

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 8th January 2018 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, M Scott, S Sutton, N Thompson

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, G Leach, C Osborne, J Sparrow

In Attendance: Cllrs W Jackson, M Pettitt, Cllr C Maudlin (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk) and Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for absence (68-2017/18)

Cllrs T Knagg, C Osborne, J Sparrow. The Chairman wished all present a Happy New Year.

2 Declarations of interest (69-2017/18)

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests – None
- iii) Dispensations – None

3 Minutes of previous meeting (70-2017/18)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 20th November 2017 as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (71-2017/18)

No members of the public were present. The Clerk informed Members that several emails had been received in relation to agenda item 6.

5 Action list (72-2017/18)

Beeston Green, Orchard /Allotments: When a developer for the affordable housing project had been appointed the Beeston Green Working Group would meet and agree a consultation process. The Clerk was still awaiting a redline drawing from CBC but he had chased them.

Town Clerk

Parking Restrictions: The Clerk was still awaiting the parking paper and asked Cllr Maudlin to chase it up.

Cllr Maudlin

Community Plan: The next meeting of the Community Plan Working Group will be on the Monday 5th February 2018.

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Rural Match Fund: The Clerk informed the committee that CBC had received the application for the installation of lowered kerbing and Cambridge Road signage, but he was still awaiting a response from CBC Highways.

Greensands Country Landscape Partnership: Claire Poulton would be holding a talk on Thursday 25th January 2018 on the partnership's work at the Jenkins Pavilion and community groups and schools had been invited. If any Member knows of any group or member of the public who would like to attend, please invite them.

Fallowfield Recreation Area – Dog Complaints: The Clerk confirmed that the Public Space Protection Order replaces the Dog Control Order and only CBC can implement a PSPO. CBC will not put a PSPO in place for Fallowfield Recreation Area as there are no sports pitches on the area. A Member suggested that a junior pitch be put on the land to allow a PSPO to be put in place, as it was intended to have pitches on the land when Fallowfield estate was built.

The Clerk stated that the outdoor staff could be trained on a Keep Britain Tidy course to enforce better dog behaviour and to issue fines when they witnessed dog order breaches. They would have to produce witness statements and procedures would have to be put in place for the council to enforce them. He stated that CBC could supply more dog warden hours at a cost.

The Clerk said that he was still awaiting a response from Maple Tree Lower School on their views regarding the issues of dog behaviour reported appearing to be around school drop off and pick up times.

A Member said that as Byelaws have been replaced by PSPO's could Bedford Road recreation ground signage be updated.

A full report would come to a later meeting of the Community Services and Environment committee.

6 **Unauthorised Encampments (73-2017/18)**

The Clerk's report was noted and considered. The Clerk stated that the cost of clearing up after an encampment could be up to £2,000. CBC can serve a Section 77 CJPOA notice which would be cheaper than hiring private bailiffs but slower as CBC must put into practice health and safety and wellbeing procedures. The police have powers to remove travellers but only if they have the manpower. If CBC issue a Section 77 CJPOA and the travellers move off they cannot return within three months. If they do return it becomes a

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criminal matter rather than civil.

The Clerk said that CBC could not get a Section 77 CJPOA notice issued because of the Christmas holiday.

A Member asked why the police could not identify the travellers by their registration number plates and why didn't the police act when there were items on the site that were clearly the subject of criminal activity? The Clerk said that the police had not reported any 'serious cause for concern' following their visits to the site.

A Member thanked the Clerk and the outdoor staff for all their efforts to get the site cleaned up. He believed that the police need to be more proactive in their approach to travellers.

Another Member thanked the Clerk for a good report and that the council should make the public aware locally of the clear-up costs. He also said that the site should be made secure now.

A Member said that the owner should restrict access to the site and with the Lease on the land up for renewal does the council need to continue to lease the land? Public access to the land would still be available due to rights of way. The costs to the council are far more than the council makes from hiring out the land for the annual fair. A Member asked that if the council did not renew the Lease if the travellers came back would the council have to pay to clear up afterwards. Another Member said that the council would not as the land would be privately owned.

A suggestion was to put allotments on the land. It was suggested that the fair be moved to Sunderland Road recreation ground, but a Member said that the fair was too big for the area and the town would lose the fair.

A Member stated that this land was much loved by the public and that these issues should be try and be resolved with the landowner to ensure future generations can enjoy the area.

The Clerk said that he would continue chasing the landowner for a draft renewal lease and their ideas on how to restrict unauthorised vehicular access.

The clean-up would continue and BRCC would assist.

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7 **East West Rail Link (74-2017/2108)**

The Chairman thanked the office for producing the report. It was found that the report was speculative and there was not common ground between CBC's or the Government's plans. A master plan was needed to enable a local plan to be produced.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to reply to the National Infrastructure Commission's report supporting the reports recommendations.

Town
Clerk

8 **A Nation's Tribute (75-2017/2018)**

The Clerk's report was noted and after discussion which raised the possibility of holding a ceremony in the Market Square as well as on The Pinnacle to enable elderly residents to take part it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to set up a Council Working Group to co-ordinate the event comprising of Cllrs Aldis, Scott and Sutton. It was also agreed to include the ATC, Army Cadets, the Scouts, Royal British Legion representatives and the local churches. Any member may attend the Working Group meetings if they so wish.

Working
Group

9 **Closure of Barclays Bank (76-2017/18)**

The committee noted the meeting with Barclays Bank would take place on Tuesday 9th January 2018. The Clerk reported that the office petition had over 500 signatures.

10 **Police Priority Setting Meeting (77-2017/2018)**

The meeting was noted and it was agreed that Cllrs Aldis and Thompson would attend on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at the Bedfordshire Police headquarters.

Cllrs Aldis
and
Thompson

11 **Chairman's Items (78-2017/2018)**

The Clerk reminded the committee that Chief Superintendent David Boyle will be attending the Town Council meeting on Monday 29th January 2018 and to let the office know of any questions they wish to raise with him before the meeting.

12 **Date of Next Meeting (79-2017/2018)
Monday 19th February 2018**