

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 17th July, 2023 commencing at 7.35 p.m.

Present: Cllrs N Áldis, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair) and N Thompson.

Absent: Cllrs B Blackley and A Effiong

In attendance: Cllrs S Baker, Hewitt, Pettitt and Ian Reed Deputy Town Clerk

- | | Action |
|--|---------------|
| 1 Apologies for Absence (16-2023/24)
Apologies were received from Cllr A Effiong | Admin |
| 2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (17-2023/24)
i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.
ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Item 8: Cllr Osborne as President of the 22 nd Sandy ATC. Item 10 Cllr Osborne as Chairman of St Swithun’s Church Parochial Church Council; Councillors A and R Lock as Members of St Swithun’s Parochial Church Council Item 12: Cllr Osborne as President of Sandy FC.
iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None. | Admin |
| 3 Minutes of previous meeting (18-2023/24)
RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 5 th June 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings subject to the following:
(i) In Attendance - that Ian Reed – Deputy Town Clerk be added to the attendance list
(ii) Sunderland Road Recreation Ground - Pitch Condition (minute 11-2023/24) Line 32 of the Minute be amended to read. The Committee noted that CBC Councillor Simon Ford, as an official of Sandy Tigers FC ... | Deputy Clerk |
| 4 Public Participation Session (19-2023/24)
No members of the public were present. | |

Sandy Town Council

5 **Action List (20-2023/24)**

Members received and noted the action list.

The Committee was concerned at the length of time the allotments and Community Orchard, Beeston had been an outstanding item for discussion since 2016. It was also noted the building works at the site had been delayed to September (it was considered this could cause another major delay) and an updated lease had still not been received from CBC.

Deputy
Clerk

It was RESOLVED:

That the Full Council at its meeting on 7 August be recommended to cease negotiations on establishing a lease with CBC and further additional attempts be made by the Town Council to seek additional allotment land.

6 **Repair of Footways at Sunderland Road and Fallowfield Recreation Grounds (21-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a report on the condition of the footways at the two recreation grounds. It was noted that attempts to patch the cracking surfaces had not been a success. The surfaces were cracking and formed trip hazards in many places. Two quotations had been received.

Deputy
Clerk

It was RESOLVED:

1) That the quote received from contractor A for the resurfacing of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground for the sum of £4,100 be accepted.

2) That the works for resurfacing the Fallowfield Recreation Ground be considered in the budget discussions for financial year 2024/2025

Deputy
Clerk

7 **Neighbourhood Plan – Green Infrastructure Plan (22-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a draft of the Green Infrastructure Plan for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Committee discussed the document in detail and commented as follows:

Deputy
Clerk

- i) Table of GI Aspirations
 - 1a 1b Create cycleway route from Sandy to Potton
- Proposed Amendment - that the route via sandy Heath along Sandy Lane is promoted - delete routes along disused railway or through paths through the Lodge as inappropriate.
- ii) Prioritisation of GI Aspirations
 - Item18 Enhance footbridge over A1 to enable use by cyclists, buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

Item 19 Provide safe crossing of A1 to filling station/
supermarket and Rights of Way network to the West
To note Item 21 the cycleway along St Neots Road has
been re-established

Item 22 Complete pavement and upgrade to cycleway
along Sunderland Road to link Fallowfield to town centre
(section of Sandy Green Wheel) – this aspiration be
checked for accuracy

- iii) Sandy's Green Spaces Map n.4 the site name be known as
Sandy Secondary Sports Ground
- iv) Stage 2 Assessment item 10 Sandy Heath Quarry – to
check RSPB involvement in this area.

Deputy
Clerk

RECOMMENDED

That Sandy Town Council endorses the Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Town Council confirms its support for the concept of GI planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Town Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council. The Town Council will annually review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned both by the Council and others, towards implementing the plan.

Deputy
Clerk

8 Boundary Fence between Scout Hut and ATP Building 23-2023/24)

Deputy
Clerk

The Committee considered a report about the damaged boundary fence between the Scout Hut and the ATP building. The Council owned the land and was seeking a solution to the boundary fence issue. The fence had been damaged by the roots of two self seeded trees that were estimated to be 30 years old. The initial proposal had been to reposition some of the fencing to avoid the tree roots causing further damage. However, during discussions at the meeting it was noted that the ATP building was being lifted by the tree roots and it was proposed that the two trees be felled and the stumps be ground out and then the section of fencing be replaced. The Committee had received three quotations and the Committee favoured option 3 from Contractor C - close board fencing built on site using concrete posts. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to receive quotations for the felling of the two trees and the two items be considered at the next meeting of the Full Council.

Sandy Town Council

RECOMMENDATION

That the Full Council accept the fence quotation from Contractor C for option 3 at a cost of £1,312.00 exc VAT and that it also consider quotations from arboriculturists for the felling of the two trees on the site in time for the refurbishment of the building by the MOD.

