

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, J Ivanciu Wilkinson, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson.

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 22nd August 2022 commencing at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
Date 17th August 2022

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non Pecuniary Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

Sandy Town Council

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

4 Co-option for Vacancy of Pinnacle

Members are asked to consider applications for co-option to Town Council to fill the one vacant seat for Pinnacle Ward. Each candidate will give a brief presentation on why they have applied for co-option. Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates following their presentations. Two applications have been received:

1) Robert J Lacey

2) Anthony J Lock

5 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To consider the Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 25th July 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

6 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere

- i) Development Scrutiny Committees held on 25th July and 15th August 2022
- ii) Policy, Finance and Resource Committee held on 8th August 2022

RESOLVED to recommend that payment of £10,250.00 be agreed for CDS to commence works to install three permanent ground water monitoring wells at the site.

iii) Community Services & Environment Committee held on 25th July

iv) Human Resources held on 4th July 2022 and EOM of HR Committee held on 25th July and 15th August.

RESOLVED to recommend a maximum of £5,400 be used from the Staffing budget to pay for staff cover for an expected prolonged staff absence.

7 Election of HR Committee Chairman

To elect the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.

8 Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees

To appoint a Member to serve on the Grievance and Complaints committee following the resignation of a current member.

Appendix I
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Sandy Town Council

9 Working Groups

To agree membership on the following working groups following the resignation of two Members;

- i. Cemetery Working Group (1 vacancy)
- ii. Jenkins Pavilion Development Working Group (1 vacancy)
- iii. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (1 vacancy)
- iv. Skatepark Project Working Group

10 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

To receive reports or points of information from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors.

11 Action List

To receive and note an action list on Full Council items.

Appendix II

12 Goodwill Payment from Anglia Water

To receive a report regarding funds offered to Sandy Town Council by Anglian Water for community use and to discuss ideas for how the funds might be used.

Appendix III

13 Bedford Road Play equipment

To receive a report regarding an insurance pay out for the replacement of vandalized play equipment at Bedford Road recreation ground.

Appendix IV

14 Mosaic Competition

To receive a report regarding the requirement for an artist's involvement in the Mosaic Competition and community engagement event. Agree source of funding for the project to make up the shortfall available from S106 monies.

Appendix V

15 First Aid Costs

To receive three quotes for First Aid cover for the SkateJam event on 24th September. To agree which provider to appoint.

Appendix VI

16 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

To receive the following reports from Council representatives on outside bodies;

i) Report from Cllr M Pettitt on the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (SSLA) committee

Appendix VII

ii) Reports from Cllr M Pettitt and Cllr Lock on the Sandy Twinning Association

Appendix VIII

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iii) Report from Cllr Aldis on Talk of the Town

Appendix IX

iv) Report from Cllr Lock on Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

Appendix X

17 **Mayoral Engagements**

To note a list of recent engagements undertaken by the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor;

- Wednesday evening 20th July. Attended the Scout HQ to present Chief Scout Awards to 2 Swan Beavers.
- Friday 22nd July. The Mayoress and I were pleased to attend the University of Bedfordshire Civic Graduation Ceremony at the Bedford Corn Exchange preceded by a Civic Luncheon at the The Swan Hotel.
- Sunday 24th July we attended the Bedford River Festival preceded by an Afternoon Tea Buffet at The Mercure Hotel.
- Thursday 11th August. At 3pm, along with the Deputy Mayor, Town Clerk and Outdoor Team Leader we were present at the new skatepark for the handover by Maverick.
- Wednesday 17th August. Accompanied by the Deputy Mayor and Cllr Peter Blain we visited the St Neots Town Council offices at The Priory, St Neots for a meeting with Cllrs Ben Pitt and Stephen Ferguson, respectively Town Mayor and Ward Member & Chairman of Cambridgeshire CC to discuss matters of mutual interest, notably East West Rail.
- Saturday 20th August. Accompanied by Cllr Lorraine Ivanciu-Wilkinson we represented Town Council in the STC Surgery held at The Community Stand from 10am until noon.
- Sunday 21st August. Attended the Sandy Summer Market.

