

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 3 November 2014 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Ali, N Aldis, C Butterfield, T Cole, M Groom, W Jackson (Town Mayor), C Osborne, M Pettitt, D Sharman, P Sharman, R Smith

**Absent:** Cllrs M Scott, K Sharp and S Sutton

**In attendance:** Central Bedfordshire Cllr C Maudlin, Town Clerk

### 1 Apologies for Absence (90-2014/15)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Scott, Sharp and Sutton.

### 2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (91-2014/15)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None*
- ii) *Non Disclosable Interests – Cllr Osborne drew attention to his role as a user of Bedford Road Recreation Ground and the Artificial Pitch at Sunderland as Chairman of Sandy FC. This interest was relevant to agenda items 9 and 10.*
- iii) *Dispensations - None*

### 3 Public Participation Session (92-2014/15)

There were no questions or representations from members of the public.

### 4 Minutes of previous Town Council meeting (93-2014/15)

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 22 September 2014 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings with the following amendment - paragraph four of item 5 **Co-option of New Member (78-2014/15)** would be corrected to read:

*“It was proposed (and seconded) to co-opt Paul John Sharman as a member of the council and a recorded vote was requested. **The Chairman then asked if there were any further nominations but there were none forthcoming.** The Chairman noted that an absolute majority of those present and voting was required for the proposal to be carried.”*

### 5 Police Matters (94-2014/15)

Two reports had been received and distributed to members one from PCSO Ann Jeeves and also a specific report on Operation Vision from

Action

Admin

# Sandy Town Council

the Community Policing Team. PCSO Jeeves had sent apologies for absence and requested that questions be directed to her via the Town Clerk.

## 6 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein (95-2014/15)

**RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees which had been circulated in advance of the meeting

- i) Development Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2014 and 20 October 2014
- ii) Policy, Finance and Resources (PF&R) Committee on 20 October 2014
- iii) Human Resources (HR) Committee held on 9 October 2014

The Clerk drew attention to the completion of the external audit of Sandy Town Council's annual return and accounting statements for the year 2013/14 and publication of the audit completion notice. This was recorded in the minutes of the PF&R Committee held on 20 October 2014 as was the action to be taken arising from the audit report.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the audit completion notice and the audit report and to approve the action proposed by the PR&R Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold an informal financial workshop for members on Tuesday 18 November 2014 beginning at 7 pm which would be attended by a representative of DCK Beavers.

All members

## 7 Financial Matters (96-2014/15)

- i) A summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date had been reviewed by PF&R Committee and circulated to all members before the meeting with a report from the Town Clerk drawing attention to the fact that not all the budget figures or codes used in the report were correct as a consequence of the recoding exercise. However overall expenditure and income was accurate. **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting which had previously been approved by the PF&R Committee
- iii) Following consideration of a report and quotations it was **RESOLVED** to approve a recommendation to renew the town centre planting contract for 2015-18 with Plantscape in the sum of £2,123.00 per annum. It was suggested that positioning of the flower towers on pavements be reconsidered for next

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

summer (in consultation with the relevant authorities) in order to spread out the display.

**RESOLVED** to note financial arrangements for employment of temporary staff agreed by the HR Committee which were described in a confidential report from the Clerk. An existing temporary staff member would continue to be employed on SCP 17 but hours would change from 30 to 27 per week with effect from 3 November 2014. A new temporary member of staff would be employed on SCP 36 on a flexible contract of 20 hours per week between Mondays – Thursday. All expenditure to be met from current budget.

The Town Clerk advised that two members of staff were affected by changes to the national minimum wage and their pay would be increased from 1 October 2014 in line with legislative requirements. A report into their pay and consideration of NMW and NLW would be put before the HR Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Town Clerk

## 8 Public Participation in Meetings(97-2014/15)

A report from the Town Clerk on Sandy Town Council's arrangements for public participation in meetings and general community engagement had been circulated before the meeting and was discussed.

**RESOLVED** to permit public participation and representations at council and committee meetings during one dedicated public participation session and to amend Sandy Town Council's standing orders so that Order 3e would now read:

*3e"Members of the public attending committee meetings which they are entitled to attend may make representations and give evidence at such meetings in respect of the business on the agenda. Members of the public attending full meetings of council which they are entitled to attend may make representations and give evidence at such meetings in respect of any item of council business."*

The practice of permitting questions and representations directly before individual items of business would be discontinued with immediate effect

**RESOLVED** to include the council's communications strategy as a standing agenda item in every meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee (CS&E) and to undertake a review of all the ways in which Sandy Town Council could improve its dialogue with the community.

Town Clerk

**RESOLVED** to invite Mr Martin Quince, the editor of the Bulletin to attend a meeting of CS&E to discuss the future of the publication and

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

Sandy TC's commitment to using it for advertisements.

## 9 Dog Control Orders(98-2014/15)

**RESOLVED** to note the introduction of Dog Control Orders by Central Bedfordshire Council under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which included The Dogs on Leads (Central Bedfordshire) Order 2014 and The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Central Bedfordshire) Order 2014 and which now applied in the parish of Sandy including at Bedford Road and Sunderland Road Recreation Grounds negating previous bye-laws/dog control orders. Concern was expressed that the new orders would be less restrictive and therefore less effective than those previously in place. The Town Clerk proposed to seek additional information regarding application of the new orders in Bedford Road Recreation Ground and Sunderland Road Recreation Ground

Town Clerk

## 10 Sandy Sports and Leisure Association(99-2014/15)

**RESOLVED** to note correspondence from the Secretary of Sandy Sports and Leisure Association and to authorise the Town Clerk to work with the trustees of that charity to confirm the implications for both bodies should Sandy Town Council agree to act as Sole Trustee of SSLA in the future.

Town Clerk

## 11 Reports from Representatives(100-2014/15)

- a An electronic report with web links had been received from Central Bedfordshire Ward members.
- b There were no reports from STC representatives on external bodies but the Clerk advised members that Alistair Burt MP had arranged a meeting to discuss transport issues with SG19, the Highways Agency and Central Bedfordshire Council and to which members of Sandy Town Council were also invited. The meeting would be held on Friday 12 December 2014 at 3.30 pm in the chamber at 10 Cambridge Road.

All Members

## 12 News Release (101-2014/15)

The Town Mayor thanked and congratulated Cllr Colin Osborne who had marked 40 years of continuous service as a member of Sandy Town Council with a small private celebration earlier in the evening. During his time as a member Cllr Osborne had acted as Chairman/Mayor for at least 5 terms, he had served as Deputy Mayor and chaired many committees and groups. All members wished to minute their congratulations, thanks and appreciation for this diligent and effective work and it was **RESOLVED** to issue a news release drawing attention to this exceptional public service.

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

## **13 Items for information (102-2014/15)**

The Mayor confirmed that the Town Clerk had written to Lloyds Bank in Sandy to express concern and ask for information about its possible closure.

The Mayor reminded members of the Armistice Sunday parade which would begin at 10.30 am on Sunday 9 November at Swan Lane.

All  
members