

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 4 January 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 P Blaine and M Pettitt, Mr Chris Robson (Town Clerk) and Ms M Bracey (Minutes Clerk). Also in attendance 2 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everybody to this first meeting of Community Services and Environment 2016 and wished those present a Happy New Year.

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| 1 Apologies for absence (68-15/16)
None. | |
| 2 Declarations of interest (69-15/16)
i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
ii) Non-disclosable Interests - None
iii) Dispensations – None | Admin |
| 3 Minutes of previous meeting (70-15/16)
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16 November 2015 as a correct record of proceedings with the amendment of the word 'former' being placed before 'Cllr' in the first paragraph. | Admin |
| 4 Public Participation Session (71-15/16)
The Chair proposed to take Item 11 at Item 4 in order for the member of the public to speak in relation to the item.
The resident of Pickering Close asked members what influence the residents had on the Council's decision with regard to the open space in Berwick Way and to what level their opinions count? Cllr Aldis gave a brief background to the issue. He said that the open space had originally been earmarked for a playground but a decision had been made to leave it as an open space. | Town Clerk |

The resident informed members that on the original plans there was no inclusion of a playground, just a dedicated open space. Cllr Aldis pointed out that there were two propositions on the report. A member stated that there was a third option, refuse

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to take over the land. The Council only adopts land when a sum of money is available. He was unhappy with the way that he felt Taylor Wimpey is treating this Council and residents.

A Councillor stated that he was surprised that there had been no Section 106 money granted and he advised that Minutes be checked. The Town Clerk informed members that CBC had confirmed that there was no Section 106 money but he would check records.

A member stated that she felt Taylor Wimpey was holding the Council to ransom and agreed that there was a third option in not adopting the land.

A member proposed that we write to Taylor Wimpey stating that we do not accept either of the current offers and that we do not adopt the land without a commuted sum.

A member said that the second option also had weaknesses in that Taylor Wimpey had made no effort to maintain the open spaces and the offer will not make much difference.

RESOLVED to write to Taylor Wimpey that their current offers are unacceptable.

5 **Action list (72-15/16)**

Bus Turning Circle - The Town Clerk informed members that he had been told by CBC that Stagecoach had trialled turning their largest bus on Engayne Avenue and CBC are awaiting a response from Stagecoach. If Stagecoach approve then there will be consultation with residents, bus users and Traffic Management.

Town Clerk

Potton – Sandy Cycle way - The Town Clerk said that there was no specific map yet for the cycle way and there were ongoing discussions with various landowners etc. Cllr Aldis suggested contacting Potton Town Council who may have a definitive route.

A member said that the cycle way will not actually go through RSPB land. Members will be kept informed.

A member stated that there were a number of actions relating to CBC and he felt that we should be involving our CBC Councillors more than we do. He suggested a list of issues, requiring CBC input, go to CBC Councillors prior to the meetings and that Members be given an agenda item to update

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This could be an evolving list. It was also requested that they bring to Sandy Town Council any issues that would affect Sandy. The Council can then be proactive rather than reactive.

6 River Ivel Project (73-15/16)
RESOLVED to note the report.

7 Market Town Match Funding (74-15/16)

Town Clerk

Members said that the time scale for this was quite short and other than the proposed mosaics reflecting the town's history and cultural past it would be difficult to put something in place in time.

A member said that this should be discussed with the Chamber of Trade and Town Team. The Clerk will bring this to the next meeting of the Chamber of Trade.

It was acknowledged that people do not shop locally like they used to and that it may be we have to attract them with different activities, perhaps 5 or 6 themed activities a year, something different from Potton and Biggleswade. It was suggested that the Market Place could become a hub of activities during the summer months with for example open air concerts or a Saxon weekend.

A member suggested setting up a meeting with the Chamber of Trade, shopkeepers and town businesses to see what could be done together.

8 Cemetery Update (75-15/16)

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk presented the report. A member stated that the Council needs to ensure that no remains are dug up when the new Cemetery is open. If the brief is conformed to then there are arrangements in place if this happens. Excavation will have to take place on the whole site and it will be necessary to remove the depot for this to happen. Plastic water piping on the site can be removed easily. When going out to tender it will be necessary to make sure that the reinstatement of soil is included.

A member was concerned about the costs of labour and wondered whether volunteers would be used to reduce costs. It was suggested that Universities would be approached and that they may use students.

It was proposed that the Cemetery Working Group be reformed as this was a daunting project.

The Town Clerk had three possible funders but each funder would give no more than £5,000 and there was no guarantee that they would give funding at all. CBC is speaking to Historic

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England which will not give funding for the dig but may give for post excavation work. CBC continues to negotiate with Historic England on our behalf.

A member suggested that this could be tied in to the Market Town Regeneration application and the Town Clerk said he had already checked this and it does not meet the criteria.

A member pointed out that the cesspit was not mentioned in the document and that this needs to be added.

The Town Clerk is writing to the residents asking if they wish to purchase the land containing the cesspit.

The Town Clerk said that the quote provided was collated by the Cemetery Management company and he suggested taking this back in house.

RESOLVED to take the matter back 'in house' and to go out to tender using the CBC brief. That the Cemetery Working Group be convened with Cllrs Aldis, Pettitt, Scott and Sparrow and possibly Cllr Jackson.

9 **Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Public Conveniences (76-15/16)**

Town Clerk

A member suggested that a fine spray tap would be better than a single spout. The Town Clerk reported that there is a budget for this and he would investigate spray taps.

RESOLVED to replace the Cemetery and Bedford Road taps with spray taps and that mechanical single sheet paper towel dispensers be installed in the Bedford Road recreation ground toilets.

10 **Sandy Cemetery Chapel (77-15/16)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk presented the report and informed members that a visit by the Health and Safety Adviser had agreed that the Chapel should be closed for services and that the birds roosting be removed and work done to stop them getting back in. Members discussed when this could be done and the Clerk will take advice.

It was also suggested that the Cemetery Working group look into the future of the Chapel.

RESOLVED that the Cemetery Working Group, consider over the next few months, the future of the Chapel and bring back a Report.

12 **Chairman's Announcements (78-15/16)**

The Chair informed members that the Christmas Lights Committee have declined to take on the organisation of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

The proposed floral enhancement by SEG outside the Post

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Office will be done and a young person had made suggestions which Cllr Aldis will review.

13 Date of Next Meeting: 22 February 2016