18 **Cemetery Extension ongoing items**

To receive a report regarding ongoing works related to the Cemetery Extension and to agree action on:

- a) Installation of Boundary Fence
- b) Transfer of Land West of Potton Road

Appendix XI

19 **Budget setting**

To receive a report and request for budget to be made available to enable the Clerk to contract DCK for support work on budget setting for 2023-2024.

Appendix XII

Sandy Town Council

20 COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION

RECOMMENDED 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, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

20.1 Staffing Matters

To receive a verbal report from the Clerk on staffing matters

Appendix XIII
Confidential

20.2 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

21 News/Press Release

22 Chairmans Items

23 Date of next meeting: 3rd October 2022

AGENDA ITEM 11

APPENDIX II

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	The Council submitted a response to the most recent EWR consultation on 9th June 2021. Letter issued to MP's office reaffirming Council's view. Cllr Blaine attended a stakeholder meeting and is due to report back to the Council. Cllr Blaine attended a meeting on 10 th Feb 2022 and circulated links to Consultation Summary and Consultation Documents on 21 st April 2022. On 17.08.2022 Cllrs Pettitt, Hewitt and Blaine met with Cllrs Ben Pitt St Neots Town Mayor and Stephen Ferguson Chairman of Cambridgeshire CC to discuss matters of mutual interest, notably East West Rail.
Meeting 21/5/18			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	<p>Representatives of STC previously joined a meeting with a representative from Highways England, facilitated by local MP Richard Fuller. Working Group response to Highways England consultation on agenda for consideration.</p> <p>Mayor chaired meeting in January with representatives of neighbouring authorities to discuss shared concerns and priorities in relation to the A1 and further work undertaken with Biggleswade TC reps on developing a proposed joined up approach to take forward.</p> <p>R.Fuller's office has contacted the Mayor to arrange a follow up meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs Pettitt and Hewitt met with Mr Fuller MP on 6.04.2022.</p> <p>Cllr Pettitt wrote to the Mayor of Biggleswade on 01.07.2022 to</p>

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			<p>facilitate further dialogue with Richard Fuller MP and move this issue along.</p> <p>No further updates</p>
Meeting 17/12/18			
Sandye Place Academy	(142-18/19)	<p>That the Town Council place on record its opposition to any future residential development on the site and all other aspects the site could be used for as highlighted in the Council's Community Plan and that CBC Ward Councillors support the Council's position.</p>	<p>Extraordinary meeting of Council considered the CBC public consultation on SPA. Response sent restating Council's previous position and emphasising value of site as a community asset. CBC stated that they should know the outcome of their application to have the site released from its DfE status in June 2022. On 11.07.2022 Cllr Maudlin reported that the DfE were still asking questions of CBC about the site and that there would be no further updates about the future of the site before September and that in the meantime, she was investigating the possibility of having sheep graze the area to keep the grass down</p>

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Goodwill Payment from Anglia Water
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and note a report regarding £5,000 payment promised to STC from Anglia Water by way of a good will. To review options that the funds could be used for current and new projects.

Recommendation

2. To agree the spend on a project/projects that will most benefit the community.

Background

- 3.0 From Wednesday 27th through to part of Friday 29th July, Sandy residents were left without water due to a burst water main and subsequent airlock.
- 3.1 Anglia Water were slow to respond and thanks to Community Emergency Response Team, Ward Councillors and Members pursuing the issue, AW eventually organised for water to be distributed through hubs across the town on the Friday afternoon. Door to door support for the most vulnerable was also planned.
- 3.2 Before the hubs could be set up however the water supply was restored.
- 3.3 Due to the inconvenience caused AW decided that as well as compensating individual customers it would also donate £5,000 to the community through Sandy Town Council as STC is seen as best placed to allocate the funds appropriately.

