

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 22 February 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), J Ali, T Cole, A M Hill, G Leach, C Osborne, D Quick, M Scott, J Sparrow and S Sutton.

In Attendance: Cllrs W Jackson and M Pettitt, Mrs Carolyn Blake (Market Regeneration Funding), Mr Chris Robson (Town Clerk) and Ms M Bracey (Minutes Clerk).

- | | Action |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 Apologies for absence (79-15/16)
None | |
| 2 Declarations of interest (80-15/16)
i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
ii) Non-disclosable Interests - None
iii) Dispensations – None | Admin |
| 3 Minutes of previous meeting (81-15/16)
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 14 January 2016 as a correct record of proceeding. | Admin |
| 4 Public Participation Session (82-15/16)
None present. | Town Clerk |
| 5 Action list (83-15/16)
Potton-Sandy Cycle way - the Chair said he would speak to Potton Town Council for an update.
A member said that RSPB had received a presentation from Sustrans and all is in progress. The Chair asked the Town Clerk to request that Sustrans come to a Council meeting to give a presentation. | Town Clerk |

Sandy Cemetery Chapel - noted that the work had been carried out and a report on the future of the Chapel be brought to Council by the Cemetery Working Group.

Engayne Avenue – Unfortunately there had been no response from Aragon Housing but this will be chased, with CBC member input, and a report come to Council as soon as possible.

Bus Turning Circle – Consultation complete and responses being

Sandy Town Council

collated. Members hoped that enough people had been consulted and responded.

Berwick Way – This will be chased and a response required.

The Chair announced that he would take item 9 now.

9. **Market Town Regeneration Fund (84-15/16)**

Town Clerk

- i) Carolyn Blake reported that Biggleswade had put in a large bid and would be unable to support the other towns at this stage.

She passed around some examples of mosaic tiles and the booklet, produced by the organisation, which will be available on the internet. She also passed around a sample of the QR code and the introductory story, which will be available on the website www.storyinstone.org.uk.

She is in contact with the Consultation Institute on running workshops with Community Groups, Schools, Churches and Businesses.

The mosaic tile will be one metre high and two metres wide inside a border.

The Town Clerk informed members that Sandy could now be the lead Council on this project and this would mean a letter of support from the Town Clerk and that the Council take receipt of the match fund money.

The application form is nearly complete and the outcome of the bid will be received in the middle of March 2016.

A member requested that this project be positively promoted as a successful receipt of funding to the Town rather than expenditure from the Town Council.

- ii) The Town Clerk informed members that CBC had agreed that the match funding application for the project could include Section 106 public art monies and he had been advised that Sandy Town Council should also submit an application form which could include WiFi in the town Centre, shop front decoration, new paving and signage etc. The criteria for the application was not limited to financial match funding and this could be volunteering hours and economic uplift.

A member suggested a fixed market or open sided pavilion which could be used by market traders or musicians.

Sandy Town Council

RESOLVED that Sandy be the lead town in the Mosaics Project application process.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit an application form as advised by CBC.

6 Queen's Birthday Celebrations (85-15/16)

Town Clerk/
Cllr A Hill

There had been a meeting with the Scouts who were very keen to be involved. They will sell hot and cold drinks. The Guides are also keen to be involved and they will sell cakes. It is also up to businesses in the town if they wish to open for the event.

The procession will start in the Square and proceed to The Pinnacle following the Reunion Band. The Council will be advised in March at what time to light the beacon.

The event will be advertised on social media, posters and local press.

The Town Clerk informed members that road closures and event application had been granted. The toilets will be open on the night.

A member asked about First Aid and was informed that the Scout have First Aid in hand.

A member also stated that posters and publicity should advise that participants take torches and have appropriate footwear.

A member reminded Councillors of the 'Clean Up For The Queen' campaign. He had recently been travelling on the A1 and was dismayed at the level of litter.

RESOLVED to write to the appropriate authority to request a clean upon the A1 in the near future.

7 Sandy Cemetery (86-15/16)

Town Clerk

Discussion took place regarding criteria for a decision to be made on non-residential fees. It was agreed that setting criteria was an impossible task and that it should be the decision of the Town Clerk with two or three members of the Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor make the decision regarding exceptions to treble fees for non-residents. That the Town Clerk will inform all Members should an application be received in case they are linked to the applicant.

8 Dogz Aloud (87-15/16)

Town Clerk

A member welcomed this initiative to give training and education to dog owners. Areas of Sandy were discussed that may be

Sandy Town Council

suitable and it was agreed that the green space on Fallowfield would be the best option.

RESOLVED that permission be granted to Dogz Aloud to give training and education sessions in Sandy on the Fallowfield green space.

10 Walkers are Welcome (88-15/16)

Admin

The Town Clerk outlined this initiative and explained the accreditation. Members felt that this was an important accreditation for Sandy.

A member mentioned a number of local groups that have walks as part of their groups.

RESOLVED that the Council pay the subscription fee to continue as a Provisional Member whilst work takes place to establish an active committee to meet the criteria, with the help of a Walkers are Welcome mentor.

11 Finger Posts – Town Centre (89-15/16)

Cllr Aldis

Cllr Aldis presented the report. A member felt this was a good idea as a number of people do not know where the Council offices and Information Centre are.

RESOLVED that investigations proceed to have a finger post in the Town Centre and that this could be included in the bid for Market Town Regeneration funding.

12 Police and Crime Commissioner (90-15/16)

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk and Cllr Pettitt had attended a presentation by the Police Commissioner on Operation Saltcoats. The Town Clerk is awaiting a copy of the presentation and hopes to receive this soon.

Presenting were the Police Commissioner, Assistant Chief Constable and Wayne Humberstone, who is in charge of Special Constables and the Response Centre.

Bedfordshire Police Force is experiencing a funding challenge in the area because they receive rural funding while crime is predominately at urban levels. The challenge for the force is how to cover Bedfordshire with the funding challenges faced. The area has one Police Constable for every 570 citizens, which is below the national average. Operation Saltcoats is proposing to use teams of Volunteer Special Constables which will be made up of one Inspector, two Sergeants and ten Special Constables as well

Sandy Town Council

as PCSOs. It is hoped this will allow for greater community engagement and response.

Recruiting for more Special constables is taking place. Currently there are 252 Special Constables and they hope to recruit 248 more.

Members felt that this was a worrying situation and were concerned that some of these Special Constables may not be on the beat as they will be in the office covering IT and administrative duties.

The Town Clerk explained that 80 of the 500 Special Constables would be assigned specifically to Community Policing and not back office functions. These 80 constables would be split into 7 teams and the team covering Sandy would be based at Biggleswade.

The newly recruited Special Constables will have a three to six month training period and will not be on the streets immediately.

RESOLVED that Wayne Humberstone be invited to a Council meeting in April or May to give a presentation.

13 **Chairman's Announcements (91-15/16)**

The Chair announced that Harris's Fun Fair will be coming to The Pinnacle Field from the 9 to 15 May 2016, under delegated powers and the previous conditions.

The Council had received a compliment for arranging the recent vegetation clearance work with Seetec on the Fallowfield Estate and the noticeable and positive improvement in other areas of the town.

Town Clerk

Members requested that this compliment be put on the website.

A member raised the Section 106 monies available to the Sandy Green Wheel and requested that this be an Agenda item at the next Committee meeting and a talk by representatives of Sandy Green Wheel.

Town Clerk

14 **Date of Next Meeting: 4 April 2016.**