

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 25th March 2024 commencing at 7.40 pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, A Lock, R Lock, R Lacey, C Osborne, and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllrs N Thompson and M Scott

In attendance: Cllrs J Hewitt, P Sharman, Ian Reed, Deputy Town Clerk, Mr Andrew Skilton of Biggleswade Living Streets and two members of the public

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (93-2023/24) Apologies received from Cllrs N Thompson and M Scott</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (94-2023/24) The Deputy 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) pecuniary interests - Noneiii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.	
<p>3 Minutes of previous meeting (95-2023/24) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 5th February 2024 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	Deputy Clerk
<p>4 Public Participation Session (96-2023/24) Two members of the public were present. They were advised by the Chairman that they would be allowed to speak at item 11 – Allotment Issues.</p>	Deputy Clerk

Sandy Town Council

5. **Biggleswade Living Streets (97-2023/24)**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Skilton from Biggleswade Living Streets and agreed to change the order of the agenda. At the Community Services and Environment Committee meeting held on 25th March, Mr Skilton presented a petition to Sandy Town Council calling all local councils in Central Bedfordshire to adopt the Clear Pavement Policy promoted by Living Streets. The petition was fuelled by the rise in the obstruction of pavements by vehicles, bins, A-boards and other obstacles which pose significant challenges to pedestrians, especially those with mobility problems. The policy sought to improve the streetscape, enhance accessibility across Central Bedfordshire and address critical issues that impede our ability to enjoy safe and unhindered access as pedestrians walking, wheeling or scooting (particularly, children using scooters to get to school).

It was RESOLVED: That the petition be endorsed to seek support from Central Bedfordshire Council and to take a proactive stance by asking residents to send in photographs of poor pavement use and to sign the petition.

5 **Action List (98-2023/24)**

Members received and noted the action list.

It was RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk ascertains how much IDB work is still outstanding at Beeston and amends the report accordingly.

Deputy
Clerk

6 **Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Carpark Working Group (99-2023/24)**

The Committee was advised that a recent meeting of the Carpark Working Group had taken place. where discussions around issues arising from the number of car parking spaces used every day, the appropriateness of charging for parking in the future, and the need to remove the carpark barrier was held. It was noted the Council had given notice to the barrier company to remove it in September when the contract came to an end.

RECOMMENDED:

That before the Carpark Working Group does any further work on introducing charges for car parking a discussion be held at the next Full Council on the proposal that no work is done on carparking charges for the next twelve months.

Deputy
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

7 Recreation

A) Open Space Assessment (100a-2023/24)

The Council had completed a survey as part of CBC's attempt to seek a robust assessment of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities in its area. The provision of allotments was under provided for in Sandy. The Council was fully aware of this and was making all attempts to rectify the situation.

Deputy
Clerk

It was RESOLVED: That this Committee notes the report.

B) Playground Equipment – Replacement/ Repair Proposals (100b-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on proposals for the imminent replacement of equipment at Fallowfield and Bedford Road Recreation Grounds. The work was essential if equipment was not to be removed or fenced off in the coming year due to safety concerns. The Committee was advised that the Outdoor Team carried out work if possible to keep equipment safe but while they were qualified in inspecting equipment some repair and replacement works required specialist companies to carry out the work.

Deputy
Clerk

RECOMMENDED:

That the PFR Committee consider the funding of the full list of works from the Rolling Capital Programme.

8 Events Working Group (101-2023/24)

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Events Working Group on the setting of events for 2024. The provisional dates/events were the Mayors Civic Service, Spring Market, D Day commemoration, Skate Jam, Autumn Market, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights Event. The Chairman commented that the Events Working Group notes had not been circulated until the evening of the Committee. She noted a meeting of the Events Working Group was set for next week and she hoped the meeting notes would be circulated as soon as possible to Members of the Council.

Deputy
Clerk

Sandy Town Council

9 Land at Scout Hut/Cadet Hut (102-2023/24)

The Committee received a report on the decision by Full Council on 4th March 2024 (Minute 227-2023/2024). It was noted that Taylor Wimpey had not yet responded to STC's request.

Deputy Clerk

It was RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10 Provision of an Allotment Site (103-2023/24)

Further to the last meeting of the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee and the Mayor updated Members of CS&E on discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council on identifying a suitable allotment site in Beeston. The original site 3 was being investigated as a realistic site for allotments. The Committee noted an update about the site at Beeston Green where the six affordable dwellings were being constructed. There was a suggestion from CBC that the hard surfaces on the site could be cleared to enable a community garden scheme to be sited there.

Deputy Clerk

The two members of the public advised the Committee they were disappointed with the update.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Committee accepts the update and looks forward to more developments being reported.

11 Provision of Gazebos (104-2023/24)

The Committee was advised two gazebos were required for the Spring Market. The costs were listed in a report to the Committee.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Committee supports the immediate purchase of two gazebos with three more purchased during the current financial year.

Deputy Clerk

12 Biggleswade Living Streets

See agenda item 5.

13 Draft Action Plan 2024/25 (105-2023/24)

The Committee received a draft action plan for 2024/25

Deputy Clerk

It was RESOLVED: that the Action Plan be accepted

14 Tree Reports (106-2023/24)

The Committee received a summary report on the tree report agreed at Minute 51-2023/24. Members were disappointed not to have been circulated with the individual tree reports.

Deputy Clerk

Sandy Town Council

It was RESOLVED:

1. That the individual tree reports be sent to all Councillors.
2. That an action plan on trees requiring work be submitted to the Committee.

15 Request to use Sunderland Road for Parking (107-2023/24)

Deputy
Clerk

The Committee, for the second year considered a request received from CBC Ward Councillor Simon Ford for the Sandy Tigers FC tournament on 18th and 19th May 2024 to allow parking at the bottom end of Sunderland Road.

Cllr Osbourne was concerned about the proposed request as a charge was being made to raise funds and he urged that the Cricket Club be consulted before a decision was made.

It was RESOLVED:

That the situation be clarified at the next PFR Committee or Full Council meeting

16 Tree Removal Request at Beeston (108-2023/24)

Further to the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th October 2023 (Minute 143-2023/24 refers) CBC had been advised that permission to remove a tree would only be given if a reinstatement programme was agreed. CBC were willing to assist with the request but the trees would need to be planted at alternative sites in the area of Beeston.

It was RESOLVED: that the CBC proposed reinstatement programme be supported.

17 Chairmans' Items (109-2023/24)

None

18 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 29th April 2024

The meeting closed at 21.16