Options

- 4.0 There are a number of current projects that need top up funding that could benefit from this payment. They are listed below:
 - Replacement play equipment at Bedford Road. Insurance have agreed to pay out £7,500.00 towards costs to replace equipment. Current quote is £9,725.75 – leaving a shortfall of **£2,225.75**
 - Platinum Jubilee Mosaic: Current quote £5,500, S106 money available is £2,274 – leaving a shortfall of **£3,226.00**
 - Replacement parts for the Youth Shelter at Bedford Road recreation park – quoted at **£5,402.54**
- 4.1 Suggestions for new projects to fund have been submitted but costs will need to be investigated:
 - Finance a Community Event in 2023
 - Add to the Christmas Lights event budget
 - Add to grants budget
 - Kept in reserves for necessary projects
 - Water fountain for the market square
 - Turfing to surround the new skate park

Financial Implications

5.0 There are no financial implications although any new projects would need to be costed and go through the processes set out in the Council's Financial Regulations

Policy Implications

6.0 There are no policy implications

Legal Powers

7.0 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Reputational Implications

8.0 The payment from AW is being made by way of good will towards the community of Sandy for the inconvenience caused by the interruption to water supply. Members should consider carefully the most appropriate use for these funds for the community's benefit.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Bedford Road Play Equipment
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and note a report regarding £7,500 payment from STC's insurance company to pay for replacement play equipment at Bedford Road recreation ground that was vandalised in March.

Recommendation

2. A quote for replacement equipment including installation and the required resurfacing has been received at a total of £9,725.75. Members to consider if the shortfall of £2,225.75 should be made up from Council reserves, other sources or if a compromise on equipment replacement is needed to fall within the given amount.

Background

- 3.0 In March the train at Bedford Road recreation ground was vandalised and had to be completely removed.
- 3.1 The Clerk sourced a quote from the original equipment provider for a like-for like replacement that came in at £9,725.75. The replacement equipment would be made from new, stronger materials
- 3.2 The Clerk investigated options to fund this equipment from the Community Asset Fund and S106 but neither option covered it. Having already received a large amount in 2022 towards the skatepark STC is not able to apply for further funds until 2024. Replacement equipment does not fall into S106 criteria.
- 3.3 Clerk sought payment through the insurance company who have offered £8,000 less two excesses leaving £7,500.00 to pay towards equipment.
- 3.4 Clerk has contacted the company that quoted to see if there are any cost savings that can be implemented.

Options

- 4.1 To go with the current quote of £9,725.75 and for STC to make up the extra £2,225.75 from its budget.
- 4.2 Clerk to obtain further quotes for equipment to determine if there is a cheaper option/provider that can install similar equipment for the same age group at a cost of less than £7,500.00

Financial Implications

- 5.0 There is £5,000.00 in the budget under cost code 500 budget line 4042 Equipment/Vehicle Maintenance. If we used the funds from this budget to pay the extra it would leave £2,175.75 for the year for all open spaces.

Policy Implications

- 6.0 There are no policy implications

Legal Powers

7.0 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Mosaic Competition
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and note a report regarding costs for Mosaic Competition and to look at further funding streams to support this.

Recommendation

2. To consider if shortfall of £3,226.00 between £5,500 fee and £2,274 S106 funds should be made up from Council funds, or other sources given the time period in place.

Background

3.0 S106 funds of £2,274 have been made available to STC and were originally going to pay towards a new bespoke beacon to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

3.1 Members decided that they no longer wanted a beacon and as such the Clerk investigated how the funds might alternatively be used. The response from CBC was that they could be used for the following: *The funds don't necessarily have to be spent on a 'piece' of art – they can also be spent on community engagement activities focused on art. It may be the TC would like to appoint a public artist to host a series of art workshops working with the local community - working in clay /ceramics, mosaic, print, chainsaw art, photography, audio projects.*

3.2 Members decided that they would like to create a new mosaic to be displayed alongside the other Sandy Mosaics and as such a competition was set up for local children to design the piece. The idea being that a local artist would then provide a community engagement event around the build and completion of the mosaic.

3.3 It was suggested that the artist, Carolyn Blake, who managed the previous mosaic project be contacted to see if she would once again run a workshop and build the mosaic for STC. We also contacted other local artists. One did show an interest in getting involved but their discipline is paint not mosaics

3.4 Carolyn Blake has confirmed she is interested in the project and suggested we hold a one-off drop-in event where residents get a chance to learn more about mosaics through an ongoing workshop and get to be part of putting the final mosaic together. The winning design will be interpreted by Carolyn's team to ensure it is a workable mosaic.

3.5 Carolyn has quoted £5,500 for the work which includes the workshop, creating the mosaic and producing an accompanying information board. She will also conduct engagement around the event, which it is hoped would happen in October time.

