

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 29th October 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Deputy Mayor), M Scott (Mayor), P Sharman and J Sparrow

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, G Leach, S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr P Smith

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllr T Stock (CBC), Cllr C Maudlin (CBC), three co-option candidates and two members of the public

Action

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| <p>1 Apologies for Absence (96-2018/2019)
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs T Knagg, G Leach, S Sutton, N Thompson and CBC Cllr P Smith.</p> | Admin |
| <p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (97-2018/2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - Noneii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Cole declared an interest in agenda item 15 as members of the FOSCL.iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None | |
| <p>3 Public Participation Session (98-2018/2019)
A member of the public, Mr Eric Wyles, spoke on the subject of dangerous and obstructive parking in Woolfield, Sandy. He would like the Town Council to lobby on the grounds of health and safety to increase the single yellow lines to double lines and place parking restrictions on Woolfield. CBC Cllr Stock said that photographs had been sent to both the police and Highways Department last week. She would be pursuing this matter and would report back. The Mayor pointed out that Willow Rise would need to be included in any propositions for parking restrictions.</p> <p>A member of the public, Mr Stephen Allen spoke on issues relating to the A1 and said that he had not received a reply to a letter the SG19 Group had sent to Mr. A Burt. Mr. Allen asked that it be confirmed that representations will continue to be made to CBC to install a footpath along New Road and the matter of a 'ditch' will not become an excuse as an obstacle to the project. Mr. Allen felt it was possible to construct a small pedestrian crossing alongside the existing road bridge.</p> | Cllr Stock |

Sandy Town Council

Mr Allen stated that the Mr Burt M.P needed to be held to account and encouraged to ensure he is actively representing the interests of Sandy and Beeston. The interests of other areas within his constituency appear to get better representation. It is wrong to wait until announcements are made before making representations on major infrastructure projects.

Representations need to be made to help guide and influence decision making. It is disappointing to see that STC is prepared to accept Mr Burt's curtailment of meetings. Mention is made of another meeting before the end of the year, this meeting must be chased up. Mr Allen also raised concern that the letter from Mr Grayling M.P incorrectly stated that the proposed average speed camera scheme would stop at the Sandy roundabout and not Georgetown.

A member of the public, Mr Russell Harper said that the Town Council's website needed updating with the current information regarding the refurbishment of the Sunderland Road Play Area. The Chairman stated that work would begin shortly but had been delayed as the Council were not happy with the standard of installation at Bedford Road. Mr Harper also asked when repairs would be made to the sun damaged footpaths across Sandy and whether there needed to be an audit of footpaths. Cllrs Stock and Maudlin advised that any areas which were identified as in need of repair could be sent to them and they would raise these on their Members portal.

Cllr Stock/
Maudlin

A Member, Cllr Pettitt, spoke on behalf of a Rutland Gardens resident and said that although they supported the enhancement of the town centre, what could be done about the unsightly red commercial BIFFA bins outside the Bet Fred betting shop? Cllr Pettitt agreed to find out which shop owners they belonged to, to see about moving them away from the corner of the Market Square.

Cllr Pettitt

The question of the refuse bins at the back of Shannon Court being put on the disabled bays was mentioned. The Clerk said that when the car park was re-lined this would be checked.

Town Clerk

4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (99-2018/2019)**

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 17th September 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Sandy Town Council

5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (100-2018/2019)

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 Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 24th September 2018 and 15th October 2018.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 24th September 2018 and to approve the recommendation that the Appraisal Policy be adopted by Council.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee except that Cllr M Pettitt attended this meeting but was not on the minutes as present; this would be amended.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation that a new flagpole is purchased and installed at Faynes Corner and that further costs be sourced.

- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee and to approve that a new Caprari pump be installed at a cost of £1,594.32 and that the funds for the work be taken from the Council's capital rolling fund and that the donation from the Sandy Chamber of Trade be accepted and the purchase and installation of a new flag pole at Fayne's Corner be progressed.

The Chairman of the PFR committee reminded all Members that the budget process had started and that all Members can attend the scheduled budget meetings.

6 Co-option of a Town Councillor (101-2018/2019)

The Chairman welcomed the three candidates and the Clerk briefed the meeting on the procedure for co-option.

