

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Monday 21st December 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllr T Knagg and N Thompson

In Attendance: Cllr M Pettitt, Mr C Robson (Clerk) and Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (59-2020/21)**
Apologies were received from Cllr T Knagg. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (60-2020/21)**
Cllr Aldis declared an interest in Item 6 as he is a Trustee of the Skatepark Charity.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (61-2020/21)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16th November 2020 as a correct record of proceedings with one amendment to Item 11(i) to record that the 'event' referred to is the Remembrance Sunday event. Admin
- 4 **Public Participation Session (62-2020/21)**
There were no questions from the public.
- 5 **Action List (63-2020/21)**
Members received the action list.

The action list was noted.

The Meadows Virtual Site Visit: Cllr Osborne wishes to be added to the list of attendees. Town Clerk
- 6 **Proposed Skate Park Funding (64-2020/21)**
Members received an update report from the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that £34,516.40 of Section 106 funding has been committed by CBC for this long-term project but a great deal more funding will need to be raised for a new skatepark facility. It will be a number of years before the project is completed and initial

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costs received suggest a new concrete skatepark will cost in the region of £150,000. At some stage a formal tendering process will have to be undertaken to bring a contractor onboard who can work with the council on design, consultation and costs to support fundraising efforts. Members considered the next steps in the project and whether a working group was needed at this stage.

A Member proposed and seconded that the recommendations with the report be approved.

A Member stated that they would like to sit on the group, the Chairman reminded the group that the working group and its membership would need to be approved at the next Full Council meeting.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that a Skatepark Working Group is set up to develop the proposed skatepark project. That this group report back to the Community Services & Environment Committee. That the group initially be formed of councillors with officer support but will be open to volunteers/public as the project develops.

That the Working Group develop a project plan, with a draft to be brought to the Committee's meeting on the 8th March 2021 in preparation for including within the Committee's 2021/22 action plan.

7 **Village Green Parking (65-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a report from the Clerk on parking issues reported on Beeston Village Green. It was noted that tracks over the Green have been getting wider over the years due to heavier use. Everton had a similar issue and installed square posts. A Member highlighted that 95% of the problems were from verge parking. Members considered several suggestions to stop this e.g. putting in fences, stones or posts along the edge of the Green.

A Member commented that the Green should not be enclosed as this would be against the principle of its open community use.

A Member stated that the Council needed to understand the extent of the problems and engage with residents/companies. It was questioned if consideration should be given to creating more parking areas.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the report be passed to the Beeston Working Group for further consideration and a definitive recommendation to be determined and put to Council.

8 **Damage to Council owned communal land (66-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a request from a resident regarding an area of Town Council owned land in Fallowfield. The area of grassed land had been damaged by vehicles moving between Dove Close and Fieldfare. Members agreed that the damage was unacceptable, and action should be taken to protect the land. Members preferred the planting of an evergreen hedge as opposed to permanent fencing but agreed some fencing would be needed to protect the hedging while it established itself. Hedging could form part of the Council's application to CBC's Tree Fund.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Members wished the Clerk to pursue work on obtaining costs on fencing and shrubs for this communal land.

Town Clerk

9 **Tree Planting (67-2020/21)**

Members received information on the Central Bedfordshire Council tree fund.

Members discussed various areas for tree planting, and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council work toward making an application to the tree fund prior to the deadline on 28th February 2021. That the Community Services & Environment Committee ask the Environmental Plan Working Group to consider the Tree Fund application in full, carry out a mapping exercise and develop a proposed application for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on the 25th January 2021. That the Environmental Plan Working Group's recommended application will need to cover all those points raised in section 3.1 of the report. That the Clerk contact all Members who are carrying out the pothole survey to ask that they include consideration on sites for trees at the same time.

Town Clerk

10 **Circus 2021 (68-2020/21)**

Members received an update on a proposed circus in Sandy in May 2021, following communication from the organiser.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to the Policy Finance & Resources Committee that the circus be permitted to operate from the Sunderland Road recreation ground for a week and that a discounted block charge of £200 for the entire visit for 2021 only be charged.

Town Clerk

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11 **Greensand Country Festival (69-2020/21)**

Members noted a communication from the 2021 Greensand Country Festival and felt this was positive for the area. The festival will run from 1st to 31st May 2021

Members discussed event ideas including a Green Wheel walk and a spring market in the town centre. These ideas to be passed to the Events Working Group to work on a plan for Spring events involving local groups.

Events
Working
Group

12 **Event Request (70-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a request to hold an event on Beeston Green.

The Pantaloons have requested to book the use of the same area of the Village Green to hold three productions in the summer of 2021 – 15th July – The Tempest (evening), 30th July – Pride & Prejudice (evening) and 21st August – The Wind in the Willows (matinee).

Admin

If COVID restrictions are lifted by July and the shows are able to have maximum attendance, they may need to consider additional parking as part of their plan. However, they initially intend to limit the number of tickets on sale (150 per show) so if social distancing is still required, they would not have too many attending to ensure guidance could still be followed.

The Pantaloons are proposing that the council receive 30% of the box office. The organisation will hire in portable toilets again and can manage the events themselves.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the request as outlined above.

13 **Chairman's Items (71-2020/21)**

There were no Chairman's items, but the Chairman wished everyone a safe time over the coming Christmas and New Year festivities.

14 **Date of next meeting (72 -2020/21)**

The date of the next Committee meeting is 25th January 2021.