

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Monday 28th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, W Jackson, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott (Chair), P Sharman, and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), CBC Cllrs Ford and Stock, Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (37-2020/2021)

Apologies had been received Cllr N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (38-2020/21)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – None
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

3 Public Participation Session (39-2020/21)

A Member raised a question on behalf of a member of the public regarding the deteriorating state of the street cleaning in Sandy. CBC Cllr Stock said that she would speak to Highways and the Clerk said that he would speak to Mr Siddle of CBC.

Cllr Stock/
Town Clerk

The Clerk raised two questions: one from a resident of Shannon Close regarding unsafe parking around Sandy Secondary School at drop-off times. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to the resident encouraging them to raise the matter with the school directly and to contact Highways regarding the installation of yellow lines. The Clerk would contact CBC Councillors about following the matter up.

Town Clerk

The second question was from a resident whose property backs onto the park at Fallowfield where anti-social behaviour by older children is taking place on a swing in the park and would like the swing removed. The police have been contacted but it is not the council's policy to remove play equipment. Although the Clerk said that the swing had been removed by the council because it required

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repairing at this present time. Members agreed that a popular bit of play equipment which has been in place for a long time should not be removed.

A Member raised the question of overgrown footpaths in the town. Cllr Stock said she would speak to Highways and asked that a list of the affected areas be sent to her.

A Member said that the bridleway from the Mill Race to Ivel Road was overgrown and needed attention. The Clerk said he would contact the Rights of Way officer at CBC. He also said he had received a letter from a resident regarding putting pressure on Highways to put a footpath in on New Road. He would send the letter to the Clerk and Cllr Stock had also received the letter and would pass it on to Highways.

A Member raised the question of a neighbouring council sourcing solar panels for energy. Cllr Stock said that CBC had a new Sustainability Plan coming out soon regarding energy, but she did not believe a solar scheme was part of this.

4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (40-2020/21)

RESOLVED to:

Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 17th August 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (41-2020/21)

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere:

- i) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 24th August 2020.

A Member proposed that the resolution be amended to include that the dual waste bins be replaced in "the 4th quarter of the current financial year to ease the workload of the officers".

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council replace 12 concrete bins with 80L dual waste bins during the 4th quarter of the current financial year, with the Environmental Plan Group looking further into recycling waste

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and the long term replacement of the Council's remaining 21 bins.

RESOLVED that the Council appoint two representatives namely Cllrs Gibson and Hewitt to attend future Greensand Country meetings and report back to Council.

- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 24th August 2020 and 14th September 2020.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 14th September 2020. Cllr Osborne thanked Cllr Blaine for chairing the second part of the meeting and reminded Members that the next PF&R Committee is the budget meeting and all members are welcome to attend.

RESOLVED that the Council applies a reduction in its charges for sports club rents to take into account time not played due to COVID19 for the financial year 2020/21.

Cllr Osborne said that the Clerk had additional information regarding Item 6 of the PF&R Committee meeting. The Clerk informed Members that he had received new figures from the current provider regarding the telephone contract, that had a larger saving than the provider agreed to go with at the meeting. He would provide figures for the next committee meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the current provider's new quote for telephone provision.

6 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (42-2020/21)**

Members received verbal reports from the Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

Cllr Stock said that CBC's sustainability plan was approved last week and could be read on the website.

She gave a Covid-19 update. She said that in the week ending 20/9/2020 there were 4 cases in Sandy, but these were being monitored. Track and trace was being followed up and there was no obvious outbreak.

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The Community Champions campaign was being launched and she would share the link.

The BT Payphones consultation finishes on the 6th November.

The planning application to remove 39 garages in Winchester Road had met with two objections. Grand Union had contacted 17 residents and offered them garages elsewhere.

Cllr Ford said that a Community Safety Group was being set up in Sandy and a website was being put together.

He also said there would be 11 speed camera signs on Sunderland Road and the police would monitor the signs. Highways were looking at new road markings too.

The ward councillors fund which had supported COVID projects still had money to use.

Members were informed that the speed cameras are working on the A1.

A Member asked when decisions would be made regarding applications for Community Asset grants. Cllr Stock said they had received two applications and the results should be known next week.

A Member asked what was happening regarding the Sandye Place site, now that Marcel Coiffait has been promoted. She said that Cllr Mauldin was chasing this up.

A Member asked if the ward councillors fund would support Zoom licences to enable a local group to function during the pandemic. Cllr Stock said she would check.