The three candidates presented themselves separately and were asked questions by Members.

Sandy Town Council

Following candidate presentations, it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that all three candidates were nominated and put through to the voting round.

Voting was by paper ballot.

The Clerk stated that a majority of six votes was required for a candidate to be coopted. Should no candidate receive a majority of votes in the first round the candidate with the least number of votes would be disqualified and a second round of voting would take place.

Following voting by Members, the Mayor announced that Mrs. Amanda Gibson had the required majority of votes and was therefore co-opted onto the Council.

RESOLVED to co-opt Amanda Gibson as a member of Sandy Town Council and invite her to join the Council.

7 Financial Matters (102-2018/2019)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to 30th September 2018 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 15th October 2018).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 15th October 2018).
- iii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 15th October 2018).

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (103-2018/2019)

Members received reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors and noted Central Bedfordshire Council's briefing notes which had already been received.

A Member asked when the Leisure Consultation would be starting? This question would be taken on Item 9.

Sandy Town Council

CBC Cllr Stock said that the Sandy Speedwatch was amalgamating with Blunham Speedwatch.

CBC Cllr Stock reported that the Business Forum had had its first meeting and discussed the loss of town centre shops and the depreciating footfall. The forum had various suggestions including pop-up shops in the old Barclays Bank unit and the next meeting was on the 13th November 2018.

CBC Cllr Stock said that a new team member of the Community Board was starting soon and that the Terms of Reference were awaited.

CBC Cllr Stock said that the Market Regeneration Scheme was progressing and regarding the zebra crossings on the High Street, she had asked if a raised table could be put there instead as the crossings were dangerous. She also confirmed that the main roundabout at the train station junction would be completed.

9 Sandy Leisure Facilities (104-2018/2019)

Members received and considered a report outlining information received to date on a CBC consultation on potential changes to public use of leisure facilities at the Sandy Secondary School.

The Clerk read out an email he had received from CBC reviewing details, he will update Members when any news is received. A Member asked why has the consultation not yet started, when clubs/groups had already been notified?

Cllr Stock said that meetings were being held and both she and Cllr Maudlin were putting the council's views forward. The consultation has been put on hold, as they are looking at alternatives. CBC are working with the school regarding community facilities, adult education, sports facilities etc.

Cllr Stock

A Member asked when the views of residents would be sought. Cllr Stock said that decisions will be made between the schools and CBC before the consultation goes out.

A Member said that obstacles had been placed in the way. He stated that Dunstable had just opened a new sports and leisure centre costing £20.1m. He also said that the Town Council had not been approached to be considered in any new thinking.

Sandy Town Council

Cllr Stock said that she will ask CBC to engage in proper communication with the Town Council and that the town needs investment.

She re-iterated that CBC do not want facilities lost for Sandy residents. The refurbishment of the toilets and changing rooms will be completed with reserved money and the works will be agreed at a meeting on the 20th November 2018.

Members expressed the Town Council's thanks for both Cllr Maudlin and Cllr Stock's support and efforts.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council take the lead and seek to convene a meeting between all interested parties and discuss what is happening. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of committees would attend.

Town Clerk

10 **Action List (105-2018/2019)**

Members noted the action list.

Cllr Blaine briefed Members on the recent Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils AGM. The guest speaker was the CEO of Heartlands, who represent local authorities concerned about infrastructure provision. The group is chaired by the Mayor of Bedford and CBC is a member. The speaker's comments were in line with those of Sandy Town Council and the view was expressed that improvements to the A1 should not be based on a case of cost versus benefit. If work is needed to upgrade the roads to a national standard this should go ahead. The speaker said that he would like to see the East/West Rail to go to Cambridge South Station and connect with Addenbrookes Hospital. An announcement and consultation is still not expected until early next year.

The letter from Mr Grayling was discussed and although it was critical to the Town Council, there was no timescale stated. It was also noted that the letter stated the average speed camera scheme would stop at the Sandy roundabout. Reassurances are needed that it will in fact go through to Georgetown.

It was proposed that the Town Council write to Alistair Burt and ask what the timescale.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to Alistair Burt MP to seek clarification on both issues.

Town Clerk

Sandy Town Council

11 Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (106-2018/2019)

Members received and considered the renewal of a lease with the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association for land on Sunderland Road Playing Field.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council renew the lease for 25 years.

