

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 31st March 2025 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, S Lee, A Lock, R Lock, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair) and N Thompson.

Absent: Cllrs J Hewitt and C Osborne

In attendance: Councillors A Effiong, P Sharman, M Pettitt and Ian Reed Deputy Town Clerk

Action

- 1. Apologies for Absence (CS&E 93-2024/25)**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Hewitt and C Osborne. Admin

- 2. Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (CS&E 94-2024/25)**
The Deputy 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 –None*
 - iii) *Dispensations – None.*

- 3. Minutes of previous meeting (CS&E 95-2024/25)**
RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 17th February 2025 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings subject to the following amendment;
Deputy Clerk
 - That the that the first bullet point of resolution 2 be replaced by the following;
“the meeting of the Car Park Working Group with representatives from local businesses and the community be restricted to 10 representatives across both”.

- 4. Public Participation Session (CS&E 96-2024/25)**
There were no members of the public present.

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5. Report on Condition of Playgrounds, Recreation Grounds and Cemetery (CS&E 97-2024/25)

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk on operational issues relating to the Town Council's play areas, recreation grounds, cemetery and chapel.

In particular, discussions took place on the following issues;

- Drainage issues at Sunderland Road and the consideration of a quote to jet the culvert
- Pitch Power and use of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
- Flaying of the vegetation on the old railway embankment, Sunderland Road and the successful litter pick (part of the Great British Spring Clean 2025) on the site on Saturday 29th March
- It was noted with satisfaction that 30 bags of litter were collected from the litter pick
- The Committee was asked to support Incredible Edible Sandy volunteers who had volunteered to sow the old embankment with wildflower seed
- Dog fouling byelaws in Bedford Road
- Proposed building survey of the cemetery chapel as the repairs required were unknown as it had not been surveyed for a number of years
- Request for additional equipment for the outdoor team

RESOLVED

1. That the detailed report be noted and the Deputy Clerk be thanked for his efforts.
2. That the purchase of the Trimax Snake/S2 towed mower for a very good price be noted and the efforts of the officers be noted.
3. That in order to support the Pitch Power works at Sunderland Road the applicant submitting a request to hold a circus at Sunderland Road be asked, in the first instance, to consider using The Green, Beeston Green and all future requests to use Sunderland Road be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.
4. That the use of Sandye Place be investigated for the future use of events traditionally held at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground to ensure popular activities remain available to the community.
5. That the quote of £2,500 be accepted for the building survey of the cemetery chapel and that the chapel is to be available

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for use by the Council and available for hire by the general public.

6. That the quote of a day rate of £1,512.00 for one day for the treatment of the Sunderland Road culvert be accepted and to pursue confirmation on ownership/responsibility for the culvert, through CBC, to see if help/support with costs can be garnered as soon as possible.

7. That the purchase of wildflower seeds for sowing on the embankment be taken from the Outdoor Team and Incredible Edible Sandys' plant budget for the new council year

8. That all Councillors, Officers and volunteers involved in the litter pick be congratulated on their efforts and Incredible Edible Sandy be thanked for their plans to sow wildflower seeds at the old embankment.

6. **Action List for February 2025 (CS&E 98-2024/25)**

Members received an updated Action List and it was noted that in relation to land at Scout HQ/Cadet HQ Taylor Wimpey had not communicated with the Town Council.

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RESOLVED to note the report.

7. **Action Plan 2025/2026 (CS&E 99-2024/25)**

The Committee was circulated with a draft Action Plan.

RESOLVED to agree the one-year Action Plan for the Community Services and Environment Committee subject to the amendments be made and the revised document circulated to all Members.

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8. **EV Charging Point Installation (CS&E 100-2024/25)**

The Committee received the latest update on the installation. It was unfortunate that no additional information was available.

Deputy
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9. **Events Working Group (CS&E 101-2024/25)**

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on Wednesday 26th February 2025.