Financial Implications

5.0 The S106 funding leave STC £3,226.00 short of the quoted amount. Under cost code 602 Democratic and Civic Costs and budget line 4702 Community Events Support there is £6,875 for the rest of the year to spend. The shortfall would take a large chunk out of the funding.

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5.1 The Clerk has been exploring options for extra funding through Ward Councillor grants to reduce the burden on the Council's spend.

5.2 Other funding sources could be explored (see agenda item 12) and local businesses could also be approached.

Policy Implications

6.0 There are no policy implications

Legal Powers

7.0 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	First Aid for Skate Jam
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive three quotes for first aid to cover the Skate Jam Event on 24th September

Recommendation

2. To agree quote of Company C as it offers the best value for money and is a company that STC has already hired and been satisfied with their service. The same company came recommended by another Town Council that use them regularly for events.

Background

3.0 Rubicon are organizing a Skate Jam to mark the official opening of the new Sandy Skatepark. It is STC's responsibility to provide the appropriate medical cover for the event.

- 3.1 The company's below have all supplied the necessary public liability paperwork.

Company A	1 x paramedic, 1 x medical first responder & 1 x ambulance	£657.00
Company B	2 x Event responder & 1 X ambulance	£1,032.00
Company C	Paramedic led Ambulance & crew	£500.00

Financial Implications

4.0 Under cost code 602 Democratic and Civic Costs and budget line 4702 Community Events Support there is £6,875 for the rest of the year to spend. £500.00 would not be a significant chunk out of this budget line.

Policy Implications

5.0 STC has a duty of care to provide the required services to members of the public attending Council led events.

Legal Powers

6.0 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Sandy Town Council

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Sandy Sports & Leisure Association
Contact:	Cllr Martin Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on Sandy Sports & Leisure Association.

Summary and Key Bullet Points

- There is really not a great deal to report since providing the draft AGM Minutes and Chairman / Acting Secretary's Report, respectively appendices VIII & VII with the agenda of the previous scheduled STC meeting held on 11 July.
- There has been no progress / clarification with regard to the first 2 bullet points.
- Shefford & Sandy Hockey Club personnel have successfully repaired / refurbished seats in the 2 x older shelters at no cost to the SSLA.
- We are close to agreeing for the work to be carried out to double spray the wooden rebound board with a suitable preservative and hope to give the go ahead for this important task to be completed in early September.
- Representatives from Harrod Sports attended site and successfully carried out all the necessary remedial work to one of the new shelters and thoroughly checked the other to ensure it showed no sign of developing the same or similar problems.
- There has been no progress with regard to, The Future & Succession Planning set out in Part 2.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Outside Bodies Report – Sandy Twinning Association
Contact:	Cllr Martin Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on Sandy Twinning Association (STA)

Summary & Key Bullet Points

- The meeting that was referred to in the 7th bullet point of the previous report, dated 11 July took place in the Council Chamber as scheduled 2 days later. A full copy of the report of that meeting is available on request from the writer. The meeting was well attended by around 20 who included, Cllrs, Blaine, J Ivanciu-Wilkinson and Lock and formal apologies had been received from as many again.
- There was a full and wide ranging discussion of all options including the possibility of moving to wind up the Association. However, and on the brink of 40th anniversary of the formal signing of the Charter on 18 September 1982 there was no such proposal and indeed the majority present clearly felt that every effort should be made to try to continue, subject to further volunteers and hosts being identified. Some present were quick to point out the Association had faced such issues in the past; it was by no means certain new members could or would be found but in the short term what may turn out to be a final attempt should be made.
- Regarding the Charter link with Malaunay the remaining officers were asked to identify present members able to host over the weekend of 28th April – 1 May 2023 and then send a formal invitation for that number to Malaunay while making it clear that we had been unable to identify a community group or organisation whose members would be willing to host and with whom new links might be forged.
- So far as the link with Skarszewy is concerned there are really 4 elements. The Anglers, The Summer School, attendance at the annual Sobotki and what prior to the pandemic had become a regular visit to Sandy by Civic representatives from Skarszewy over
- Remembrance weekend in November, combined with a visit to Polish war graves in St Neots.
- Committee members met again on 11 August.
- Enquiries since the 13 July meeting had resulted in offers to host 19 “established” guests plus 2 more from a couple who moved into Sandy just prior to the pandemic, might have hosted for the first time in 2020 but were unable to do so due to the visit to Sandy having to be cancelled.
- A letter has been sent to Malaunay with an offer to host 21 and possibly a coach / mini bus driver if that is their preferred option to coming in several cars. We will organise an event over the weekend to mark the anniversary and arrange a trip / picnic or similar in addition to time spent with hosts.
- From what was stated at the 13 July meeting the respective groups of anglers here and in Skarszewy can be left, “to their own devices”, to fix exchange visits and we will be kept regularly updated.
- A member of the teaching staff at Stratton School wrote in May that they would like to “open the offer again to our students next year” to take part in the summer schools but until the new term begins we have no way of pursuing this and to establish how much of the organisation and management the school and it's staff would be prepared to shoulder.