Cllr Stock said the green garden waste bins were popular and it takes around 8 weeks to deliver them. This bin should go out with the normal recycling bin every two weeks.

She said that two planning applications had been submitted to demolish planters in Winchester Road which would provide 80+ new parking spaces.

Cllr Stock then left the meeting.

Cllr
Stock

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7 Councillor Vacancy (43–2020/21)

(i) Members noted that information had received confirmation that it is able to now carry out a co-option process to fill the vacant Councillor position in Fallowfield Ward.

(ii) Members considered and **RESOLVED** to adopt an amended Co-option Policy which takes account of virtual meetings.

8 Neighbourhood Planning (44–2020/21)

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to start the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and that a Steering Group be set up to include volunteers Cllrs Aldis, Gibson, Hewitt and Lock and the general public be invited to take part.

Terms of Reference for the steering group will be brought to the next meeting of the Full Council.

9 Consultations (45–2020/21)

(i) Members received and considered a briefing report and draft question responses to the “Changes to the Current Planning System” Government Consultation.

A Member said that the report was succinct and to the point and proposed that this should be the council’s submission. A Member said that there should be no more work done on the consultations as they have already taken up a lot of officer time. A Member said that we should spend time developing a response to the consultations, if we do not, we would not have the right to complain. The Clerk would send out a new date for a meeting to discuss the next consultation to Cllrs Blaine, Gibson, Hewitt and Sutton.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to submit the response to the Changes to the Current Planning System Consultation.

(ii) Members received and considered a briefing report on the “Planning for the Future” Government Consultation. The four appointed councillors would look at the report and send comment to the Mayor before sending to the government consultation.

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10 Correspondence (46-2020/21)

(i) Members received and considered a communication from CBC's Safer Communities Officer.

Cllrs Jackson, Lock and Pettitt agreed to attend an online update and information session at 3pm on the 12th October to coincide with Hate Crime Week.

(ii) Members received and considered correspondence received from Tilco.

The Clerk said he had not had a response to a recent communication to Tilco asking them whether funds would be offered to the Council if they were to adopt the land in question. Members discussed the lack of funding and that it should be pressed for if the Council is to take on maintenance. It was also noted that the grass areas had been cut regularly before the pandemic by Taylor Wimpey's contractors. They should be asked to ensure the land is maintained to the same standard now.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk persists to acquire a commuted sum from Taylor Wimpey to take on the ownership and maintenance of the land in question.

(iii) Members received and considered correspondence received from CBC's Marcel Coiffait on supporting town centres and the wider community.

Members discussed the matter and agreed individuals should answer the survey. Also, to make residents aware of the survey on our website and through Facebook. It was noted that part of the letter stated CBC would be in contact with the Council to discuss ideas on supporting High Streets. It was suggested that Members needed to discuss what could be done by CBC to support Sandy High Street.

Cllr Sutton said that this could be added to the next CS&E Committee meeting Agenda for discussion and that councillors should send in their suggestions or join the meeting on the 5th October.

Cllrs
Jackson,
Lock &
Pettitt

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(iv) Members received correspondence from the Beeston Open Gardens.

The Committee asked that the Town Council take on the maintenance of the picnic table and benches on The Green as the open gardens event will no longer take place due to the pandemic.

Members were saddened that this event, along with three other events in the town, were no longer taking place.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the council would take on the maintenance of the planters, picnic table and benches.

11 Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils AGM (47-2020/21)

Members received the Annual Report and Accounts from BATPC and confirmed that they will send Cllrs Blaine, Pettitt and Scott to the Virtual AGM on the 21st October at 7.30pm.

12 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (48-2020/21)

Cllr Hill reported that the queries from the Councillors Surgery held on the 26th September 2020 would be an item on the Community Services & Environment Committee on Monday 5th October 2020.

13 News Release (49-2020/21)

It was agreed to issue news releases on the following matters:

- Co-option Vacancy
- Neighbourhood Plan – inviting members of the public to join a working group

14 Chairman's Items (50-2020/21)

There were no Chairman's items.

15 Date of Next Meeting (51-2020/21)

Monday 9th November 2020.

16 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION (52-2020/21) Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

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pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

17 Leisure Services – Contractual (53-2020/21)

Due to internet connection problems the Chairman had to leave the meeting and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Martin Pettitt Chaired the item.

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk. It was agreed that the report required some further work which the Clerk was to undertake and circulate.

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Clerk