

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 23rd August 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllr N Thompson

In attendance: Cllr J Hewitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (28-2021/2022)

Apologies were received from Cllr N Thompson.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (29-2021/22)

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

3 Minutes of previous Meeting (30-2021/22)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 19th July 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (31-2021/22)

There were no questions.

5 Guest Speaker (32-2021/22)

Members heard from Stephen Mooring, CBC's Head of Sustainability on the CBC's EV Charge point Plan. Mr Mooring spoke in detail about CBC EV Charge point tendering process, explaining that it was envisioned that two separate tenders would be run. One for a provider of on-street charging points and another for charging points in areas such as car parks. CBC had gathered data on where residents across Central Bedfordshire would like to see charging points located. Mr Mooring shared the data collected on Sandy. Town Councils are invited to submit expressions of interest for sites they would like to be considered for charging points. The model to be used will see EV Charge Point providers cover the cost of installing, maintaining and running charge points, with the

Town Clerk

Sandy Town Council

landowner paid a hosting fee as part of an agreement. Providers had already expressed an interest in including Sandy in the scheme. Existing car parks, or open spaces which might be suitable for EV Charge points can be put forward and the chosen contractor will advise on the site's feasibility, how many charge points could be installed and how they will be developed over the coming years.

Mr Mooring spoke briefly on the impact of pollution from the A1 and shared some data with the committee. He also spoke on other opportunities for working in partnership with town councils, such as the tree planting scheme and a future tree scheme to be run as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in 2022.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mooring and commented that the Council was planning to take part in future tree planting schemes and that it had been part of a trial for a carbon calculator. The committee would be discussing EV Charging Points and would come back to him with an expression of interest.

6 **EV Charge Points (33-2021/22)**

Members considered sites in Sandy for likely points to be included in an expression of interest form to be sent to CBC and included in the plan.

Members **RESOLVED** that the following list of sites be submitted as part of the EV Charge Point expression of interest form;

- Town Centre Car Park
- SSLA Car Park
- Village Hall/Sunderland Road Car Park
- Sandy Cemetery
- Fallowfield Recreation Ground, Osprey Close side
- Berwick Way Estate Grassed Area 1
- Berwick Way Estate Grassed Area 2
- Ivel Park Estate

Town
Clerk

7 **Action List (34-2021/22)**

Members received and noted the action list.

Use of former Days Inn Conference Site: The Clerk said that he would ask that updates on the potential future use of the former conference site be included in an upcoming meeting to be arranged with Sarah Morgan and Ian Berry of CBC, the Council's single points of contact.

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

SID Locations & Installation: Members again expressed their frustration at not being able to move forward with an SID sign and queried why neighbouring towns had received permission to install them. The Clerk said that CBC Cllr Ford was going to contact Highway officers to see if the matter could be moved forward.

CBC Cllr
Ford

A Member queried the status of the car park developed as part of the new cemetery extension. The Chair said that this item was dealt with by the Cemetery Working Group which reports to PFR, rather than CSE. The Chair commented that there had been meetings of the Working Group and notes would be forthcoming. The Clerk commented that he would include notes from the meetings on the next PFR agenda and that there were several matters to be considered regarding the future operation of the car park, which was currently opened for funerals. The Member suggested that this should be made known to the public along with the future intentions for the use of the car park.

Clerk/
Cemetery
Wkg
Group

8 **Community Safety Plan (35-2021/22)**

Members received and considered a draft copy of the Community Safety Action Plan.

Cllr Hewitt took Members through the plan, and various questions and queries were raised and answered. Cllr Hewitt stated that the draft plan would be updated as needed and this would be a live, reactive document.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the Community Safety Plan.

Members thanked Cllrs Hewitt and Lock for all their work on the plan.

9 **Skatepark Project (36-2021/22)**

- i) Members noted that the Skatepark Working Group were successful in an application for £25,000 from CBC's Community Asset Fund. Cllr Paterson reported that Sports England will hopefully soon be taking applications for community asset grants again. There were other sources of funding available such as Tarmac and the National Lottery which would be applied for. A Member said that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were compiling a list of businesses which may be of use. Cllr Paterson said that an online questionnaire would be available for residents to

Skatepark
Wkg Gp

Sandy Town Council

express their comments. A Member asked if the Skatepark Association had funds to put into the project and was told by a trustee that there were funds available, and they would be transferred as soon as possible. The amount available would need to be confirmed.