- It is thought likely from pre pandemic times that either STA or STC will receive communications in due course direct from the Mayors office in Skarszewy regarding both the Sobotki and a visit to Sandy in November and until then there is little we can do.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Outside Bodies Report – Sandy Twinning Association
Contact:	Cllr Ruth Lock

At the recent meeting, people were able to express views, thoughts and concerns regarding the future of Sandy Twinning Association.

1. New and younger members would need to be recruited.
2. People were asked if they could offer accommodation for visitors from Malaunay and an email will be sent to Malaunay advising them of the situation.
3. Skarszewy – anglers are organising exchange trips.
4. Stratton School have expressed a hope that the Summer School can resume and that a co-ordinator/organiser will be identified to ensure this happens.

Town Council

Date:	Monday 22nd August 2022
Title:	Outside Bodies Report – Talk of the Town
Contact:	Cllr Nigel Aldis

Bookings for the Talk of the Town Mini-bus were starting to pick up towards the end of the school year. Hirers included Bushmead Primary, Biggleswade Academy, Good Companions, Sandy Rugby Fans Group, and Fairfield Scouts.

The second Ivel Sprinter Community Bus is still off the road with mechanical problems so the ToTT bus is being used by them on every Wednesday for the Cambridge bus route. It is also hired out for other use booked by the Ivel Sprinter.

The bus can be used by any not-for-profit group with a driver supplied for the 14-seater bus if required. Charges are £1.20 for each of the first 100 miles and 60 pence a mile for any mile after the first hundred.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Outside Bodies Report – Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights
Contact:	Cllr Ruth Lock

At the meeting in July, the following points were discussed.

1. We await to be advised regarding the license for the event.
2. One of our committee members will be standing down so we are appealing for volunteers.
3. The next meeting is in September.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Cemetery Extension ongoing items
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive a report summarising Members' recommendations during an informal meeting to review unresolved issues brought to council by residents of a property adjoining council owned land.

Recommendation

- 2.0. Clerk to contact residents with a formal response from the Council outlining Members response to issues as outlined below.

Background

3.0 Following a meeting with residents of a property adjoining council owned land with the Town Clerk and Mayor, Cllr Pettitt. An informal meeting of members was held to enable them to be briefed regarding the issues raised and look for resolutions to these queries.

Information/Proposal

- 4.0 Residents have contacted the Council regarding the following issues, some of which have been ongoing for several years. In summary these issues are:
 - a) Boundary Fence, the residents state that a replacement boundary fence commissioned by the Council does not meet the required specifications outlined in a planning condition on the Cemetery Extension planning application form. Council response: *Having taken expert advice Members believe the specification of the commissioned fence meets the required planning conditions and installation will commence in September as planned.*
 - b) Transfer of land, the residents own a septic tank and soakaway that sits within Council owned land. The Council agreed to transfer the parcel of land that the septic tank and soakaway sits in to the residents ownership, but progress had stalled. Queries were raised by the residents on the following issues: Boundary and ownership of boundary hedge, what a line on the site plan represented, would there be a need for change of use to domestic land and correction to recorded dimensions on site plan. All but the last query have been answered and the latter will be amended on a new site plan when the transfer takes place. Council response: *To instruct solicitors to commence with the transfer of land once the residents have confirmed their willingness to proceed.*
 - c) Conifer Boundary Hedge, a conifer hedge sits on the boundary line of the resident's property and council-owned land. The conifers, which are planted right up to the boundary line, had grown profusely and as such branches were encroaching on the Council's land. A member of the outdoor team duly cut the conifers back. The residents complained that the cutting method had ruined the hedge line and compromised their security and privacy by creating gaps where formally a thick screen of branches prevailed. The council issued an apology via the Clerk at the time of the trimming and promised mitigating action. Residents also reported concerns that the area at the back of their property where the trees are situation was the planned site for a children's burial area in the new cemetery plan. They did not wish to be able to view grieving parents burying their children from their garden or for those parents to be able to view them from the cemetery, which was now possible through the gaps in the trees. Council response: *As part of the Council's wider cemetery extension project, it will seek advice as to whether a native hedge can be*

