

# 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 16 November 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), T Cole, A M Hill, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow and S Sutton.

**In Attendance:** Cllr P Blaine, Cllr T Stock (CBC), Mr Chris Robson (Town Clerk) and Ms M Bracey (Minutes Clerk). Also in attendance 2 members of the public.

**The Chair requested a minutes silence in memory of Cllr Lionel Dray, who had died last week. Mr Dray had been a Town Councillor and also Chairman 1976/78.**

**He also requested that we remember those killed in France during the recent terrorist attack.**

## Action

**1 Apologies for absence (53-15/16)**

Cllrs G Leach and D Quick.

**2 Declarations of interest (54-15/16)**

Admin

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests – Cllr Cole as a user of the Ivel Sprinter to be discussed at Item 14.  
Cllr Aldis who is on the waiting list for an allotment to be discussed at Item 12.

**3 Minutes of previous meeting (55-15/16)**

Admin

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 5 October 2015 as a correct record of proceedings.

**4 Public Participation Session (56-15/16)**

None

**5 Action list (57-15/16)**

Town Clerk

A member stated that the Bus Turning Circle had been raised at the recent drop in day held by Pinnacle Ward members for residents. Discussions had taken place previously about using the turning circle at Sandy Upper School but the request had been refused. With a new Head and Chair of Governors in place the member wondered if this could change. Cllr Stock will investigate this.

The issue of the 73 bus was also raised and this needs to be

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kept on the agenda and highlighted as requiring urgent action.

Berwick Way Estate - a meeting has been arranged on 20 November 2015 and Cllr Hill will attend with the Town Clerk.

Beeston Green – Creation of Management Plan ongoing. Members requested the Town Clerk to chase up CBC about the possible Community Orchard project.

Berwick Way Amenity Area – CBC has replied that they would expect to see a commuted sum when land is adopted but there is no requirement for a specific amount.

## 6 **War Memorial (58-15/16)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk presented the Report. A member suggested that there could be a public subscription to sponsor a name. A request was made for a fixing for wreaths and also fixings on outer wall for placing of wooden crosses.

The proposed ramp for wheelchair and motorised scooter access may need to be at the rear of the memorial.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk get quotes and submit the pre grant application by 31 December 2015.

## 7 **Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (59-15/16)**

Cllr Hill

The Chairman presented the report and advised members that local community groups had been written to asking for their plans and suggestions. A suggestion was made that this should also go on the website.

The Chair informed members that Sandy Environmental Group plan to plant the garden area outside the Post Office with flowers and 'EIIR' in appropriate colours.

Members requested confirmation of the date of the celebrations and a member informed the Committee that the Carnival Committee had changed their date in order not to clash with the event.

A member suggested that the Christmas Lights Committee could take on the role of event organiser.

Cllr Hill said they would consider the idea.

## 8 **Circus in Sandy (60-15/16)**

Admin

The Town Clerk informed members that this circus is not the same one that had previously visited Sandy in 2013. The charge in 2013 was £500. Members suggested that it come in May or June 2016, dependent on the dates of the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and the Carnival.

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**RESOLVED** to give permission for the circus to come to Sandy and the charge to be £550 for two days and that they leave the ground as good as new and following advice from the grounds staff.

**The Chair advised members that he would take Agenda Item 12 next**

**12 Allotments (61-15/16)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk presented the report. He was asked about the fencing required and said that this was part of the lease agreement and to separate the area from private land.

**RESOLVED** to hold a workshop meeting on Monday 14 December 2015 with a professional horticulturalist, building upon advice previously received. A member asked if the Allotment Society were invited and it was said just members at this time but they would be encouraged to send in any comments they may have to feed into the informal meeting.

**9 Boots Camp Policy (62-15/16)**

Town Clerk

A member asked was this not the sort of leisure activity that Stevenage Leisure provide?

A member replied that these were very popular and if Stevenage Leisure are not providing what the community wants these activities will take place.

The member replied that perhaps these activities then should be provided through Stevenage Leisure who are engaged to provide leisure activities in Sandy.

The Town Clerk said that this was a separate thing as the Town Council are giving permission for these activities to use the land and the grounds staff have concerns regarding the ground over the winter months.

A member said that the last bullet point on the policy concerning charging was a bit vague.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Policy with the proviso of charging for the use of the land, starting at the beginning of the next financial year, 1 April 2016. £10 up to an hour and £10 per hour thereafter.

Agreed that the amended Policy should go to P F & R.

**10 Christmas Tree Festival 2015 (63-15/16)**

Admin

The Town Council has been offered a tree for this Festival with the provision of lights and also the setting up and taking down. The logo roundels used last year are still available. A member

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suggested that in addition there could be information on what the Council does or the roman heritage. The decorating time would be 5.30pm on the Friday 4 December.

**11 Cemetery Project Update (64-15/16)**

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk presented the Report. He informed members that the CBC brief, defining the work that will need to be carried out, will hopefully be available by the end of November beginning of December 2015. The Town Clerk has also contacted University archaeology departments.

**RESOLVED** that the Report is noted and the Town Clerk bring back the defining local authority brief with estimated costs to the next Committee meeting.

The Town Clerk continues to work with CBC Archaeology and potential funding bodies to assess whether any grants are available to the Council.

**13 Christmas lights switch on update (65-15/16)**

Town Clerk

Cllr Hill informed members that the switch on programme has now been agreed with a variety of activities throughout the afternoon. All the stalls have been sold and there is a meeting on Monday 23 November to finalise the day and a hope for a fine day.

Cllr Hill was asked if help was needed on the day and he said the more volunteers the quicker it gets done. He said the Town Clerk would be evaluating the day and there would be a meeting in January 2016 to discuss.

**14 Ivel Sprinter Local Volunteer Transport (66-15/16)**

Admin

Members agreed to the request to put Ivel Sprinter Bus timetables on Town Council notice boards and also suggested that they be put in bus shelters. A member said that bus shelters should be cleared of all posters not relevant to buses. A member stated that this is a halt and ride service available to everyone to use not just the elderly

It was also suggested that the timetable be put on the Council website and an article with the timetable in the bulletin.

It was requested that if possible large print timetables were also available.

**RESOLVED** to agree to the Ivel Bus Sprinter timetables being placed on the Town Council notice boards.

**15 Chairman's Items (67-15/16)**

The Chairman pointed out to members the display of

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photographs in the Chamber which were used to stimulate discussion at the Drop in Day recently held by Pinnacle Ward members. It was a very successful day and a member who had been present suggested that this could be opened up to the town. This could be held in the Chamber.

A member attended a meeting with a representative of the environment Agency and said that they were intent on pursuing their aim for re development of the Ivel. When key issues were mentioned they said that they would look at each issue on an individual basis.

He also added that they are not re stocking the Ivel with fish as they consider when the environment is improving the fish stock will improve.

There seems to be no planning for the effect of climate change and flash floods.

**16 Date of Next meeting: 4 January 2016**