

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 10 March 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), J Ali, C Butterfield, W Jackson, K Lynch, M Runchman and S Sutton

Absent: Cllr S Walsh

In attendance: Cllr D Sharman (part of meeting), Cllr M Scott, three members of the public and the Town Clerk. Mr Cliff Andrews of BRCC and Ms Caroline Romans of CBC attended for items 1-4.

Action

1 Apologies for absence (56-13/14)

Cllr Walsh had submitted apologies for absence.

Admin

2 Declarations of interest (57-13/14)

- i) Declarable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Butterfield drew attention to his tenancy with Aragon Housing.
- ii) Other Interests – Cllr Aldis drew attention to his membership of the board of Aragon Housing.

3 Minutes of previous meeting (58-13/14)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 27 January 2014 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

4 Sandy Green Wheel (59-13/14)

- i) A presentation on the proposed Sandy Green Wheel was delivered by Caroline Romans, Countryside Access Projects Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council and Cliff Andrews, Green Infrastructure Team Leader of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. The Green Wheel project had grown out of the Mid Beds Green Infrastructure Plan of 2008 and aimed to influence the long term development of green space and public access around Sandy. It would do so by increasing opportunities for sustainable recreation and travel, increasing access to high quality green space and providing increased opportunities for exercise and physical activity close to where people live. The project was shared between CBC, BRCC and Sandy Town Council. The draft plan would be finalised in April 2014 and sent out for public consultation during May and June of 2014 with a view to final adoption in 2014. Implementation of the

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plan would be on-going as opportunities arose and as funding became available. Members were able to ask questions about the plan and were then asked to submit responses to the Green Wheel document no later than 24 March 2014. Responses could be submitted via the Clerk or direct to caroline.romans@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. (Copies of the PowerPoint presentation given and the draft document available in the minute file.)

Admin
Clerk

- ii) Members moved on to consider a request for financial support for a Green Infrastructure Planning Obligation grant application in respect of Sandy Green Wheel which was to be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. The funding required for the project was approximately £50,000. At the time of writing £8,000 had been identified from CBC and the Town Council was asked to allocate some additional funding to strengthen the application to the Green Infrastructure Planning Obligation fund by demonstrating community commitment from Sandy. The deadline for the application was 12 March 2014.

RESOLVED to recommend to Sandy Town Council that a maximum of £2,000 should be allocated towards this project as a combination of funds and in kind contributions. The funds to come from capital reserves (or elsewhere in the budget if possible).

Clerk

(Cllr Sharman left the meeting.)

5 **Town Council Storage (60-13/14)**

Members viewed photographs of storage facilities at the Banks Pavilion which had been taken during a recent visit by two members of Council accompanied by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The views of these members ie that there was space for some council equipment to be stored in the Cricket and Bowls store though not in the Football Store were discussed. Members noted that a leak to the Bowls store roof had been noted, and a roofing contractor had been instructed in inspect. The issue of rental of the stores by the Clubs was raised by members and it was agreed that this item should come back to a future meeting for further consideration.

RESOLVED to store some town council gazebos in each of the Cricket and Bowls stores and to obtain quotations for racking/shelving for these items in order to make greater use of the available space.

Deputy
Clerk

6 **Town Council Gazebos (61-13/14)**

Proposed arrangements, terms and conditions for hire of Sandy Town Council gazebos had been circulated in advance of the meeting (copy in minute file).

RESOLVED to approve the terms and conditions and the

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arrangements for letting of this equipment as outlined in the papers before the committee.

Admin

7 **Fallowfield (62-13/14)**

A work plan for public open space in Fallowfield for the year 2014 had been circulated in advance of the meeting (copy in minute file). The document was primarily for internal use but had been circulated to members for comment and to keep them informed of work plans and intended service standards in Fallowfield. Similar work plans were to be put in hand for all areas maintained by the Town Council. Members expressed their appreciation of the work done by the Deputy Clerk in preparing this plan.

