

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 20 June 2016 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs Ali, Leach, Pettitt, Quick, Cllrs C Maudlin and P Smith (CBC)

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

A minute's silence was observed for Jo Cox MP and for Mrs Poppy Cope of Beeston, wife of a former Town Councillor, who recently passed away.

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (22-2016/17) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Leach, Pettitt and Quick.</p> <p>The Mayor explained that Cllr Ali was taking a leave of absence from council meetings, for business reasons, for two months.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations (23-2016/17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – Noneii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Aldis declared an interest in item 10 as his home overlooks Swan Lane.iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	Admin
<p>3 Public Participation Session (24-2016/17) A member of the public raised the question of hedges and trees overhanging footpaths. It was explained that footpaths were the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council and if he supplied the Clerk with areas of concern he would report it directly to the appropriate officer.</p> <p>A member asked whose responsibility it was to repair to the Market Square bus shelter. It was explained that the repairs were the Town Council's responsibility and that the renovation had been requested.</p>	Admin
<p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (25-2016/17) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 9 May 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings. (Cllr Hill stated that he had not</p>	Admin

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received a response from the RSPB to a letter sent as a result of discussions at the meeting).

5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (26-2016/17)

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

i) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committees held on Monday 16 May and Monday 6 June 2016.

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16 May 2016 and approve the **RECOMMENDATIONS** that;

- a) The Town Council would support the Sandy to Potton cycle way project.
- b) The Town Council's commitment to the Green Wheel project be confirmed and Cllrs N Aldis and D Sharman be appointed to sit on the Steering Group.
- c) It was **proposed** and **seconded** the **RECOMMENDATION** that the existing markets are wound up and special event markets are put on throughout the year be approved.

The Town Clerk read out an email from a Member of the public on the proposed closure of the market for Members' information. The Clerk informed Members that cancelling the regular market would not affect eligibility for funding from the Market Town Regeneration Fund, which covered improvements to high streets. The Mayor informed them the regular Friday charity stall located in the Market Square was not a part of the market and had a street trader's license and permission from a private landlord.

Cllr. Aldis proposed an **Amendment** to the recommendation that:

The Town Council will continue to support and encourage the weekly Friday and monthly Farmers' Markets as an important feature of a Market Town which will develop community cohesion and retail opportunities. It will also ensure that special market events are put on throughout the

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year. It will do this by promoting a “Free Market” with no fees or charges for traders / groups who, without a Street Trader’s License, would be unable to be present without the protection of market status. The Council will encourage community groups and local charities to be present by providing, without charge, a gazebo and table and assist with the erection of the former if that is required. To avoid excessive workload on the council workforce the group / charity will be expected to collect and return the items to the council offices on completion of the market. It will publicise to interested groups what is on offer and that they can create income or interest in their group’s activities by being present on a pre-booked basis. A maximum of two community groups or charities will be permitted at each market. This policy will be reviewed at each Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

The amendment was **seconded** by Cllr Sparrow.

Members discussed the recommendation and amendment commenting that:

- Members stressed they did not want to see the market close, but the town no longer realistically has a working market as only one stall attends on a regular basis.
- Offering a free market would not be fair on high street traders.
- The Council current plays £1,160 per annum in rates for the market and a rebate and future reduction could be achieved.
- Markets in all areas are struggling and closing, Sandy is not attracting the footfall traders need. Sandy Market offers one of the lowest rents in the area but traders are not attending.
- It is unlikely community groups could attend every Friday, meaning the market would still be depleted. It was noted a community stall could still set up in the town and borrow gazebos from the Council in line with the lending policy.
- A Member stated although community groups could still set up in the town they could not sell items.
- Another Member stated specialised markets could incorporate community stalls.
- A Member stated the markets were a key part of the community and should remain; many people used the

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- pie stall which does attend.
- CBC offer a free permit for charities which can be applied for online and would allow charity groups to continue to trade.

A recorded vote was requested on the amendment proposed by Cllr Aldis and seconded by Cllr. Sparrow.

For – Cllrs Aldis, Blaine, Sparrow
Against – Cllrs Hill, Jackson, Scott, P Sharman and Sutton
Abstained – Cllrs Cole, Osborne and D Sharman

The amendment was lost 5 – 3

It was **RESOLVED** the existing markets are wound up and special event markets are put on throughout the year.