Deputy
Clerk

Events Working Group (24-2023/24)

9

The Committee considered a report that set out the events planned for the second half of 2023 and into 2024

Deputy
Clerk

Skate Jam 16th September 2023

Autumn Market - 1st October 2023

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

Sandy Christmas Light Switch on Event 3rd December 2023

The Events Working Group also discussed

D Day celebrations 2024

Mosaic and cemetery Archaeology Report/Event

It was RESOLVED that:

Deputy
Clerk

The report be noted

St Swithun's Parish Church Churchyard - Walls (25-2023/24)

10

The Committee considered a report on the closed churchyard walls that were in a poor condition and unsafe in places. Members had been given the opportunity to attend a site visit to the closed churchyard earlier on that evening. The Committee discussed the need for a condition survey for the wall at the western perimeter and the brick wall running along the High Street.

It was RESOLVED:

Deputy
Clerk

1) That the Committee recommends to Full Council that a condition survey is commissioned

2) That on the basis of the report costings for the works be obtained for a complete refurbishment of the western wall

3) That proposals for protecting the front brick wall from deterioration be considered at a future meeting of the Committee

4) That funding of the works for the western wall be submitted for consideration in the 2024/25 budget setting process

Sandy Town Council

11 Environmental Plan (26-2023/24)

Deputy
Clerk

The Committee considered the Environmental Plan first approved at the meeting of the Committee held on 5 October 2020. The following discussions took place;

Strive to Prevent Pollution and Enhance Biodiversity

(i) Reduce Pollution from vehicles in the town – Councillor Aldis asked that action to stop idling of engines be included in the Plan

(ii) Reduce Pollution on the A1 – ongoing

Promote benefits of reducing speed and smart driving to reduce fuel consumption. Review and improvement of speed signage – SID signs were now in place

(iii) Support wildlife and natural habitats- Incorporate bee and insect havens into planting schemes and help pollinators. Reduce use of chemicals. Identify additional area to create bee and insect havens – ongoing

Conserve Natural Resources

(iv) Reduce streetlight energy usage and light pollution – check STC conversion of street lights to LEDs

(v) Where possible look at solar lighting scheme installations 23/24

(vi) Minimise fuel usage – to look at budget for using vehicles

(viii) Replace power tools with cordless electric versions – two electric push mowers purchased in the current financial year

(viii) Look at powering tools from electric vehicle.

(ix) The Council to look to dispose of petrol power generator

(X) Reduce water usage – increase use of grey water

Also to provide water butts for the Council Office so the water collected can water flowers etc

Minimise Waste

(Xi) Reduce Fly Tipping to budget in next financial year to organise regular large rubbish disposal days

(Xii) Promote reuse of the repair of old goods – to be removed

(Xiii) Improving understanding of recycling – be removed

(Xiv) Investigate paperless meetings

(Xv) Investigate holding of carboot sales – be removed

Office Supplies and Consumables

(Xvi) Purchase milk from milkman – milk To be sold in reusable glass bottles – no plastic milk bottles

(Xvii) Encourage businesses to make environmentally friendly operating choices – to be removed

(Xviii) Vocally support and take part in Earth Day and Earth Hour and support Earth Day April 2024

Sandy Town Council

It was RESOLVED that:

- 1) That all comments relating to Covid be removed from the Action Plan
- 2) That the plan be edited following the discussions at the meeting and copies be submitted for adoption at the next cycle of meeting

Deputy
Clerk

12 Sunderland Road Recreation Ground – Ditch (27-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on the ditch running the whole length of Sunderland Road. The ditch has been of concern to the Council for some time. It is likely that the ditch had some effect on the drainage of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground as it is completely blocked and overgrown with trees, shrubs, weeds, as well as litter and debris from the adjacent industrial estate.

The Council has sought advice from the Bedford Internal Drainage Board (IDB) on the ditch. It confirmed that the ditch is blocked and therefore did not function as it should. It also advised it was not part of its network and therefore was not sure of its function. The Deputy Clerk also consulted with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and had confirmed it was not a highway drain. Members were reminded that Sunderland Road was created as a recreation ground built on clay. Therefore, the ground could only cope with so much rain before waterlogging. It was suggested that if the drain was cleared it would assist in the drainage of the area. The Committee discussed the possibility of declaring riparian rights over the ditch.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council be recommended to declare itself as the riparian owner of Sunderland Road ditch
- 2) That the Council approves the action set out in the report to clear and maintain the ditch
- 3) That clearance and tree works be undertaken at a cost of £1,300
- 4) That no further action be taken to pipe the ditch as apart of the 2024/25 budget planning

Deputy
Clerk

13 Electric Vehicle (EV) Points – Proposed Installations in Sandy (28-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on the proposed installation of EV charging points in Sandy for the benefit of residents and visitors. The report was based on a report from Central Bedfordshire Council and a Working Group meeting held on-site on 22 June 2023.

Recommended:

- 1) That the Council agrees to go into partnership with CBC namely the Sustainable Transport Team to provide EV charging points in the

Sandy Town Council

Sandy Town Council carpark choosing option 1 and the Council agrees to remove the barriers at the carpark point of installation to facilitate the installation and use of the EV charging points. The above decisions require the Council to cease issuing carpark passes. Council to consider the impact the removal of the barriers would have as post-covid the number of commuters has reduced with working from home becoming more common. Also, CBC would issue TMOs.

Deputy
Clerk

2) That following approval from Full Council the Town Council signs a letter of acceptance to CBC and BP Pulse.

14 Chairman's Items (14-2023/24)

None.

15 Date of Next Meeting (15-2023/24)

Monday 21 August 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm