

# Sandy Town Council

**Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1 August 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne (Mayor), M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and S Sutton.

**Absent:** Cllrs J Ali, G Leach, M Pettitt and D Quick.

**In attendance:** Cllr C Maudlin (CBC), Cllr T Stock (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs A Elliott-Flockhart (Administrator) and two members of the public.

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence (39-2016/2017)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Leach, Pettitt and Quick.	Admin
<b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (40-2016/2017)</b>  i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Aldis declared an interest in item 9 as a member of Sandy Allotment Society. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	Admin
<b>3 Public Participation Session (41-2016/2017)</b>  The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from two members of the public regarding the state of Abbey Grove and the surrounding area. The members of the public who had written in had been residents of this area since it was developed. At that time they had to have an interview to live there and had to agree to look after the property and surrounds. They are saddened that the area has become so neglected with broken street signs, overhanging trees and bushes, parking on verges and dog mess. The Mayor was saddened to hear of this. The Mayor reported that this was discussed at a meeting with CBC Cllrs recently and CBC Cllr P Smith has agreed to raise the issues with Aragon Housing. Another member suggested that the Town Council should write to Aragon as well and this was agreed.	Admin
 A member reported that an advertisement had been seen in the Hertfordshire Mercury regarding an application for an operating licence for Bartrams. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to planning at CBC regarding this and was told it was not a planning matter. After discussion it was thought this might be for a	Town Clerk

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	renewal of a licence but members were led to understand that it is a legal requirement to advertise in a local paper – one that is delivered in Sandy and Beeston. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to contact the traffic officer and inform them that this has not been advertised in Sandy and express concerns about the impact on the Green.	Town Clerk
4	<b>Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (42-2016/2017)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 20 June 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.	Admin
5	<b>Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (43-2016/2017)</b> To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere. i) <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2016 and 18 July 2016. ii) <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 27 June 2016. iii) <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 11 July 2016 and approve the Recommendation that:  a) The Town Council would support the Scouts by funding the firework event up to the cost of £4,000 and that this money is reimbursed from ticket sales, with all event profit above and beyond going to the Scouts.  b) That Cllr Cole as a representative of the Council sits on the fireworks organising body.  c) That this be a permanent addition to the representatives on outside bodies that is discussed at the Town Council annual meeting.	Admin
6	<b>Financial Matters (44-2016/2017)</b> i) <b>RESOLVED</b> to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 11 July 2016). ii) <b>RESOLVED</b> to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and	Admin

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scrutinized at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 11 July 2016).

## **7 Action List (45-2016/2017)**

The Clerk presented the Action List and reported that he is still waiting to hear from Dr Graffy about the relocation of the Doctors surgery.

CBC Cllr T Stock reported that the announcement about the East-West Rail corridor had been delayed due to the fact that Bedford would like the route to go through Bedford. East –West Rail have had to consider this proposal, although she believes the route via Sandy is still the preferred one.

The Clerk reported that there had been a Stakeholders meeting regarding the Road Investment Strategy A1 in July. We are awaiting the report from this meeting from Madeline Russell.

## **8 Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (46-2016/2017)**

i) Members received a report from the Town Clerk about the Community Plan Steering Group’s comments on CBC’s Technical Site Assessment Criteria consultation.

One of the members pointed out that question 2A 21 didn’t have the strength that was intended at the discussion. It should be amended to include the fact that some of the sites had been discussed before and decided against and assuming that decision had been made on sound grounds then they should not be up for discussion again.

The Mayor thanked the Clerk and staff for their work at that day’s Community Plan Open Session which had been a great success. A good number of people had attended over the course of the day. The Clerk and staff will collate the responses ready for the next meeting of the Community Plan Steering Group, which will be held on Monday 15 August at 6pm.

ii) Members received a briefing report from the Town Clerk regarding the CBC Local Plan Conference that was held on 13 July 2016. The conference was attended by the Town Clerk, Cllrs Blaine and Hill and Cllr Aldis as representative for Blunham.

Sandy has been grouped with Blunham, Tempsford and Everton who will be jointly consulted via an area workshop and the results will form one Community Plan covering the four areas. These community plans will form evidence base of local plan.

Town Clerk

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The Conference had been organised by CBC Cllr T Stock. A member asked Cllr Stock if the numbers for local population growth expectations were arrived at before or after the EU referendum. Cllr Stock reported that this had been asked on the night, the figures are taken from the Office of National Statistics which is all the Council have to base the figures on. Another member noted that so many areas of CBC have increased in size which doesn't leave many places to take the 23,000 houses that are still needed. Another member asked about how many of the sites put forward before had been accepted. Cllr Stock reported that this had also been mentioned at the conference and there was now a map on the CBC website showing these sites.

## 9 **Beeston Green Affordable Housing and Orchard Project (47-2016/2017)**

Members received a report from the Clerk and from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the Beeston Green Affordable Housing and Orchard Project. The Clerk noted that there was some duplication as the CBC report came in after he had written his. CBC's report mentioned the possibility of increasing the number of houses from six to eight or ten, with two or more of the houses being 'market rate' to make the project more attractive to potential developers.