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on Monday 23 May 2016.

iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on Monday 6 June 2016 and approve the **RECOMMENDATION** that the HR Sub-Committee be changed to the 'Clerks Management Committee' and comprise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of HR, with the Chair of HR acting as Committee Chairman.

6 Central Bedfordshire Police (27-2016/17)

The Mayor informed Members that Wayne Humberstone had been called out on operational duties and was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk was working with Mr. Humberstone to reschedule.

7 Financial Matters (28-2016/17)

- RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated).
- RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated).
- RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the year 2015/16 and authorise the Mayor to sign them on behalf of the Council.
- RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Return comprising the statement of accounts and the governance statement and authorise the Mayor and Clerk to sign them on behalf of the Council.

Admin

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8 **Action List (29-2016/17)**

The Clerk presented the Action List and updated members on the surgery relocation, stating he had received a response from NHS England about action being taken in Sandy and this item would be brought forward to the next Community Services & Environment Committee meeting.

He stated that the East-West Rail corridor information would be published in June as the HS2 project's involvement had reportedly delayed publication.

9 **Circus in Sandy (30-2016/17)**

RESOLVED to approve the amended fee of £50.00 per day for each performance.

Admin

10 **Swan Lane, Sandy (31-2016/17)**

Members discussed the concerns raised by residents regarding long term lorry parking on Swan Lane. Cllr Stock stated that Cllr Maudlin (CBC) was aware of the issues and was pursuing the matter. Members agreed to await the outcome of Cllr Maudlin's actions.

11 **Market Town Regeneration Match Fund Application (32-2016/17)**

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report. The Town Clerk informed Members that CBC Executive had approved funding for projects in Sandy and that he would be meeting with a CBC officer in the near future to prepare a business case and progress the application. **RESOLVED** that this item be noted.

12 **Community Plan (33-2016/17)**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk and noted that there had been two meetings of the Community Plan Steering Group and that a leaflet was being produced to go out in July's Bulletin to all households in Sandy to gauge opinion on future development and the results of CBC's 'Call for Sites'. Cllr Blaine thanked the Clerk for the notes of the meetings and the Mayor thanked the office staff for their involvement in getting the leaflet to print. The Mayor also mentioned that there would be an open event held at the Council Offices on Monday 1 August for members of the public to attend and speak to Members regarding future development and the Community Plan.

Members **RESOLVED** that the item be noted.

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13 Reports from Central Beds Councillors (34-2016/17)

Cllr Stock stated that there was a Town & Parish Conference on the 13 July discussing the local plan. Members agreed Cllrs Blaine and Hill would represent the Council at the conference with the Town Clerk.

Cllr Stock informed Members that road re-surfacing had started in Cottage Road and Pyms Way. It was noted that CBC councillors, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Clerk would meet regularly throughout the year to share information and help progress matters of importance.

14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies (35-2016/17)

- i) Sandy Sports and Leisure Association – Cllr Hill stated that the Town Council will need to consider becoming more involved in the future as a Custodian/Trustee. **RESOLVED** to note the report
- ii) Talk of the Town Bus – Cllr Hill reported that the service was operating well thanks to the hard work of the volunteers involved, including Julie and Ray Morrissey, and Cllr T Cole and Michael Groom who had secured grant funding for a new bus. **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- iii) 22 (Sandy) Squadron Air Cadets – Cllr Sutton stated that the Army, Air, Fire Cadets and the Guide Associations should be praised for their work in the community and that the number of cadets attending was good. Cllr S Sutton stated the ATC organization needed more uniformed volunteers. **RESOLVED** to note the report.

The Chairman took Agenda item 16 next in case any points mentioned required a news release.

16 Chairman's Items (36-2016/17)

The Chairman reported that the Carnival was well attended and he had helped judge the floats, presented prizes and rode in the procession. The Army and Air Cadets had both had new people join. The Nexus Band had had their final rehearsal for their competition in Barnsley, and although he had not heard the result, he hoped they had done well. The Chairman confirmed he would be opening the new Wood Green shop that had recently moved to Shannon Court.

The Chairman reminded Members that he would be holding a

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reception on 22 June and explained that his charities this year were Canine Partners who train puppies for people with disabilities and getting a defibrillator installed at Bedford Road recreation ground.

15 News Releases (37-2016/17)

Community Plan – Inform the public to watch out for the upcoming leaflet and that there will be a drop-in session on 1st August 2016.

17 Date of next Meeting (38-2016/17): Monday 1st August 2016