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RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted

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10. Public Toilets Repair (CS&E 102-2024/25)

The Committee received an update on the male carpark public toilets.

The area including the urinal drain had been power washed.

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RESOLVED; That the costs for replacement of urinal and associated tiling estimated at £2,500 be met from budget 2025/26 line 409 4039.

11. Beeston Green, Riddy and Pinnacle Working Group (CS&E 103-2024/25)

(a) Members received the minutes of the meeting of the working group held on 17th March 2025. However, Members expressed concern about the arrangements to secure a new grazier for the Riddy and it noted with concern that a Riddy management agreement between the Town Council and BRCC had not yet been prepared and signed.

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RESOLVED that the minutes be received.

(b) The Committee considered proposals for letting out fishing rights at the Riddy following consultation with the Ivel Protection Association (IPA) for one year.

RESOLVED: that the proposals discussed by the Committee to ensure that the IPA was offered the fishing rights on the Riddy for £600 including VAT plus provision of two volunteer bailiffs working weekends and some weekdays be supported. It was also agreed that suitable signs be provided to read 'private fishing IPA members and Sandy Town Council fishing permits only.' It was also agreed that the arrangements be reviewed in February 2026.

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12. Community Growing Scheme - Beeston (CS&E 104-2024/25)

The community growing scheme at Beeston is to be known in the future as the Onion Loft Community Growing Scheme reflecting the history of the site. The community growing scheme would be financed by the Town Council securing the services of BRCC to operate the scheme and once set up and operating with volunteers BRCC would withdraw their involvement. In return BRCC had access to S106 funding to

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support the creation of a community garden using raised beds and the provision of a community orchard.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13. Fence Replacement Scheme at Bedford Road Recreation ground (CS&E 105-2024/25)

The Committee considered a report that set out quotations for the replacement of fencing at Bedford Road Recreation Ground because a long stretch of the fencing panels were broken and in need of repair. It was noted that the fence panels were in the ownership of the Town Council and local residents had requested that the fencing was replaced. There was a precedent in the past where fence panel repairs had been undertaken by the Town Council. Two companies had provided quotes.

RESOLVED that as no budget provision is available for the new financial year no further action be taken to replace the fencing and the officers be requested to place the fence replacement project in the budget provision review for the Council year 2026/27

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14. Request for use of Council Vehicle for Sandy Carnival (CS&E 106-2024/25)

The Committee received the annual request from Councillor Sharman to use the Town Council's electric vehicle at the carnival. Councillor Sharman would be covered by the Town Councils' insurance for driving the electric vehicle in the carnival and driving to and from the event.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Sharman be granted permission to drive the electric vehicle for the weekend of the Sandy Carnival (13th - 15th June 2025) and that the following conditions are followed:

- (i) the vehicle is never left unattended
- (ii) the vehicle is only used during the carnival weekend to transport any necessary equipment to and from the carnival venue as well as driving in the carnival
- (iii) only Cllr Sharman can drive the vehicle
- (iv) members of the public are not allowed to climb inside or on top of the vehicle.

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15. Proposed Allotment Site, Beeston (CS&E 107-2024/25)

The Committee received the report on the latest works towards allotment site at Beeston. The Committee was asked to support the allocation of £1,000 to prepare and submit a pre-planning application for the proposed site. The Committee was also asked to note that Central Bedfordshire Council was seeking funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund on behalf of the Town Council to assist the funding of the site. The anticipated funding was £7,500 revenue £15,000.

RESOLVED that the preparation of a pre planning application be approved and that up to £1,000 be allocated to fund it and CBC be thanked for attracting funding from the Rural England Prosperity Fund for the benefit of the Town Council and the provision of allotments in the town.

16. Chairmans Action (CS&E 108-2024/25)

BT proposal to remove payphones in the area. It was noted that Members had been circulated with the latest plans from BT. Members were encouraged to advise their residents of the plans.

17. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 19th May 2025

The meeting closed at 21.08.