

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 16th May 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, G Leach, M Scott, J Sparrow and S Sutton (Chair)

In Attendance: Cllr P Blaine, Mr Peter Bate (SUSTRANS), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for absence (1-2016/17)

Cllrs J Ali, C Osborne, D Quick and Cllr C Mauldin (Central Bedfordshire Council)

2 Declarations of interest (2-2016/17)

Admin

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr S Sutton as an RSPB employee to be discussed at Item 7.
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests – Cllr P N Aldis as a supporter of SUSTRANS to be discussed at Item 7.
- iii) Dispensations – None

3 Election of Vice Chair (3-2016/17)

RESOLVED to elect Cllr J Sparrow as Vice Chair for the municipal year 2016/17.

4 Minutes of previous meeting (4-2016/17)

Admin

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 22 February 2016 as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Public Participation Session (5-2016/17)

None present.

6 Action list (6-2016/17)

Town Clerk

Engayne Avenue Estate – Cllr Aldis stated that he was still awaiting comments/update from CBC Cllr Mauldin before he could prepare a report. **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write to Central Beds Council and Aragon Housing to enquire of their plans for the estate.

A1 Clean Up – A member stated that this was not a priority with the contractors and it would tie in with the reduced speed limit and average speed cameras being updated in 2017/18. Other members disputed the dates as they believed it to be earlier. Clerk to write

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to Central Beds Council to clarify the dates of the cameras and when the clear-up will happen.

The other items on the Action List were noted.

7 **Cycleway – Sustrans (7-2016/17)**

Cllr Sutton left the room and Cllr Sparrow chaired the meeting.

Peter Bate thanked the Town Council for inviting him to present his update report on the Potton-Sandy Cycleway. He had provided a presentation document for the committee. After discussion on various points of the presentation by members including how far east the cycleway would go. Members asked whether the cycleway could go alongside the railway line, Mr Bate stated that either landowners would not allow the cycleway over their land or that they could not identify ownership of the land.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: that the Town Council would support the project.

8 **Public Facilities at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (8-2016/17)**

Town Clerk

A member commented that the member of the public (not present) who had raised the question of the Town Council erecting public toilets at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground would be doing more research into the request. Members expressed concern regarding the costs of this, especially when we already had large projects in plan.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk checks to see if the Town Council is legally obliged to supply public toilets.

9 **Finger Posts (9-2016/17)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's report was noted and the item be brought forward on the action list.

10 **Sandy Green Wheel (10-2016/17)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's report was noted and welcomed the progress of Sandy Green Wheel project. Questions were raised regarding Central Beds Council not fulfilling their part in the project and the delays this had caused. Funding for items had been achieved for the Community Orchard, but a member pointed out that this should be paid for by the developer when the housing is built and therefore that money could be used elsewhere on the project.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: that the Town Council's commitment to the project should be confirmed and whether we should nominate representatives to sit on the Steering Group.

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11 Sandy Market (11-2016/17)

Town Clerk

A member thanked the Town Clerk for the report. A discussion took place with various suggestions being put forward. Several members stated that markets in general were not very well attended anymore. A member suggested that the Town Council offered stall space for free to encourage stallholders to attend.

Another suggestion was that the Town Council offered a different style of market three or four times a year. For example a Continental style market, Farmer's Market, Craft Market etc. which could potentially bring in more income.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the existing markets are wound up and special event markets were put on throughout the year and that this item is brought forward to the next full council meeting.

12 Central Bedfordshire Council's Passenger Transport Strategy (12-2016/17)

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's report was noted. The Chair expressed surprise that there were no members of the public present for this item.

Members discussed the report and various points were raised:

- Town Council should oppose the strategy for Sandy residents.
- It doesn't cost any more before 9.30am – what savings will it make?
- No subsidies after 3pm on Saturdays and on Sundays is a draconian idea and would make it difficult for residents to visit relatives in hospital
- Will be a disadvantage to certain rural areas.
- Commercial buses are not subsidised.
- People in rural areas need to use the buses before 9.30am to get to hospital appointments, and connect to other services.
- Support the rationalisation in the day but not rush hour.
- Community groups cannot fill in for regular bus service.
- The bus passes are used in other counties at all times.
- Lack of buses will damage local businesses.

It was agreed to canvas support and comments regarding the full proposal on the Town Council's website, in the Council's Information Point, on social media and in The Bulletin.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/overview.aspx>

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council asking that they put more funding into community transport and that they harmonise proposals with neighbouring authorities.

13 Chairman's Announcements (13-2016/17)

Town Clerk

A member raised the possibility of a Bye-Law being introduced

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regarding the use of drones on land owned by the Town Council.
RESOLVED that this be brought forward to the next Policy Finance
& Resources Committee.

14 Date of Next Meeting (14-2016/17)
Monday 27th June 2016