

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 26th September 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Ivanciu-Wilkinson, A Lock, R Lock, S Sutton (Chair) and C Osborne

Absent: Cllrs N Aldis, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, M Scott, and N Thompson.

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk), Cllrs J Hewitt, M Pettitt and P Sharman

Cllr Sutton led the Committee in a minute's silence in remembrance of the passing for HM Queen Elizabeth II.

- | | Action |
|---|---------------|
| 1 Apologies for Absence (29-2022/23)
Apologies were received from N Aldis, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson and M Scott | Admin |
| 2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (30 -2022/23)
i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.
ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – None
iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None. | |
| 3 Minutes of previous Meeting (31-2022/23)
RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 25th July 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings. | |
| 4 Public Participation Session (32 -2022/23)
No members of the public were present. | |
| 5 Action List (33 -2022/23)
Members received and noted the action list. | |

Allotments & Community Orchard at Beeston:

Clerk had received a draft lease for the allotments on 26th September which would be circulated to Members to be reviewed at Full Council on Monday 10th October.

Use of Former Days Inn Conference Site

Town
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

An invitation has been extended to Mr Keavney to attend the next meeting of CS&E on 17th October to provide Members with an update.

SID Sign Locations and Installation:

Following publicity on facebook and the Council's website there had been no response from residents to get involved in a speedwatch action group and had only elicited negative comments. Cllr Maudlin had suggested a combination of speed and streetwatch partners to undertake the work. An email was sent to Philip Eaton and Wayne Humberstone on 14.09.2022 to progress matters. Clerk to follow up on actions to try and take this forward.

Admin

EV Charging Points

Stephen Mooring had responded to emails from the Clerk to say that Sandy had not been successful in securing electric charging points from the town during this phase of CBC's roll out. Clerk has invited Stephen Mooring to attend a committee meeting in October to update Members.

Queen's Jubilee – Commemorative Artwork

Artists Carolyne Blake and Oliver Budd who worked on the original Mosaic projects have both been engaged to the project and the Clerk is consulting with them to set up a children's community event/workshop. Initially this was to be held in October half term but due to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II work on the project stalled. See minute under Item 9 for further details.

AMP Battery Pods

No further updates.

Beeston Green Drainage

Work has started with dredging taking place on the River Ivel by the area of the Green Wheel Walk by Girtford Bridge on 5.09.2022

Sandy Town Council

6 **Street furniture, bins, and benches (34 -2022/23)**

Members received a report from the Clerk outlining several separate requests from residents for the placement of new benches, bins, and bus shelters across Sandy. The Outdoor Team Leader also provided a list of current bins and benches that needed to be replaced or repaired.

RESOLVED that the Outdoor Team undertake an audit of Sandy's open spaces to create a full picture of the work required to ensure provision for works is included in 2023/24 budget.

Outdoor
Team

7 **CBC On Street Parking Consultation (35-2022/23)**

Members received a report from Cllr Sutton outlining a suggested response to the CBC On Street Parking Consultation.

RESOLVED comments made under items 3.8 and 4.0- 4.7 (inclusive) of the report be used as the official response. Cllrs Hewitt and Sutton to work together to provide specific examples to illustrate each comment.

Clerk.
Cllrs
Sutton &
Hewitt

A separate letter will be drafted by Cllrs Sutton and Sharman and sent to Planning at CBC to review against their planning policy with a copy being sent to MP Richard Fuller

Cllrs
Sutton
and
Sharman

Cllr Hewitt also reported that residents of the estates had raised issues adjacent to the railway station were experiencing issues with rail users leaving their cars parked in residential roads over extended periods of time while they went away on holiday. Inconsiderate parking and blocking of people's drives was a particular issue. She added that residents had complained to CBC about the problems and had been told there was little that could be done as no restrictions were in place for these areas.

8 **Christmas lights (36-2022/23)**

Members considered a recommendation from the Clerk to reduce the hours when the Christmas Lights burn to reduce costs in acknowledgement of the current cost of living crisis.

RESOLVED to reduce the time the lights burn from between 3.30pm and midnight, to 4pm and 10.30pm. In addition, Members agreed that Christmas lights should be switched off on Wednesday 4th January instead Friday 6th January, thus saving 115.5 hours of power over the period.

Sandy Town Council

9 Mosaic Competition (37-2022/23)

Members considered a recommendation by the Clerk to delay timings for the mosaic competition following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and widen the scope of the project to celebrate her whole life not just her 70-year reign.

RESOLVED to look contact schools in Mid-December with a letter from the Mayor priming schools for a relaunch of the competition in January with potential workshop to be held in February half term. Clerk to agree timings with Carolyn Blake.

Clerk

Cllrs Pettitt and Hewitt agreed to visit schools to publicise the event, while Cllr R Lock would approach contacts at Rainbows and Beavers.

Cllrs
Hewitt,
R Lock
and
Pettitt

Mayor to send letters to the current entrants to the competition explaining the change.

10 Free Trees (38 – 2022/23)

Members considered a request from CBC to host a local event to promote its Free Tree Giveaway Scheme.

RESOLVED that due to current staff shortages STC could not take on any further commitments to run events in the coming months other than those already planned. This would be reviewed once the administration team is back to full capacity. STC still remains committed to its environmental plan and tree planting scheme.

11 Resilient Highways Network Consultation (39 -2022/23)

Members received a report and consultation request from CBC on their Resilient Highways Network.

RESOLVED to respond to the consultation outlining the key routes within Sandy that were not currently included in the scheme: Bedford Road, High Street and St Neots Road.

Clerk

12 Disabled Parking Bays (40 – 2022/23)

Members received information from CBC regarding a consultation on Disabled Parking Bays at Churchill way.

RESOLVED to support the inclusion of a new disabled parking bay at Churchill Way. A response to Highways would note that there was already provision for one Disabled parking bay in the area and should a further application be made for this area for CBC to consider the impact this would have on the required resident parking and turning circles. Members request information on how parking bays are reviewed for continued use.

Clerk

Sandy Town Council

13 Fallowfields Paths (41-2022/23)

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk about the condition of paths at Fallowfield recreation ground. The office had received a complaint from a resident that large cracks had appeared across the paths and were causing a potential hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users. The Clerk reported the same issues could be seen across other open spaces with tarmac paths and that the issue had been caused by the intense prolonged heat we had experienced over the summer. The Clerk had spoken to the Outdoor Team leader about remedying the situations and warning signs were placed on site to take care when using the paths. It is expected that as the weather turns cooler some of the cracks will naturally start to shrink back.

RESOLVED that the Outdoor Team investigate methods of repair and if it is possible that these can be conducted without having to engage a contractor.

Outdoor
team

14 Chairman's items (42-2022/23)

There were none

15 Date of Next Meeting (43-2022/23)

Monday 17th October 2022