Town Clerk

12 Re-organisation of Community Governance (107-2018/2019)

Members received and considered changes arising from CBC community governance review.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve that two properties in Girtford, Sandy be moved to Moggerhanger.

13 Community Plan (108-2018/2019)

Members received and considered action points emerging from the Council's adopted Community Plan.

A Member proposed to prioritise the items and that vacant shops in Sandy be the number one priority. Another Member proposed that the Town Council write to Alistair Burt MP regarding pollution.

A Member asked if the group had been disbanded? It was agreed that the group would meet twice a year to monitor progress.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to make the Town Council's vacant shops in Sandy their number one priority and that the Town Council write to A Burt MP regarding pollution levels.

Town Clerk

14 Council Action Plan (109-2018/2019)

Members received and considered a draft action plan for the next six months of Council activity.

The Clerk briefed Members on the purpose of the draft action plan and it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Action Plan. Members also thanked the Clerk for producing the plan.

15 Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights (110-2018/2019)

Sandy Town Council

Members received a request from the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £1,000 to the group to support the costs of organising and running the 2018 event and that the funds come from the £3,180 of earmarked reserves held for the Christmas Lights event.

Admin

Members also received a report that the Council donate the sleigh to the FOSCL for use at the Christmas Light Switch-On event and to allow the group to continue to raise funds for future years' events. That should the FOSCL ever be wound up the sleigh be transferred back to the Council or a group with responsibility for running the Sandy Christmas events.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the sleigh be donated to the FOSCL but only to be used on sleigh runs and not on the day.

16 Business Rates Relief on Public Toilets (111-2018/2019)

Members considered the Clerk's report and a Member announced that the Chancellor had announced today that business rates on public toilets would be abolished next year.

It was therefore proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that no further action be taken.

17 Councillor Public Surgery Dates (112-2018/2019)

Members received the Clerk's report.

It was agreed that the surgery being held on the 10th November would be attended by Cllrs Aldis and Gibson, the surgery on the 9th February 2019 would be attended by Cllrs Cole, Jackson and the Clerk, which would include a session for prospective councillors. A surgery for April 2019 is still to be agreed.

18 Crime and Policing (113-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted the recent CCTV incidents.
- ii) Members received and noted the most recent crime statistics for Sandy. A Member asked if crime had increased or decreased. A Member said that the statistics did not indicate a clear-up rate or if the incident was investigated. The Clerk said that

Sandy Town Council

councillors could check on the website for updates. A Member asked if the office could compile these updates for three to five of the more serious crimes rather than spend time reporting limited information on all crimes.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the office would look into reporting the progress from three to five incidents in the future.

Admin

The Clerk informed Members that Cllr Thompson would not be able to attend the next Police meeting and would email to ask if any councillors could attend.

At this point of the meeting, Standing Orders were suspended for 15 minutes to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2.5 hours.

19 Reports from Representatives (114-2018/2019)

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the talk of the Town Minibus.
- ii) Members had received and noted a verbal report from Cllr Blaine on the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils AGM earlier in the meeting.
- iii) Members received and noted a report from Administrator, Anne Elliott-Flockhart, on planning training. Members thanked Anne for her report and it was agreed that the report would be put forward for a future Development Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

20 A Nations Tribute (115-2018/2019)

Members noted that the event will start at 6.15pm in the Market Square on Sunday 11th November 2018.

The Mayor briefed Members on the evening event and asked for their support.

21 Correspondence (116-2018/2019)

- i) Members noted correspondence received from Anglian Water. It was stated that the council could obtain quotes from other water companies.
- ii) Members received and noted copy correspondence from the Secretary of State for the Department of Transport to the Rt Hon A Burt MP.

Sandy Town Council

22 News Release (117-2018/2019)

- Co-option of new Councillor
- Sandy Secondary School meeting

Admin

23 Chairman's Items (118-2018/2019)

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended the Civic Service and for Anne Elliott-Flockhart's assistance on the day.

He reminded Members of the Mayor's Tribute Night on Friday 23rd November at the Conservative Club and tickets are still available from the office.

**24 Date of Next Meeting (119-2018/2019)
Monday 10th December 2018**