- ii) Members received and noted an update report on the project following the appointment of a contractor to partner the Council in fundraising, design, consulting and building the facility.

10 Youth Engagement (37-2021/22)

Members noted a request on use of the Council Chamber by CBC's Youth Services and potential youth engagement opportunity by Sandy Town Council.

A Member asked that at the next quarterly meeting of the Town Council and CBC ward councillors, the question of 'free' requests going both ways be an item for discussion.

Town Clerk

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Committee recommends to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee that the Youth Voice group be given free use of the Council Chamber on a fortnightly basis and that the committee set up a rota of Councillors to open/close the office and facilitate the meetings.

11 Beeston Tracks (38-2021/22)

Members received and considered a report from the Clerk on Council responsibility for tracks across Beeston Village Green. Members noted that the Sandy Urban District Council had taken responsibility for two tracks across the Green in 1959 and that Mid Beds District Council had carried out tarmac repair surfacing to the tracks at some point. STC may now have inherited that responsibility and some repair work is needed to one of the tracks. The Council has previously stated tarmac could not be used across the Green. Members felt maintenance costs should be the responsibility of the homeowners, as it leads to very few houses and queried whether contributions could be sought.

Town Clerk

After further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that further advice is taken on the Council's responsibility for the tracks marked in red on the map and initial recommendations and costs are obtained for any repair works needed, or alternative

Sandy Town Council

options for consideration by the PF&R committee as part of the 2022/23 budget.

That the Clerk and Beeston Working Group continue to work with the owner of 18 Beeston Green on the proposed tree planting and Green enhancements.

12 Events Working Group (39-2021/22)

- i) Members received and noted a report from a meeting of the events Working Group held on the 28th July 2021.

The Clerk informed Members that the recent Fun Fair held on Sunderland Road Recreation Park had been well attended and received by residents.

- ii) Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on the Summer Market on 22nd August 2021. The Clerk said the event went well and there was a good selection of traders on the day. Several stalls had sold out on the day and had expressed interest in attending any future events that might be raised. One local business owner who had opened on the day was positive about the event and there were positive comments on social media. The Clerk informed the committee that Cllrs Sutton, Aldis, Gibson, Hewitt and Sharman had all been at the event throughout the day helping it run, including manning barriers, directing stall holders, allocating pitches and packing up.

- iii) Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on the Family Fun Day held in Bedford Road Recreation Ground on 22nd August 2021. The event was not Council run, but officers had worked closely with the organiser. Full feedback from the organiser is awaited, but the event appeared to run well with steady attendance throughout the day despite the rain.

The Clerk commented that the Events Working Group would review both events and that it may need to consider how it deals with lending gazebos. Cllr Sharman and the Clerk had been on site until 6pm packing up and moving the gazebos and without their involvement it is not clear how this would have worked. The Clerk suggested that at any such future event, the organiser should ask stall holders attending to provide their own gazebos or inform them that they can hire/lend one from the Council directly.

Sandy Town Council

The Clerk wished to thank Cllr Sharman for his assistance in clearing up after the event.

Cllr Gibson said that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group handed out questionnaires at both events and there was good engagement with the public.

13 Chairman's Items (40-2021/22)

The Chair informed Members that BRCC won gold in the Community Business of the Year Award category, hosted by Wembley Stadium, at the SME National Business Awards on Wednesday (28th July 2021). The awards, held in the Bobby Moore Suite at Wembley Stadium, looked to recognise those small and medium-sized enterprises that had demonstrated the upmost dedication and innovation in the way in which they adapted to, and weathered, the Covid-19 pandemic. In the case of BedsRCC, this recognised the way in which their staff and volunteers have supported their local communities and those vulnerable residents over the last year. They had won the regional final in June 2021 for Bedfordshire and Luton which had given them a place at the final but with so many worthy nominees, the team were genuinely surprised and highly delighted.

14 Date of Next Meeting (41-2021/22)

Monday 4th October 2021.