

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 29th April 2024 commencing at 7.30sspm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, A Effiong, A Lock, R Lock, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllrs Blackley, Lacey, Osborne and Thompson

In attendance: Cllrs J Hewitt and Pettitt, and Nicola Sewell Town Clerk

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (110-2023/24) Apologies received from Cllrs Thompson and Osborne.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (111-2023/24) The Clerk advised Members that they had the opportunity at the meeting to disclose any new items that needed to be disclosed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.ii) <i>pecuniary interests</i> - Noneiii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.	
<p>3 Minutes of previous meeting (112-2023/24) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 25th March 2024 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	Clerk
<p>4 Public Participation Session (113-2023/24) No members of the public were present.</p> <p>The Chair commented on an email circulated to Members prior to the meeting that had come from Central Bedfordshire Council’s Passenger Transport Services. The email contained details about reduction to services on routes 85 and 85a, and routes 188, 189 and 190. Some of these would be covered by an increased service on 72 and 73. Cllr Sutton reported that the potential changes would not affect residents’ ability to travel back and forth to Bedford but would affect those wishing to travel to the outlying villages. She prompted Members to ensure they spread the word to those that would be affected as comments were being invited back by CBC with a deadline of midday on Thursday 2nd May.</p>	Clerk

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5 Action List (114-2023/24)

Members received the action list.

It was RESOLVED: to note the Action List. Cllr Scott asked for it to also be noted that the contract between Central Bedfordshire Council and BP Pulse for the residential charge points was for 7 years, expiring in January 2029 and that the contract for the rapid charge points, which is under a separate arrangement, was for 10 years expiring in June 2033.

6 Recreation (115-2023/24)

Members received two reports from the Deputy Clerk:

a) Repairs to Bedford Road Football Pitch – the Clerk updated Members on the situation telling them the soil had been delivered and the Outdoor Team had already started work to fill the dip at Bedford Road.

b) Pitch Improvements at Sunderland Road – Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk regarding works that have started under the Pitch Improvement Scheme and potential need for replacement equipment.

RESOLVED That the Clerk speak to Pitch Power to explain that it's Verti-Drain is no longer usable and better understand the requirement to use a slitter/Verti-Drain on the grounds to qualify for the project. The Clerk would also investigate if the use of non-chemical fertilizer, which would fit better with the Town Council's environmental policy, could be used instead to improve the quality of the turf. In addition, information would be sought on whether equipment could be hired or borrowed in the meantime to undertake the work, rather than being purchased.

Town
Clerk

7 Land Fill Communities Fund (116-2023/24)

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk regarding opportunities for funding under the Tarmac Communities Fund.

RESOLVED to note the report. Projects identified for the funds include:

- Churchyard wall repairs
- Footpath replacement at Sunderland Road and Fallowfield
- Village Hall improvements (September application)

Admin
Team

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8 **Play Provision/Strategy (117-2023/24)**

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk recommending a Play Strategy for the Town Council.

RESOLVED to note the report and ask Members at the Annual Council Meeting to consider joining a Play Provision Working Group, which would set the play provision strategy for the Council.

Civic
Officer

9 **Events Working Group (118-2023/24)**

Members received the minutes of the Events Working Group held on 3rd April 2024. Cllr Hewitt gave an update on the Spring Market which was well received and attended.

RESOLVED note the report

10 **Riddy & Pinnacle Working Group (119-2023/24)**

- a) Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 18th April 2024.
- b) Members received a report from Town Clerk.

The Clerk updated Members that work by the IDB had started at Girtford Bridge and a skip had been organised by STC. This was at a lower cost than originally envisaged at £270.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

The Clerk was asked to speak to the Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling Association to ask them what they would like for their fees and the following actions were also agreed:

- To get costs to place signs in the Riddy advertising the Environment Agency's number so that permit holders and visitors could report any illegal fishing activity directly. These signs should also include a What3Words reference for the location.
- Note the cost to provide a skip for the IDB at Girtford Bridge
- Agree £1,000 from the budget for work to pollard three Willows as identified by the BRCC.
- Note that a quote for a tree report for the Pinnacle had not yet been received.

11 **Parking at Sunderland Road (120-2023/24)**

Members considered a request from Simon Ford, Chair of Sandy Tigers FC, to use the bottom end of Sunderland Road Recreation ground for parking during their tournament on 18th and 19th May 2024. The request has been deferred from Full Council on 15th April

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(240-2023/2024). Members noted that the Cricket Club had raised no objections.

The Clerk clarified that Sandy Tigers were not charging for parking, and that the only charges being made were for teams playing in the tournament and for the cost of tournament programmes.

RESOLVED to agree that Sandy Tigers use the bottom end of Sunderland Recreation Ground for overspill parking for their tournament and that any damaged ground would be made good by Sandy Tigers following the event.

12 Allotment Update (121-2023/24)

Members received an update outlining actions undertaken since the last meeting of CS&E and those that have been highlighted need to now take place.

RESOLVED to note the report.

13 Winter Maintenance - Review Report (122-2023/24)

Members received a review report from the Deputy Clerk regarding winter maintenance and salting in the Market Square and Car Park over the winter period at the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024.

RESOLVED to note the report.

14 Tree Reports (123 -20234/24)

Members received a report from the Clerk regarding the required actions highlighted in the recent Tree Reports.

RESOLVED: to undertake tree works rated as between priorities 1-3 as per the recommendation and a total estimated cost of £950.

Cllr Scott commented that he did not feel that all the trees that should have been included in the reports were there and that several streets at Beeston had not been tagged. The Clerk said she would follow the matter up.

The Clerk was asked to re-issue the table of works as it was believed that some of the trees from the full report had not been included in error.

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15 Chairmans' Items (124-2023/24)

- A letter from the residents of Holly Lodge had been received by the solicitor in response to the Town Council's final offer regarding the transfer of land west of Potton Road. As an agreement had not been reached the Town Council would instruct the solicitor to write to the residents to withdraw the offer as had been previously agreed by Members. A request to meet with Members face to face would be arranged, if still requested, with the inclusion of an independent Chair and set agenda.
- A request from a resident to purchase a strip of land that crosses Beeston Green, as well as a small parcel of land adjacent to their property was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members asked the Clerk to contact the resident to turn down the request. No further action on the matter would be taken.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd June 2024

The meeting closed at 21:19