

# Sandy Town Council

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**Minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 9 September 2013 beginning at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Aldis, Ali, Butterfield, Jackson, Pettitt, Runchman, Scott, Sharman, Sutton (Town Mayor), and Walsh

**Absent:** Cllrs Lynch, Maycock, Osborne, Smith and White.

**In attendance:** Seven members of the public and the Town Clerk were present.

**1 Apologies for absence (60-2013/14)**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Lynch, Maycock Osborne and White.

In addition Central Bedfordshire Cllrs Sheppard and Maudlin and PCSO Ann Jeeves and had sent apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (61-2013/14)** *Declarable Pecuniary Interests* – None

*Other Interests* – Cllr Scott drew attention to his connection with Sandy Football Club in respect of item 7. Cllr Aldis noted his position as a governor of Sandye Place Academy.

**3 Public Participation Session (62-2013/14)**

Members of the public chose to make comments immediately before specific agenda items therefore there were no public questions or comments at this stage.

**4 Minutes of Town Council meeting 5 August 2013 (63-2013/14)**

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30 pm on 5 August 2013 as a correct record of proceedings.

**5 Minutes of Committees and Sub-committees (64-2013/14)**

- i) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Policy Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held 12 August 2013
- ii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2013.

**6 Finance (65-2013/14)**

- i) RESOLVED to approve the accounts for payment which were tabled at the meeting. The Clerk was asked to clarify with Cllr

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Lynch arrangements for the refund of the council funds advanced against the Youth Club Swimming project.

- ii) RESOLVED to note a summary report showing progress against the budget for 2013/14 which was tabled at the meeting.
- iii) RESOLVED to note the publication of the new NJS Local Government pay scales 2013. The pay scales which incorporated an increase of 1% had been applied with effect from 1 April 2013 in line with Sandy Town Council's contractual obligations and provision had been made in the budget for this anticipated increase.

## 7 **Sandy Town Council Chamber (66-2013/14)**

A report and recommendations from the Clerk had been circulated in advance of the meeting and this was discussed. Members welcomed the new layout. A range of views were expressed about the possible disposal of items of furniture.

RESOLVED to retain the new furniture for council meetings and to take no immediate action on disposal of the council's large Victorian table previously used for meetings pending a report from the Clerk including information about the valuation and potential sale of the table.

RESOLVED to proceed with installation of an induction loop and portable amplification system costing £1,474.00 excluding VAT as quoted by Comtec-Services Ltd and to arrange for this to be installed as soon as practicable.

## 8 **Football Pavilion at Bedford Road Recreation Ground (67-2013/14)**

Two members of the public expressed their concerns about the impact of football activities at Bedford Road Recreation Ground. They reported increased use of the Recreation Ground for football matches and training, continued problems with parking as the promised yellow lines were not in place and parking cones were not being used. Foul language was being used by players and supporters and the residents felt a loss of faith in the Town Council which had not taken their concerns seriously.

The Mayor explained that recent football activity was part of the annual Jess Piggot trophy tournament played every year. The council still did not expect to see an increase in frequency of matches over the coming season. Yellow lines were the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council whose officers had indicated the lines would be put in place within the next fortnight. The Clerk agreed to take up the issues of parking and foul language with the Club and noted that the latter

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matter could also be referred to the Football Association if necessary.

Members then considered the specific agenda item concerning replacement of the Football Pavilion floor, a report on which had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED to pay for the repairs to the sub-base of floors in the Pavilion at a cost of £3,216 (including VAT) in line with the council's obligations under the lease and make no recharge to the Sandy Football Club although this was also permissible under the lease.

RESOLVED in the light of this to contact all clubs who held leases with the council reminding them that no structural work should be undertaken on council property without the express permission of the council and any defects to buildings should be reported promptly to the council so that they could be inspected prior to remediation.

The Clerk reported that Sandy Football Club had been successful in increasing their grant contribution from the Football Foundation and would not be taking up the interest free loan previously offered to them by Sandy Town Council.

## **9 Responses to Consultations (68-2013/14)**

- i) RESOLVED to make no objections to the proposed formal diversion of Bridleway No 8 close to 30 Ivel Road.
- ii) RESOLVED to welcome Central Bedfordshire's Flood Risk Management Strategy and to submit general comments regarding the need for clearer definition of scales, maps and areas in the document and lack of clarity about the IDB's responsibilities. The Clerk noted specific concern about the need for clearance of the Mill Pond and agreed to take this up with the IDB or relevant authority.

## **10 Beeston Village Green (69-2013/14)**

A report from the Clerk detailing specific requests from residents for access and construction of a driveway, construction of a disabled handrail and parking in three different locations on Beeston Green had been circulated before the meeting and before this was discussed council was addressed by two of the applicants.

Mr Brotherton requested that the council should consider his request for access to the rear of 29 Orchard Road across the green which would only require a small incursion of 5 m of driveway/track on the green. He noted the Clerk's report which stated that present access was adequate and agreed that this was currently the case but observed that

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if the annexe became used as a dwelling this would certainly not be convenient. Mr Brotherton stressed that he did not want to cause any environmental damage and felt that his proposal was not unlike arrangements elsewhere on the green.

Mr Keating asked the council where the new resident of the former Village Hall would park once the property was converted to a dwelling house.

The Mayor noted that Mr Keating's representations would be taken into account and that the council had no way of knowing what any potential resident might do in the future but parking on the village green was unlawful.

Members noted that the council had already established a working group to review the management and future sustainability of the environment of Beeston Green in the light of concerns about the gradual erosion of the green and continued problems with parking and access.

Debate was sustained and a range of views were expressed. A proposition to permit (in principle) the introduction of a disabled handrail from Magnolia Cottage close to the edge of the green and to leave the precise details to be agreed by the Clerk was defeated. A recorded vote was requested. Members voting in favour were Cllrs Aldis, Ali and Butterfield. Members voting against were Cllrs Jackson, Pettitt, Runchman, Scott, Sharman, Sutton and Walsh.

## RESOLVED

- i) To refuse permission for access and driveway across Beeston Green to the rear of existing property at 29 Orchard Road at this time.
- ii) To agree in principle to permit the temporary installation of a timber handrail from the gate at Magnolia Cottage alongside the established footpath and barrow access as far as the front wall of the former village Hall for the life occupancy of the disabled resident who needed this support. It was noted that further advice would be taken before any details were confirmed.
- iii) To refuse the specific request at the present time and to continue to refuse permission for any parking on Beeston Green until the working group has completed its research and deliberations at which point the matter will be considered again.

## 11 **New Road (70-2013/14)**

A resident complained that he had attended a Town Council meeting on

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Monday 27 July to raise concerns about a pinch point in the public footway outside the Bell Public House; he had not received any further information about his concerns and was angry that he had not had a letter from the Town Council. These concerns were noted although it was pointed out that the matter had been referred to Central Bedfordshire Council at the meeting since CBC had responsibility for Highways not Sandy Town Council.

Members noted the planned work to be carried out on New Road during October and requested further information as to why a raised table was not possible.

RESOLVED to support CBC in making representations to Greene King to secure widening of the pavement outside the Bell Public House.

The Clerk was asked to seek information about the feasibility of introducing a 20 mph speed limit in New Road.

**12 Mayoral Communications (71-2013/14)**

RESOLVED to note the Mayor's engagements.

**13 Reports from Representatives (72-2013/14)**

A written report from the Central Bedfordshire ward members had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Aldis informed members that Central Bedfordshire Council was keen to see improvements to the A1 in Bedfordshire and was supporting reconsideration of a new route for the road.

**14 News Release (73-2013/14)**

None.

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