Members discussed both reports at length. Members were concerned about the increased number of houses as they felt eight or ten houses would be an overdevelopment of the site. It was noted that an increased number of houses could help provide the funding for infrastructure for the Orchard and allotment site from developer contributions. Members felt that the layout design could be changed to make better use of the site as central garage blocks have been unsuccessful in the past leading to on-street parking instead. It was noted that using this land as an orchard and allotment land would help improve the drainage of the area and putting in services to the site wouldn't be a major issue as there had been a house there previously.

It was **resolved**:

a) To agree to support the principle of development as outlined based on six affordable houses.

b) That there was still an appetite for a community orchard in Beeston but further consultation with residents and allotment holders would be beneficial.

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c) That STC with BRCC and the support of CBC's Steve Halton write a management plan for the community orchard, incorporating the Beeston Green Management Plan.

Town Clerk

## 10 **Sandy Schools (48-2016/2017)**

Cllr Hill gave an update on the recent proposed changes to schooling in Sandy. Historically Sandy has had a three tier school system since the 1970's. Since then the key stage system has been introduced which doesn't harmonise well with the three tier system.

Maple Tree has adopted an executive head who is also the head of Sandye Place Academy and are going to become a Multi Academy Trust with Sandye Place Academy and Laburnum Lower School. Robert Peel, St Swithun's and Moggerhanger Schools could change their age ranges from 5 -11 years old.

The decision will have to be taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner and possibly the Secretary of State.

CBC Cllr T Stock reported as Chair of Governors at Sandy Upper School, that all schools in Sandy have been meeting monthly to work together on these changes. There will be a consultation in September and the Council will be consulted at this point.

## 11 **General Permitted Development Orders (49-2016/2017)**

The Clerk reported that CBC Cllr Maudlin had been in touch with David Lamb the planning manager for our area and executive member Nigel Young.

His response was that given the changes to permitted development over recent years the proposal adjacent to Lloyds the chemist did not require a planning application. The government has sought to encourage the re-use of existing buildings to stimulate economic development. In assessing prior approval the council can only consider transport and highway issues, contamination and flooding. Part of the approach is simplifying the planning process and reducing the range of consultation undertaken which he appreciates will create tensions with town/parish councils and local residents. However their approach to consultation which is set out in the General Permitted Development Order does require notification to those directly affected (adjoining residents) but not to town/parish councils.

A member noted the apparent contradiction in this statement, namely that this required no planning permission but recently CBC

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has taken enforcement action against a resident who was running a dog grooming parlour from their home.

Another member noted that houses wouldn't necessarily stimulate economic development.

A member stated that whilst CBC did not have to notify town/parish councils it be courteous of them to do so. Although another member noted that there would be a cost involved for this.

## **12 Annual Report (50-2016/2017)**

Members discussed the annual report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Formatting and corrections needed were noted. The Clerk also noted that the attendance table in the document did not take into account that all members attended all committees until after the co-option. New tables of attendance were distributed at the meeting and will be corrected in the Annual Report.

**Resolved:** to approve the annual report with amendments.

## **13 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (51-2016/2017)**

CBC Cllr Maudlin reported that following consultation CBC intend to carryout work to construct a turning circle to allow the number 73 bus to return to Engayne Avenue. Line marking work will start in September. A member asked if a revised route plan had been put in place by Stagecoach.

CBC Cllr Stock reported that CBC will be consulting residents about the proposed weight restriction for Orchard Road, Beeston. Cllr Stock and STC Cllr Hill will conduct an informal consultation. It was noted that it would be impractical to impose a weight restriction on all roads in Beeston as there are a number of businesses around the Green. The weight restriction on Orchard Road will increase the traffic through the Green.

## **14 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (52-2016/2017)**

Members noted the report from Cllr W Jackson regarding his recent twinning visit to Skarszewy in Poland. Members also noted that the Mayor of Poland will be visiting Sandy for the Remembrance Weekend events and there will be a reception at the Council Offices on Thursday 10 November 2016.

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## **15 News Release (53-2016/2017)**

Community Plan – to report the good turnout for the Open Session held that day and to explain what will happen next.

## **16 Chairman's Items (54-2016/2017)**

The Mayor reported that he had attended a useful meeting with CBC Councillors, the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk. These meetings will be held on a regular basis. A joint committee between CBC and other town councilors is also being considered.

The Mayor noted that everyone should have received an email from the office regarding a proposed charity dinner at the Taj Mahal restaurant in October.

The Mayor reminded everyone of a meeting on Tuesday 2 August 2016 with Pigeon Investments who want to build on land to the north of Sandy. It was noted that Sandy Town Council were not committing to this development and this meeting was just for information. Pigeon Investments are looking to hold a public exhibition in September. The Mayor extended the invitation to the CBC Councillors.

## **17 Date of next meeting: (55-2016/2017)**

Monday 12 September 2016