

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, and N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllrs A Gibson, M Hill, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lock and S Sutton

**In attendance:** Mrs. N Sewell (Clerk), Mrs. C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllrs J Hewitt, M Pettitt and P Sharman

As both the Chair and Vice-Chair were not in attendance, the committee members proposed and seconded Cllr M Scott to chair the meeting.

- |   | <b>Action</b> |
|---|---------------|
| <p><b>1 Apologies for Absence (112-2021/22)</b><br/>Apologies were received from Cllrs A Gibson, M Hill, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lock and S Sutton.</p>  | Admin         |
| <p><b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (113-2021/22)</b><br/>i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.<br/>ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.<br/>iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.</p>   |               |
| <p><b>3 Minutes of previous Meeting (114-2021/22)</b><br/><b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the meetings of the Community Services &amp; Environment Committee held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p> |               |
| <p><b>4 Public Participation Session (115-2021/22)</b><br/>A Member raised a question from a resident regarding a number of smallholdings appearing around the quarry area south of New Road. The Clerk said she would investigate to see if the land might be available for allotments.</p>                  | Town Clerk    |
| <p><b>5 Action List (116-2021/22)</b><br/>Members received and noted the action list.</p>   |               |

### Allotments & Community Orchard at Beeston:

The Clerk informed Members that CBC's officer did not publish the required public notice on disposal of the land to STC, last week. The

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notice would be published in the *Biggleswade Chronicle* and *Biggleswade Today* this week and it would appear for two weeks in the local press and information would be available to view at Sandy Library. CBC would wait for any objections before proceeding.

## SID Sign Locations and Installation:

Clerk informed Cllrs that an email had been sent to the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner requesting they confirm their support for this project.

## **6 Central Bedfordshire Council's Action Day (117-2021/22)**

Members received confirmation on a proposed Action Day to be held in the town centre by Central Beds Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Members were reminded not to confuse this event with a similarly named one taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> March organised by the Central Beds Council's Safer Community Engagement Team.

Members were asked to feed any areas of concern such as potholes, areas of the town that need tidying up or litter picking back to the Clerk to pass on to CBC.

It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that the Council would support the event and that Sandy Good Neighbours be asked to attend, and that the Town Council would also have a presence. Members suggested that the Scouts/Beavers be asked to litter pick in the Stratford Road area.

## **7 Queen's Jubilee (118-2021/22)**

Members received and considered the Clerk's report.

Following advice from the outdoor team leader that Faynes Corner would be able to accommodate the planting of two small species of tree, it was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that both the WI and RBL's requests to plant a tree at the site be approved. It was agreed that the Outdoor Team Leader would liaise with both RBL and the WI on this to approve and oversee the planting.

The Clerk to advise the groups accordingly.

Town  
Clerk

## **8 Community Engagement (119-2021/22)**

Members received and considered a report from the Town Clerk.

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The Chair advised that the surgery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April had been arranged and that the surgery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July be cancelled as this would be too close to the Central Beds Action Day on the 24<sup>th</sup> June at which Cllrs would be present.

It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that the surgeries be re-started on a six-week cycle with the date of a surgery to take place shortly before a Full Council meeting so issues are reported back to that meeting and that spring and summer surgeries take place in the Community Stand.

A Member asked if a surgery could be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Council Chamber to coincide with the Sandy Historical Society's meeting on that day.

The Admin Team Leader to email all Members and ask for volunteers to attend the surgeries.

Admin  
Team  
Leader

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## **Committee Action Plan (120-2021/22)**

Members received and noted updates to the committee action plan for the remainder of 2021/22.

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## **Support for Ukraine (121-2021/22)**

Members considered actions to support those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

Members noted a flag was purchased and is being flown at Faynes Corner.

Members agreed to post the Mayor's statement of support on social media, in the Biggleswade Chronicle and noticeboards around the Town.

Members noted that donations from the Civic Service would all go to support DEC as part of the Mayor's Charity.

Members decided not to take in items for collection at this point as other groups had struggled to manage the amount of donations received and to look to other organisations offering collections in the area first to get a better understanding of what was needed. It was agreed that this decision would be reviewed in the future, depending on the community's need.

Members agreed to contact the Twinning Association to explore how the Council might work with Skarszewy and Malaunay on any efforts they are undertaking to help the people of Ukraine.

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## **Sandye Place Maintenance (122-2021/22)**

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Members noted an update from Central Beds Council on maintenance costs for Sandye Place to enable the Queen's Jubilee Celebration event to be held there.

Members noted that a letter was sent to the Leader and CEO of CBC on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March requesting CBC reverse their decision to charge STC for the maintenance costs at Sandye Place and outlining their concerns that CBC's decision would jeopardise STC's ability to hold its Jubilee event as planned. A response was requested by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Once a response from CBC has been received a recommendation to move Jubilee celebrations to Sunderland Road or Bedford Road would be made to PF&R to decide at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March. If no response had been received by 23<sup>rd</sup> March, then the Clerk was asked to take the matter up with STC's Ward Councillors.

It was agreed that under no circumstances a fee or any money towards maintenance costs be paid to CBC for these works.

Members requested that their dismay and serious concerns over what they felt was a 'despicable' act by CBC be noted and that they believed these actions did not align with CBC's community responsibilities or make for healthy community relationships.

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## **Chairman's Items (123-2021/22)**

There were no Chairman's items.

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## **Date of Next Meeting (124-2021/22)**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm