

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the Annual meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, S Baker, B Blackley, A Effiong, J Hewitt, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson.

**Absent:** Cllr M Pettitt

**In attendance:** Mrs N Sewell (Clerk) and CBC Ward Cllr R Pashby

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Election of Sandy Town Council Chair/Town Mayor for 2024-25 (1-2024/2025)</b> Councillor Joanna Hewitt was nominated and seconded to be Mayor for the municipal year 2024/25. No other nominations were received.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Cllr Hewitt for the municipal year 2024/25.</p>	
<p><b>2 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office by newly elected Sandy Town Council Chair/Town Mayor (2-2024/2025)</b> The declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor was made by Cllr Hewitt and duly signed.</p> <p>Cllr Hewitt thanked Members, stating it had been a challenging year and she was pleased to continue work that had already been started including the Neighbourhood Plan and future of Sandye Place. She added that while Members may not all agree on everything all the time, as a whole the Town Council worked well together and she thanked everyone for their commitment to the Town. She forecast that 2024/25 would be just as challenging but looked forward to meeting its challenges.</p>	
<p><b>3 Mayor's Charity Account (3-2024/2025)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that Cllr Hewitt as Mayor would remain signatory on the Mayor's charity account.</p>	
<p><b>4 Apologies for Absence (4-2024/2025)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M Pettitt and Ward Cllrs Bell and Ford.</p>	Admin

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## 5 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (5-2024/2025)

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

## 6 Election of Sandy Town Council Deputy Chair/Deputy Town Mayor (6-2024/2025)

Councillor Paul Sharman was nominated and seconded to be Deputy Mayor. No other seconded nominations were received.

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Sharman as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2024/25. The declaration of acceptance of office of Deputy Town Mayor was made by Cllr Sharman and duly signed.

Cllr Sharman thanked Members saying: "I will do my best in the role as I hope that I have done over the past 12 months".

## 7 Public Participation Session (7-2024/2025)

One member of the public was present.

The Mayor read an email received from a resident querying the grass cutting at Sunderland Road recreation ground. It was agreed that the Mayor would respond directly to the resident in due course.

Cllr Hewitt

Following this a business owner presented his concerns about the Town Council's car park and the planned provision of spaces for EV charging at the site. He felt that the proposed 12 charging points were excessive for Sandy and stated that other areas such as Baldock and Tesco in Bedford, which both offered greater parking provision than Sandy, had fewer charging points installed.

Town Clerk

He stated that since the Town Council's barrier had been out of action, more commuters were now using more parking spaces and this meant the car park was busier and had resulted in a loss to his business through two cancelled appointments.

Ward Councillors

He asked if the Council had any plans to speak to business owners about the project at all and suggested that the loss of parking spaces to accommodate the charging points would have a detrimental impact on other Town Centre businesses also.

The Mayor responded to confirm that the plans for EV Charging provision had been discussed over many months and that all the details of those discussions were published and available to

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members of the public and businesses through the Town Council's agendas and minutes, in addition information had also been published in a local newspaper.

She added that while a debate on the matter could not be held at the current meeting, a full response would be forthcoming, which would address the gentleman's full list of queries.

## **8 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (8-2024/2025)**

Members received the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and approved them as a correct record of proceedings.

## **9 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (9-2024/2025)**

Members received and noted the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees:

### **RESOLVED:**

- i) to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- ii) to receive and note the minutes of the Community, Services & Environment Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**And agree the recommendation** that Members be asked to form a Playground Provision Working Group (see item 12) so that a Play Provision Strategy can be set.

## **10 Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees (10-2024/2025)**

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Development Scrutiny Committee comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Baker, Blackley, Effiong, Lacey, Pettitt, Sharman, Sutton and Thompson (1 vacancy) .

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- ii) The Community Services & Environment Committee comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Blackley, Hewitt, A Lock, R Lock, Osborne, Scott, Sutton and Thompson (1 vacancy).

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- iii) The Policy Finance & Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs Baker, Effiong, Hewitt, Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, Osborne, Pettitt, Scott and Sharman.

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It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- iii) The Human Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Baker, Effiong, A Lock, R Lock, Sharman and Sutton.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- iv) The Grievance and Complaints Committee comprise of Cllrs Hewitt, Lacey, A Lock, R Lock and Scott.

## **11 Election of Committee Chairs (11-2024/2025)**

- i) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Sutton be elected Chair of the Community Services & Environment Committee.
- ii) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Aldis be elected Chair of the Development & Scrutiny Committee.
- iii) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Osborne be elected Chair of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee.
- iv) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Sharman be elected Chair of the Human Resources Committee.
- v) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lacey be elected Chair of the Grievance and Complaints Committee.

## **12 Working Groups (12-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Beeston Green Working Group be merged with the Riddy & Pinnacle Working Group and comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Blackley, Hewitt, R lock, Lacey and Pettitt.
- ii) The Cemetery Working Group comprise of Cllrs Baker, Hewitt, Pettitt, Sharman and Sutton.
- iii) The Events Working Group comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Baker, Blackley, Hewitt, Sharman and Sutton.
- iv) The Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Effiong, Hewitt, Osborne and Pettitt.
- v) The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group comprise of Cllrs Aldis, Blackley, Hewitt, A Lock, R Lock and Thompson.
- vi) The Car Park Working Group comprise of Hewitt, Lacey, A Lock, and R Lock.
- vii) The Riddy & Pinnacle merged with the Beeston Working Group (see i)
- viii) Playground Provision Working Group comprise of Cllrs Baker, Hewitt, Lacey, A Lock and R lock.

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## 13 External Representation (13-2024/2025)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to elect the following Members to serve as representatives on outside bodies:

		2024/25
1	22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee	Sutton
2	Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement Group	Lacey Thompson
3	CBC Community Safety Action Plan Group	Hewitt R Lock
4	Police Priority Setting	Blackley Hewitt Thompson
5	Rural Market Town Group	No longer meeting.
6	Sandy Carnival Committee	Sharman
7	Sandy Charities (Incorporating Leeds Smith Trust)	Sharman (until May 2027)
8	Sandy Community Children's Centre	R Lock
9	Sandy Green Wheel	Aldis Pettitt
10	Sandy Sports and Leisure Association	Aldis Hewitt Baker
11	Sandy Twinning Association	Pettitt
12	Village Hall Management Committee	Hewitt A Lock
13	SG19 Road Safety Group	No longer meeting
14	Talk of the Town Transport Committee (Age UK Bedfordshire)	A Lock
15	Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee	R Lock
16	East West Rail	Aldis Thompson

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## 14 **Bank Signatories (14-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** that the current signatories remain the same; Cllrs Aldis, Osborne, and Pettitt.

Town Clerk (Mrs N Sewell)

Administration Team Leader (Mrs C Baker-Smith).

Town Clerk

## 15 **General Power of Competence (15-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council meets the eligibility to use the General Power of Competence through having equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the Council elected and supported by a qualified Town Clerk.

## 16 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Council (16-2024/2025)**

Cllr Pashby gave an overview of CBC's current case load. He said he empathised with the Town Council's Outdoor Team, who following a spell of warm weather and intermittent rain, had seen the grass grow at an extraordinary rate. He thanked the Clerk for confirming the Town Council's stance on No Mow May and had been able to direct CBC's contractors accordingly who were now on the case cutting the requisite sites.

He commented that he had also asked that STC join CBC to urge the local policing team to deal with car meets and noisy vehicles creating a nuisance on Sunderland Road. He added that the policing team had reported that recent understaffing had led to a backlog, but that they were now on the case.

He told Members that Cllr Bell had managed to get an area of kerbing in the market square, where a couple of accidents had been reported earlier in the year, repaired.

A CBC initiative to stop vehicles clogging up roads around Robert Peel school at pick-up and drop off times was being looked into, and the school had been asked what they could do to improve matters.

Cllr Pashby added that he had received reports of waste carriers transferring waste from one vehicle to another at the North End of Sunderland Road. The matter was being monitored so that the companies and vehicles involved could be identified and an investigation launched. The Community Protection Officer had also been made aware of the situation.

Last but not least, reporting on behalf of Cllr Ford, he said that the Sandy Tigers Football Tournament had been a fantastic

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success raising in excess of £7,500. He added that Sandy Tigers wanted to confirm that no charges had been made for parking on the recreation ground and that the £3 charged was for the Tournament Programme.

Cllr Aldis asked about the green waste collection and when those that had not opted in to having green waste collected would have their bins removed. Cllr Pashby stated that CBC had decided to leave the green bins with residents for period of settling in, so that if residents changed their minds and decided to opt in at a later date there would be no need for a re-delivery of the bin.

Cllr Aldis also asked if the initiative to reduce traffic at Robert Peel could also be extended to Dapifer Drive? Cllr Osborne warned that during a previous similar initiative that while the residents of Dapifer Drive benefitted it simply pushed the problem along the line and rather than a reduction in traffic over all it saw people parking vehicles in the adjacent streets, thereby moving the problem to different areas but not resolving it.

