

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 commencing at 7.40pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, J Hewitt, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair) and N Thompson

**Absent:** None

**In attendance:** Cllrs M Pettitt, P Sharman and Nicola Sewell Town Clerk

### Action

**1 Apologies for Absence (CSE 1-2024/25)**

No apologies received.

Admin

**2 Election of Community, Services and Environment Committee Deputy Chairman for the Council year 2024/2025 (CSE 2-2024/25)**

Cllr A Lock was nominated, seconded and duly elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Community, Services and Environment Committee for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations.

**3 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (CSE 3-2024/25)**

The Clerk advised Members that they had the opportunity at the meeting to disclose any new items that needed to be disclosed

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None.
- ii) *Non pecuniary interests* – Cllr A Lock declared an interest for item 11 as a Member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), Cllr Osborne declared in interest in Item 10 as president of Sandy Football Club and Item 11 as Church Warden and Vice Chair of the PCC, and Cllr R Lock declared and interest in Item 11 as the PCC Treasurer. Cllr Sharman declared an interest in item 9 as the Council's representative on the Carnival Committee.
- iii) *Dispensations* – None.

# Sandy Town Council

## 4 Minutes of previous meeting (CSE 4-2024/25)

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Clerk

## 5 Public Participation Session (CSE 5-2024/25)

1 member of the public was present.

C

## 6 Sustainable planter trial proposal (CSE 6-2024/25)

Members received a request from a resident, Corinne Calligan, who is also an RHS qualified professional gardener, to 'adopt' the large circular planter at the entrance to Windsor Way in order to demonstrate how some annual bedding displays could be replaced with more sustainable perennial planting.

Corinne presented her ideas to Members, which included replacing the current bedding plants, which she said offered a short-term seasonal display with a high environmental footprint for both carbon and water, with more sustainable alternatives. She explained that bedding plants were mostly raised in glasshouses, usually heated by fossil fuels and that artificial lighting is often used. Their production used a lot of water and they were packed in plastic trays that could not be recycled. She informed Members that the plants often came from Europe and once in situ needed more watering than perennials.

She continued to explain the benefits of perennials over bedding plants citing:

- Perennial herbaceous plants and grasses that have a long life cycle.
- They offer flowers, foliage and texture for much of the year
- They could improve the ecological biodiversity throughout the town, helping pollinating insects
- They have a greater ability to create structure with the plant material, potential to enhance overall sensory impact
- They offer a greater spectrum of plant choice, encompassing foliage, flowers, seed heads, height, form and seasonal variation.
- Planting could include bulbs for a year-round display.

She completed her presentation by showing displays where other Councils, including Bromley Council and Winchester City Council, had adopted this approach adding a number of Town Councils across Northamptonshire were also following suit.

# Sandy Town Council

Members thanked Ms. Calligan for her time and efforts in attending the meeting and taking time to present, and more importantly for her passion and interest in the town.

**RESOLVED** that Ms. Calligan be allowed to take over the planting, weeding and watering of the planter for a 12-month trial period. Members requested that she ensure that planting included a variety of colours.

Outdoor  
Team Leader

The Community Engagement Officer would be asked to publicise Ms. Corrigan's work and reach out for further volunteers.

Community  
Engagement  
Officer

## **7 Consultation Request - Woodland Creation Project – Sandy (CSE 7-2024/25)**

Members received a request from Brown & Co Property & Business Consultants LLP looking for early feedback regarding a potential woodland creation project located to the south and north west of Sandy.

**RESOLVED** that members supported the creation of Woodland in principle, however had two questions:

- 1) Would the woodland be accessible to the public?
- 2) Would the lakes at the south end of Sandy be drained to enable the creation of Woodland at the site? Concerns were raised regarding waterfowl currently living there.

The Clerk to contact Brown & Co Property & Business Consultants LLP to clarify matters

Town Clerk

## **8 Action List (CSE 8-2024/25)**

Members received the action list.

Queries were raised regarding the progress of obtaining land for allotments and the Clerk was asked to contact Stephen Mooring at CBC to see if there was any update regarding land for allotments in Beeston.

Cllr Sutton mentioned that an update from Tom Price regarding the EV charging points would be forthcoming in a couple of weeks following leave. Engagement with businesses would be included with that update.

Cllr Osborne asked how the complaints about the EV charging points were being dealt with. The Clerk responded that complaints had been addressed and that information had been passed on to

# Sandy Town Council

the Car Park working group to consider. All complainants had also been invited to join the Car Park Working Group.

A question regarding the Mosaic project was also asked. The Clerk informed members that a new artist had been sourced and that the Community Engagement Officer, Cllr Hewitt and she were progressing the matter, with a date for a workshop being agreed imminently.

