

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 16 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, G Leach, C Osborne (Mayor), M Pettitt, M Scott (Deputy Mayor), D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs J Ali, T Cole, Cllr C Mauldin (CBC), Cllr T Stock (CBC)

In attendance: Cllr P Smith (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), one member of the public

	Action
1 Apologies for Absence (111-2016/2017) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali and Cole and CBC Cllr C Mauldin and Cllr T Stock.	Admin
2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (112-2016/2017) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Pettitt declared an interest in Item 13 as Vice President of Sandy Cricket Club and Sandy Colts Football Club. Cllr Osborne declared an interest in Item 13 as Chairman of Sandy Football Club. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	Admin
3 Public Participation Session (113-2016/2017) There were no questions.	
4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (114-2016/2017) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 28 November 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.	Admin
5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (115-2016/2017) To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere. i) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 12 December 2016 and 9 January 2017. ii) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Human Resources	

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Committee held on 12 December 2016 and approve the **Recommendation** that: an additional 12 staff hours are budgeted for in the 2017/18 financial year with the view to increase staff administration hours by an additional 12 hours per week.

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on 19 December 2016.

iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy, Finance & Resources Committee held on 9 January 2017 and approve the **Recommendation** that: the Council budgets £2,000 for the Events Budget in 2017/18 and that the budget line run for two years before being fully reviewed and reassessed.

6 Financial Matters (116-2016/2017)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 9 January 2017).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 9 January 2017).

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (117-2016/2017)

Members had received a copy of CBC Council's notes for Town and Parish Councils in advance of the meeting. Cllr Smith emphasised that residents should be encouraged to participate in Central Beds Council's current budget consultation and telephone box consultation as all residents' opinions are welcome. It was also detailed that there was a new Central Bedfordshire Council Match Funding Scheme which Community Groups should be encouraged to submit projects to.

8 Action List (118-2016/2017)

Members received the Action List and Cllr Pettitt informed Members that he would report back to the next meeting on the progress of the proposed Bedford Road Outdoor gym equipment.

Cllr Pettitt

The Clerk reported that there had been no further information regarding the surgery relocation or the East West Rail Link and

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Road Investment Strategy, but referred to a letter previously circulated to Members from Alistair Burt, MP.

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| <p>9 Calendar of Meetings (119-2016/2017)
The Clerk's report was received and it was RESOLVED to move the Town Council meeting to the 26.6.17 from the 3.7.17 and the Human Resources meeting be moved from the 26.6.17 to the 3.7.17. It was also RESOLVED to re-schedule the Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting from the 19.6.17 to the 12.6.17.</p> | Admin |
| <p>10 Replacement Computer Server (120-2016/2017)
The Admin Team Leader's report was received and it was RESOLVED that the Council purchase a new server and that this be funded from the Rolling Capital Fund.</p> | Admin
Team
Leader |
| <p>11 Scale of Charges (121-2016/17)
The Clerk's report was reviewed and it was RESOLVED to approve the scale of charges for 2017/18 apart from the charge for interment fees which would be discussed at the next Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting.</p> | Town
Clerk |
| <p>12 Central Bedfordshire Council Budget Consultation (122-2016/2017)
Central Bedfordshire Council's budget consultation was received and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Central Beds Council to ascertain why the top-up grant was not being passed down to local councils again this year. It was also RESOLVED that Members submit their own response to the consultation by the 30 January 2017.</p> | Town
Clerk

Members |
| <p>13 2017/18 Budget and Precept (123-2016/2017)
The Chairman briefed the meeting on the budget and precept papers and reminded members that they had all had adequate time to peruse the papers. The budget figures had been to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee three times, providing all Members with the opportunity for comment and amendment.</p> <p>Members received and discussed the recommendation from the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee that the proposed 2017/18 budget be agreed with a precept increase of 3.72% (an annual increase of £4.88 per Band D property) for the next financial year.</p> <p>A member proposed an amendment of a 2.99% increase, which would equate to a £3.92 increase for the year and require a</p> | |

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reduction in budget of £3,804 by the Town Council. It was proposed that the Rolling Capital Fund be reduced by £3,804 to accommodate the reduction.

A Member queried what the thinking behind the amendment figure was. The Member responded that they felt that 3.72% was too high, as it exceeded CBC's increase (excluding the increase specifically for health and social care). Lowering the Precept increase from 3.72% to 2.99% would reduce the annual amount the average Band D taxpayer will pay by £0.96p a year, resulting in an annual bill of £135.00, rather than £135.96.

The Proposal was not seconded.

A Member stated that they were not happy with the recommended increase of 3.72% and that a higher increase of 5% would allow the Council to increase its Rolling Capital Fund. There were numerous projects coming up, including large cost projects such as play park refurbishment, War Memorial restoration, cemetery extension, and work to the deteriorating frontage of 10 Cambridge Road as well as the potential allotments. The Member felt that the increase recommended did not allow enough funds to meet the costs of those projects. Another Member commented that they agreed that a higher Rolling Capital Fund was required.

Other Members disagreed and felt that a higher increase was not justifiable at this time. The Council has had to increase various budget lines, such as tree works, street lighting maintenance and toilet maintenance to ensure the Council can continue to provide services required. This has helped contribute to the rise of 3.72% which is required. Agreeing the precept at this level would allow the Council to meet its budget and have a slight increase in the Rolling Capital Fund with which to meet the cost of projects mentioned.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the budget be agreed and precept set at £538,809, which represents a 3.7% increase on the amount the average Band D taxpayer will pay with an annual charge of £135.96.

A recorded vote was requested.

Cllrs Blaine, Hill, Jackson, Leach, Knagg, Pettitt, Osborne, D Sharman and Sparrow voted for.

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Cllrs Aldis, P Sharman, M Scott and S Sutton voted against.

The Proposal was carried.

14 Crime Statistics December 2016 (124-2016/2017)

The crime statistics were received and after discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask for information regarding clear-up rates of crimes in Sandy to reassure the electorate that the police are actively looking into reported crimes. It was also **RESOLVED** that the crime statistics are regularly reported to Town Council.

15 Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (125-2016/2017)

The communication from Central Bedfordshire Council stating that the draft Local Plan was to be delayed was received and noted.

16 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (126-2016/2017)

There were none.

17 Representatives to Local Conferences/Seminars (127-2016/2017)

i) Town & Parish Meeting on 4.2.17 – Cllrs Sparrow and Sutton to attend.

ii) CBC 'Emergency' Planning Conference on 22.2.17 – Cllrs Hill and P Sharman to attend.

Cllrs Hill,
Sharman,
Sparrow
and
Sutton

18 News Releases (128-2016/2017)

2017/18 Budget and precept.

The Council's concerns surrounding Crimes and policing in Sandy.

Town
Clerk

19 Chairman's Items (129-2016/2017)

The Chairman reminded Members of the Civic Service being held on the 2 April 2017 at St Swithun's Church.

**20 Date of Next Meeting (130-2016/2017)
Monday 27 February 2017**