Cllr Pashby replied that currently the initiative hadn't been started and CBC were looking at how technology might be used to help with the problem. The Community Protection Officer would also be involved.

Cllr Sutton reported that since the Green Waste collection had stopped the Tidy Tip in Biggleswade was seeing an increase in visitors that was causing severe delays along the A1. Cllr Pashby answered that the issue was on CBC's radar but at the current time he had nothing to report on the matter.

Following a meeting of Sandy Green Wheel, due to some confusion over the matter, Members of Sandy Town Council confirmed that they were still interested to pursue a potential allotment site at Beeston Green, where a development of six affordable houses was underway. It was recognised by STC that the land was not currently suitable for this purpose but they were awaiting an update from CBC as to whether it was financially viable for either CBC or STC to undertake works to clear the area. It was confirmed that ongoing discussions looking at other sites were still being had.

## **17 Internal Audit (17-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** that Haines Watts continue as the Council's internal auditor to complete the second half of the 2024/25 financial year audit.

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## **18 Scheme of Delegations (18-2024/2025)**

**RESOLVED** to make the following amendments to the Scheme of Delegations:

- Merge the Beeston and Riddy & Pinnacle Working Groups
- That Terms of Reference be drafted for the following working groups:
  - Playground Provision
  - Beeston, Riddy & Pinnacle Working Group
- Terms of reference had already been drafted for the Car Park Working Group and Cllr Hewitt would circulate these to be added to the Scheme of Delegations.

## **19 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (19-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current Town Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations without any amendments or changes until such time as the Town Clerk or Council wishes to make changes or following advice from NALC.

It was noted that NALC's new Financial Regulations will be reviewed at PF&R on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **20 Review of Council Policies & Procedures (20-2024/2025)**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council accepts its current policies and procedures and that these should be reviewed on a regular basis.

## **21 Subscriptions (21-2024/2025)**

Members received and noted the subscriptions paid by the Council.

Admin

## **22 Action Plan (22-2024/25)**

Received and noted the Full Council Action Plan for 2024/25.

Cllr Osborne requested that an item regarding Sandye Place be added to the next Full Council Agenda.

## **23 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (23-2024/2025)**

No reports were received.

## **24 Mayoral Events (24-2024/2025)**

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.



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## **25 Naming of New Sports Facility at Sunderland Road (25-2024/2025)**

Members received a request from CBC to rename the new Sports Facility at the Jenkins Pavilion in line with CBC's naming protocol for new leisure facilities. The new name proposed would be Sandy Leisure and Sports Centre.

**RESOLVED** that Members gave their consent to the renaming of the facility as Sandy Leisure and Sports Centre as long as the following criteria were met:

1. 'Jenkins Pavilion' remains part of the address
2. The main meeting room is called the Jenkins Room and the plaque that gives the history of the building and was unveiled when Trevor Brooking opened the building originally remains in situ.

If these criteria could not be confirmed in writing by CBC then Members would need to debate the matter at a future meeting.

## **26 News Release (26-2024/2025)**

- Reappointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- Co-option calls for one vacancy
- D-Day Celebrations in Sandy

## **27 Chairman's Items (27-2024/2025)**

CBC had sent out a Police and Crime Advisory Panel survey to Town and Parish Councils but had requested a communal response from each council rather than individual feedback. As the survey questions could only be accessed via the online survey itself, Cllr Hewitt suggested that she undertake the survey on the Council's behalf as she was already the representative for Police Priority setting.

Cllr Pashby asked if Members had been made aware of the latest update from Outline Planning application CB/24/00999/OUT - Land North of Biggleswade, Biggleswade SG18 0HB for the erection of up to 416 dwellings including affordable housing, green infrastructure accommodating landscaping, allotments, community orchard, public open space, children's play space, new roads, car parking, cycleways and footways, associated infrastructure including a sustainable drainage system, and vehicular accesses from Furzenhall Road and from the roundabout at Potton Road and Baden Powell Way.

He added that the original application had been turned down and that the matter would be going to appeal. However, the developer

Community  
Engagement  
Officer

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had since submitted a new application with a variation to the access road that could mitigate the original objections. He wanted to ensure that Members were aware. The Clerk confirmed that no notification of the application had been received by the office.

**28**     **Date of Next Meeting (28-2024/2025)**  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The meeting closed at 21.30