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planted in the area to provide the necessary screening. Due to the roots of the existing conifers, it is felt that it would not be possible to install a here. The Council will seek advice from CBC Planning and an arborist. If hedging cannot be planted here an alternative screening will be sourced. It is not envisaged that any burials will take place on site for the next 3- 5 years by which time any planted hedging will have had time to establish itself. In addition, training by an arborist to members of the outdoor team will be given to enhance knowledge of tree maintenance for future works.

d) Chain link fence; a chain link fence belonging to the Council, which lies between the two boundaries had collapsed. The residents reported that it had become a hazard, was unsightly and compromised their security. Council response: *The chain link fence will be removed as soon as it is possible and to provide security at the site heras fencing will be installed on a temporary basis until such time as the land transfer is complete, after which the residents have agreed to fence the new boundary themselves.*

e) Septic Tank and Soakaway damage, the residents allege that contractors damaged the lid to their soakaway during clearance works at the allotments. The removal of the lid had, it has been reported, caused the deterioration of the soakaway's structure. Council response, without any admission of liability *the council will place a temporary lid of suitable material on top of the current ply sheet covering the area to prevent any deterioration of the structure, and re-instate the heras fencing around this, until such time as the transfer of land is complete.*

f) Allotments, residents had made several complaints about the allotments that once stood on the land adjacent to their property and the allotment tenants using the plots. The main complaints were around the indiscriminate use of bonfires, inconsiderate behaviour by tenants while on site, use of weedkiller and spray drift, leaving water hoses running and the general mess left around their perimeter of their boundary. Council's response: *Policies and management criteria will be created to ensure that any new allotment sites are kept to standard and that tenants are aware of, and stick to, the rules outlined in their tenancy agreements. In addition, further work will be undertaken on the council's burial regulations to ensure that the area is kept tidy and well managed and remains a peaceful, pleasant place to visit or be laid to rest. Regular inspections by the Town Clerk and Members will ensure standards are upheld.*

Financial Implications

5.0 Some of the actions will incur costs these will need to be taken from rolling capital funds unless an appropriate budget can be identified.

Policy Implications

6.0 The Council's Complaints Procedure will be activated if necessary

Legal Powers

7.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	22nd August 2022
Title:	Budget Setting
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and note a report requesting £520.00 be agreed to pay for the Clerk to spend a day with DCK Accounting Solutions for Budget Setting 2023/24

Recommendation

2.0. Agree to pay £520.00 for DCK Accounting Solutions to spend a day in the office with the Town Clerk for Budget Setting 2023/24 and consider the necessity of the presence of Derek to present the budget to Council (at an extra cost).

2.1 To agree dates for the visit and confirm the meeting dates when papers are to be presented to Members and the date of the meeting the Council will approve the budget.

Background

3.0 Historically DCK has spent a day in the office in October or November to help with the budget setting process and has also, until recent times, been hired to present the budget to Council at an additional cost. The former Clerk had been able to reduce the requirement for just the one day of budget setting support, presenting the final budget to Council themselves.

3.1 Being the first time the current Clerk will be looking at a budget for Sandy town Council it would be sensible to have at least the one day with DCK in the office prior to it being presented to Members.

Financial Implications

4.0 The Chair of PF&R reports that there is no provision for this support set out in the budget and as such the costs would need to come from reserves or vired from another budget line.

Policy Implications

5.0 There are no policy implications

Legal Powers

6.0 The action undertaken is covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.