the Council should support the initiative.

CBC Cllr Maudlin said that a similar Houghton Regis group were being put forward for the High Sheriff's Award for a knife awareness project which involved making purple ribbons for a local girl who had been stabbed.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Youth Central Sandy group be offered the use of the council chamber every other week on an evening to be agreed, free of charge.

## 8 **Royal British legion Bench Request (101-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a request from the Sandy branch of the Royal British Legion to site a commemorative bench in the Market Square.

Cllr Sutton declared that she was President of the local branch but was a non-voting member.

Possible sites for the bench were considered, ie the bus stop or near the town sign.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council support the siting of a commemorative bench in the Market Square area but that the bench must not prohibit the erection of the Christmas Tree. That if approved by CBC, the Town Council take on the responsibility for maintaining the bench and that it will become a Town Council asset.

## 9 **Fun Fair (102-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a request from Harris' Fun Fair to hold a fair on Sunderland Road recreation ground.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Harris' Fun Fair is held on Sunderland Road recreation ground from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 but that to avoid disturbance to

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local residents, they dismantle the rides on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 rather than the Sunday evening and that a deposit of £500 and an operational day fee of £128.50 is charged. All other conditions as agreed in 2019 would also apply.

## 10 Specialised Markets (103-2019/20)

- i) Members received and noted a report on the 2020 Street Eat Markets. The Clerk informed Members that the market organisers would be looking into other ways of advertising the events this year as a similar market is being held in Biggleswade on the same Friday.
- ii) Members noted that the French market wished to return on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- iii) Members received and considered a request to use the Council owned car park for three specialised markets.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the markets in June and September take place but that the third market near Christmas, be confirmed at a later date when a suitable date could be found.

- iv) Members received and considered a request to hold two family fun days in Bedford Road recreation ground.

A Member said that Sandy Football Club should be consulted on the dates, because the goalmouths are re-seeded in May and they play games in August, which is when the fun days are being suggested.

Members discussed charging the company to attend, some Members were against charging at all in the first year and some said a fee should be charged, as the Town Council charged the circus and the fair to put on events for the Town. A consistent approach was needed.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the fun days are held subject to Sandy Football Club's response, but change the date in May so as not to clash with the carnival and to waive any charges for the first event.

It was further proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that PF&R discuss and agree a scale of charges for events which are held on Sandy Town Council land.

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## 11 **Sandy Green Wheel (104-2019/20)**

Members received and noted a verbal update by the Clerk from the latest Sandy Green Wheel Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. A copy of the notes from the meeting are attached.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** that the council order 500 re-printed Green Wheel maps/leaflets at a cost of £133.00. That the costs of the purchase come from underspend in the Council's Nature Reserve management budget.

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## 12 **Outdoor Landscape Design for Councils (105-2019/20)**

Members received and noted a communication from Groundwork East and whilst we did not have a relevant project at the moment, it was agreed to look at it again in the future.

## 13 **Council Surgery (106-2019/20)**

Members received and considered feedback on the recent Council Surgery held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

A Member reported that attendance was low. The Clerk said that at a recent Police Priority Meeting, it was mentioned that speeding had been made a local policing priority and Sunderland Road may have speed gun operators monitoring the road. HGVs parking on the pavements in Sunderland Road was a problem and a Member said that the whole of Sandy had problems with vehicles parking on pavements in the town. This is Highways responsibility and they should be monitoring the situation.

## 14 **Chairman's Items (107-2019/20)**

The Chair reminded Members of the ACF parade taking place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February and all Members are welcome to attend.

A Member mentioned the National Chalk Streams Initiative by Fergal Sharkey. There are 170 chalk streams in the UK of which the River Ivel up to Baldock is one of them, and they need saving. The matter would appear on a future agenda for further consideration.

## 15 **Date of Next Meeting (108-2019/20)**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

# **Sandy Green Wheel Development Group Report**

10:00am 22 January 2020

**Sandy Town Council Offices, Cambridge Rd, Sandy**

Present from STC: Cllrs Aldis & Gibson; Chris Robson

Present from BRCC: Caroline Romans, Cliff Andrews

Present from CBC: Caroline Maudlin

Updates on current actions and initiatives

## **Path Cutting**

Confirmed paths along Sandye Green Wheel are included in the SVC program, path cutting schedule for 2020. This includes the Chapel Meadow path which was overgrown in 2019.

## **Girtford Bridge – Route 51 Update**

- Ownership of the Bailey Bridge is still being disputed by EA. This is currently with the legal team so there could be some delay progress. It is hoped that once resolved EA will carry out the relevant repairs the bridge and thereafter transfer ownership to CBC to maintain the public right of way.
- A rare plant, Greater Dodder, has been identified by the Natural History society, along the path, this may affect the creation of the cycle path from the A603 to South Mills. Richard Lawrence of BRCC is investigated to see if there is evidence of the plant and looking into how this may impact up on works.

## **Other Issues/Opportunities to improve the route**

- Agreement was given by STC to install an additional way marking in The Riddy to improve the way marking through this section of the walk. Cllrs Gibson is to meet with BRCC's Richard Lawrence to agree the best position for new signage.
- Cllr Gibson and Richard Lawrence will also look at increasing waymarking /signage at the northern route between the A1 underpass and the railway bridge crossing. At present it is unclear how it is intended to follow the route.
- A need for an increase in litter bins and the frequency of emptying has been identified. This is especially the case on route 51 where a litter bin is actually the property of DS Packaging and is poorly positioned. It is likely this will be moved. A request will be made that a litter bin is placed at the end of this path near to the bench.
- The group is to review areas of the route and consider locations where additional tree planting could be done to enhance the GW, some grant funding is still available. STC have provided a plan of green spaces where tree planting could take place. BRCC

have approached the owner of the meadow adjacent to Sandcast path, who is open to tree planting if this is allowed within the Stewardship rules for the land. BRCC will continue to work with the owner of the land.

- Disabled Fishing Platform for Sandcast Wood: Contractor has confirmed that the bridge providing access will not take the weight of a lorry to deliver the aggregate needed for the path to the fishing platform. This means it will have to be hand carried. Currently the area is too wet for the work to begin on this. This will continue to be monitored and work will start when the ground condition improves.
- A603 Crossing and Path to Route 51 needs significant improvement. A better crossing, potentially a Pelican Crossing with traffic light control or a Zebra Crossing to give pedestrians better safety is required. CBC are looking into whether this could be funded as part of the refurbishment and repurposing of the Days Inn site. Cllr Maudlin will pursue the matter with officers at CBC.
- The path to the river is in poor repair, consideration given to adding step access down the embankment and resurfacing the footpath from the slip road to the riverside path.

### **Raising Awareness and Friends of Sandy Green Wheel**

- A second successful walk was held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, over 50 people and dogs attended. Next walk is the Spring Walk to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May.
- A new 'Three Green Wheel Challenge' will be part of the Bedfordshire Walking Festival in September 2020. The Sandy Green Wheel walk will be on the morning of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, with the Biggleswade walk in the afternoon, the longest walk around Eatonbury Green Wheel will be on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. Walks will be guided and with a GW leader, middle marker and back marker.
- Litter pick to be organised during UK Spring Clean, this will also help with the forming of the FoSGW volunteers