**It was RESOLVED:** to note the Action List.

## 9 **Request for Use of Council Vehicle and Equipment for Sandy Carnival and Skip Hire (CSE 9-2024/25)**

- i) Members received a request from Town Councils' nominated representative on the Sandy Carnival, Cllr Paul Sharman to use STC's electric vehicle at the Carnival. *It should be noted that Cllr Sharman will be covered by the Town Councils' insurance for driving the electric vehicle*

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Sharman be approved use of the electric vehicle for the Sandy Carnival 2024 and that the following conditions are followed:

Town Clerk

- a) The vehicle is never left unattended;
  - b) The vehicle is only used for the following over the carnival weekend. To transport gazebos and weights to and from the carnival venue, to be used as part of the vehicle parade. Only Cllr Sharman can drive the vehicle. Members of the public are not allowed to climb inside or on top of the vehicle.
- ii) To receive a request from the Carnival Committee for Sandy Town Council to provide a skip for the removal of waste from the event at a cost of £232.50 + VAT – (6 yard skip with tarpaulin).

**RESOLVED** to cover the costs of a skip, with payment for this coming from the Community Events Support budget Cost Centre 602 Budget line 4702.

*Cllr Osborne again requested that groups be reminded that any applications should come in one consolidated request and not piecemeal.*

# Sandy Town Council

## 10 **Bin at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (CSE 10-2024/25)**

Members received a request from Sandy Football Club to install an extra bin by the All Weather Pitch/Jenkins Pavilion at Sunderland Road recreation ground, as they have reported that the current bins get filled up quickly. Cost for a new bin is £241.36.

**RESOLVED** to request Pentaco supply and install bins as part of the Jenkins Pavilion Extension project. Members of the working group would make the request at a meeting of the Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group due to be held on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024. If Pentaco were not forthcoming then the Town Council would supply a bin as requested.

JP working  
Group

## 11 **Churchyard Wall Fence Replacement (CSE 11-2024/25)**

Members received an estimate for the replacement fence and removal of damaged wall. The Clerk has organised for two further contractors to supply estimates. As these had not been forthcoming and there seemed to be some disagreement among Members as to what work had been agreed before, the Clerk advised that the matter be deferred.

Cllr Osborne commented that it was important that the Council seek approval from CBC as the Church was in a conservation area. Also any works would need to be approved by the Church itself as well as the Diocese of St Albans under which it stands.

Cllr Hewitt added that it was important that the neighbouring resident was also engaged throughout the process.

**RESOLVED** that a site visit be carried out by the Clerk along with the Church Wardens, Members and the neighbour to clarify what work needed to be undertaken and agree the scope of that work. The Clerk to contact CBC Planning to see what restrictions are in place. Further quotes for work could then be sought.

Whatever method of repair was agreed the Town Council would apply for funding from Tarmac, so 3 quotes would be required.

## 12 **Events Working Group (CSE 12 – 2024/25)**

Members received the minutes of the Events Working Group held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Cllr Hewitt gave a verbal update on the recent D Day Commemorations, which she reported were a great success. From raising the flag at Faynes Corner in the morning, all the retail activity that took place throughout the day,

# Sandy Town Council

raising the flag at St Swithun's Church in the evening, with the bells ringing for peace, leading up to a fitting church service, which included a very moving presentation by Cllr Sutton with Sandy's very own veteran Richard Wood, who at 99 attended the event, while his daughter read out his story. Following the service was the lighting of the beacon that topped off the day's commemorations.

Cllr Hewitt thanked The Community Engagement Officer for all the hard work in promoting the day and getting the message out. The effort by Cllr Sutton and the Community Engagement Officer in pulling together the presentation, including video footage from D Day, was to be commended.

Another huge thank you went to Lynne Darlow who did a tremendous job of engaging with local businesses and getting the shops involved. It was reported that the different retail offers had boosted business across the week.

The exhibitions organised by Cllr Aldis and the Sandy Historic and Research Group and Cllr Sutton at the Library and St Swithun's Church respectively were informative and entertaining adding background to the events of D Day and aimed at all age groups.

Cllr Sutton added that the town had done D Day 80 proud.

**RESOLVED** note the report.

## **13 Safety of Lithium Batteries, e-bikes and e-scooters (CSE 13 – 2024/25)**

Members received a request from Mr. Ron Bailey to support a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bikes and e-scooters) and their disposal.

**RESOLVED** to agree to support the campaign.

## **14 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION (CSE-14-2023/24)**

It was **proposed and agreed** that in terms of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, proposed and agreed that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

Cllrs Pettitt and Sharman left the meeting

# Sandy Town Council

- 15 Bedford Road Recreation Park (CSE-15-2024/25)**  
Members received a report from the Clerk regarding an incident relating to recently installed play equipment.  
**RESOLVED** the Clerk pursue a response from the equipment manufacturer and await any recommendations/comments that come from the annual inspection. Signs should be fabricated and placed at all parks informing visitors that any misuse of equipment in the parks would be entirely at the visitors' risk.
- 16 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**  
**RESOLVED** that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.  
**(CSE-16-2024/25)**
- 17 Chairmans' Items (CSE-17-2024/25)**  
The Chairman reminded Members that Sandy Carnival would be taking place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June and made a call for volunteers to staff the Town Council's stand. Along with the Neighbourhood Plan stand engagement with the public would focus on the future of Sandye Place and gathering contact details of residents for communication and volunteering opportunities around campaigning to protect the site.
- 16 Date of Next Meeting**  
Monday 22nd July 2024

The meeting closed at 20.55