RESOLVED to note the work plan.

8 **Sandy Community Orchard (63-13/14)**

An update report on progress with the Sandy Community Orchard had been circulated in advance of the meeting (copy in minute book).

RESOLVED to note the update report.

Admin

9 **Sunderland Road Recreation Ground/Cricket and Bowls Club Matters (64-13/14)**

- i) An update report from the Clerk on progress with negotiations regarding a licence to replace the former lease with Sandy Cricket Club had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Clerk noted that it was hoped to hold a meeting as soon as possible but the Club had not yet felt able to respond to a request for a letter clarifying the areas for discussion. A representative of the Cricket Club was present and was asked for the reasons for delay. The representative advised that the Club had been taking advice and was of the view that since the 2010/12 lease had never been signed, the previous 2003 lease still obtained and there was no scope for the Town Council to be released from this lease. The Club wished to present its concerns at the planned meeting with representatives of the Town Council. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's original invitation for a meeting with the Cricket Club had been based upon the Club providing a written list of the issues on which the Club wished to negotiate following their consideration of the proposed draft licence. If the Club was unwilling to negotiate on a licence at all then the matter should be returned to full council for further consideration since the Council currently had a resolved position that a licence was what it required. It would also be necessary to take legal advice on the status of the 2003 lease (which did not include the Jenkins Pavilion) and also on any objections which the Club had to a

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licence. It would be most helpful if the Club's position could be provided in a letter so that legal advice could be obtained, council could consider its own position and any meeting could take place thereafter. The representative of the Club noted that a letter should be available in approximately a week's time.

- ii) Members moved on to consider a request from Sandy Bowling Club for provision of a skip to be funded by the Town Council for grass cuttings arising from maintenance of the green as had been provided in previous years. A report had been circulated before the meeting (copy in minute book) and issues arising from this were discussed at some length.

RESOLVED that the Town Council would make arrangements for a closed skip for the 2014/15 season to be located at Sunderland Road for the benefit of the Bowls and Cricket Club provided that both Clubs agreed to share the cost of this provision on a 50:50 basis from within their consumable budgets for the financial year 2014/15.

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- iii) A request had been received from Sandy Cricket Club for permission to use funds allocated for consumables (ie seed, fertilizer and loam) under the previously agreed lease for the purchase of new equipment ie a Sisis Combi rake at a cost of £515. An officer's report had been circulated before the meeting (copy in minute book) which noted that the Bowls Club also wished to purchase items which were not strictly consumables from its consumable budget. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that there was no incentive either Club to underspend their consumable budget unless any surplus was allocated to the clubs' benefit. Members noted that additional new equipment bought would belong to the Town Council and would add to insurance costs. Members expressed differing views but overall a pragmatic approach to the request was preferred rather than abiding by the letter of the lease agreement.

RESOLVED to allow the Cricket Club and the Bowls Club to use surplus funds from their consumables allowances for the purchase of equipment as laid out in the report.

Deputy
Town
Clerk

10 Aragon Estate (65-13/14)

Cllr Aldis gave an oral report on progress with arrangements for a meeting to be held with Aragon Housing Association, Central Bedfordshire Council and other stakeholders about issues to do with the Aragon estate as previously requested by the committee. It was hoped to hold an informal meeting in the near future, date to be advised.

Cllr Aldis

RESOLVED to note the report.

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11 Community Engagement Matters (66-13/14)

- i) **RESOLVED** to receive a draft community engagement strategy and to recommend its consideration by Policy, Finance and Resources Committee without amendment. Clerk
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note current arrangements for advertising in the Bulletin and to continue with these as they were felt to be fair value for money and beneficial for those residents who did not have access to a computer. Admin
- iii) **RESOLVED** to note the introduction of new pages and an RSS feed to Sandy Town Council Website. Admin
- iv) **RESOLVED** to note arrangements for the preparation and publication of the annual report of Sandy Town Council for the year 2013/14. No amendments to the plans were suggested. Clerk