

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 22 May 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs P Blaine, W Jackson and Cllr P Smith (CBC)

In attendance: Cllrs C Maudlin(CBC), T Stock (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and 3 members of the public

| | | Action |
|----------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence (1-2017/2018) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Blaine, Jackson and Cllr P Smith (CBC). The Chairman stated that Mr J Ali had resigned from the Town Council and that the closing date calling for an election to be held for a new member was Tuesday 23 May 2017. | Admin |
| 2 | Election of Town Mayor (2-2017/2018) RESOLVED to elect Cllr C Osborne as Mayor for the municipal year 2017/2018. | |
| 3 | Declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor (3-2017/2018) The declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor was made by Cllr Osborne. | |
| 4 | Election of Deputy Town Mayor (4-2017/2018) RESOLVED to elect Cllr M Scott as Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2017/2018. The declaration of acceptance of Deputy Town Mayor was signed by Cllr Scott. Councillor Osborne thanked Councillors and staff for their hard work over the last year and stated that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as Mayor of Sandy. Councillor Scott has been a dedicated deputy over the last year providing invaluable support. He thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to serve another year as Mayor and looked forward to another year working with Councillor Scott as Deputy. He also looked forward to making further inroads into the projects for the council this year, including the War Memorial refurbishment which was taking place this week. | |

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5 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (4-2017/2018)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* - None
- ii) *Non Pecuniary Interests* - Cllr Aldis declared an interest in Item 24 as he is Chairman of Sandy Good Neighbours.
- iii) *Dispensations* - None

Admin

6 Public Participation Session (5-2017/2018)

The Clerk had received five questions.

1. Cllr Aldis stated that Stagecoach's decision to withdraw their bus services on Sundays and Bank Holidays due to Central Bedfordshire Council withdrawing their funding would cause hardship to residents getting to Bedford. CBC Cllr Maudlin stated that CBC had been subsidising the bus company but had decided that the routes were not value for money. CBC were exploring putting the routes out to tender to see if they could be profitable. The Clerk was asked to write to Central Bedfordshire Council stating the Council was disappointed with their decision.
2. Cllr Pettitt raised the question of school consultations regarding Sandye Place Academy and Maple Tree Lower. An email will be sent to all members with a link for them to independently respond to the consultation.
3. CBC Cllr Stock wished to raise a question regarding the Beeston Green affordable housing application but would wait until Item 13.
4. Cllr Cole raised the question of holding a remembrance beacon event on the 11 November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. This would form part of a national act of remembrance. The Clerk stated that this item would go to a Community Services and Environment Committee and Cllr Sutton said that she would speak to the Royal British Legion to see if they would be interested in holding such an event.
5. Cllr Sparrow raised the question of recent van thefts in the town. Would the Council contact the police to enquire as to what they were doing about the thefts and to ask them to attend a council meeting? CBC Cllr Stock stated that she had attended a Community Priority meeting at

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Kempston Police HQ recently and had spoken to the area's PCSO's and they have said they do not see the thefts as a major problem as they did not receive many reports of such from the public. The Clerk was asked to write to the police and Councillors were encouraged to persuade residents to report on crime to the police.

7 **Code of Conduct (6-2017/18)**

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Code of Conduct.

8 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (7-2017/2018)**

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 10 April 2017 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

9 **Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (8-2017/2018)**

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 Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 24 April 2017.

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 8 May 2017.

It was proposed and seconded to **RESOLVE** to adopt the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 and authorise the Mayor and Clerk to sign them on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk gave a verbal update report on the Jenkins Pavilion Scoreboard. The scoreboard was damaged beyond repair and the shutter needed to be extended before a new scoreboard be fitted. Sandy Cricket Club had applied for a grant to fund a new scoreboard but had been unsuccessful due to the volume of applications. The shutter would cost £731 to extend the same and a new scoreboard would cost £2,000. It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the council repair the shutter as long as Sandy Cricket Club purchase a new scoreboard.

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- iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 24 April and 8 May 2017.

10 Financial Matters (9-2017/2018)

- 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 8 May 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 8 May 2017).

11 Annual Governance Statement (10-2017/2018)

The Annual Governance Statement was completed at the Meeting and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement and for the Mayor to sign it on behalf of the Council. It was also **RESOLVED** to invite the Internal Auditor to a Policy Finance & Resources meeting.

12 Annual Return – Accounting Statements (Section 2) and Final Accounts 2016-2017 (11-2017/2018)

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statement and for the Mayor to sign it on behalf of the Council.

13 Special Motion (12-2017/2018)

Cllr Hill spoke on the Special Motion and that the application for affordable homes was linked to the development of a community orchard and allotments in Beeston. This was a project the Town Council had been working on with CBC for a considerable time.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Council's objection to the planning application for 6 affordable houses be open for re-discussion.

A Member said that it was paramount that the application does not make matters affecting The Green worse by creating multiple crossings or eroding The Green any further. However, this should be emphasised when a Full Planning Application comes to Council.

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Presently the outline application is looking at the use of the land for affordable houses which the Council has previously supported.

A Member stated that the Development Scrutiny Committee had objected to the papers that were in front of them on the night and that the application was poorly written. The direction of the two houses closest to The Green had changed and could result in additional access ways across the Green to the front doors of the properties.

A Member added that the committee was also concerned about the tandem parking set up and the implications that might have for residents parking on the verges of The Green. The layout of the parking suggested on the outline plan will cause issues.

The Clerk informed Members that this was an outline application and was looking at the overarching view of whether the use of the land for six affordable houses was appropriate. At this stage, there were no details on the positions of doorways and whether the front or back of a house would be facing The Green. These details will be dealt with under Reserved Matters and will come back to Council as a Full Planning Application. The Clerk also informed Members that the direction of the two houses next to The Green had changed in line with the design guide and to keep the development in keeping with the street scene.

It was stated that the Council had always supported the use of the land for affordable housing as the need for six houses had been demonstrated by a 2015 study.

A CBC Ward Councillor said that it was important for the Town Council to keep the conversation going with CBC about our concerns. CBC don't want to put in a full planning application which the Town Council will turn down.

A Member stated that the planning application does not mention the orchard and allotments. It was noted that the application does make reference to the community orchard, but that this application focuses only on the affordable houses as the orchard/allotment land does not require planning permission.

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It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** (7-3) that the Council carry the proposed motion to reconsider the Council's objection to Planning Application CB/17/01600/OUT.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council supports the outline planning application because of the benefits provided from the community orchard and allotments, but that the Council express its concerns over possible egress on to The Green due to the layout of homes and tandem parking.

14 Central Bedfordshire Councillors Report (13-2017/2018)

Members had received a copy of CBC Council's briefing notes for Town and Parish Councils in advance of the meeting.

CBC Cllr Stock explained that the Bogus Telephone Preference Service is free.

The 'Just Ask' bus is in Sandy on the 15 September.

A member raised the question of potholes in the area and Cllr Stock said another velocity patcher machine has been purchased to improve the situation. The Mayor said that residents should be encouraged to report potholes on line as these can be tracked.

Cllr Stock informed members that funding had been secured for the Winchester/College Road area in Sandy and Aragon Housing would be match funding for new parking. Cllr Stock stated that CBC were carrying out a feasibility study with a view to improving the area and a consultation plan would be in Quince Court.

Cllr Mauldin reminded members that the Cheering Volunteering Awards event is being held in 6 June at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable and free tickets are available.

15 Committee Membership Elections (14-2017/2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Policy Finance & Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman and that the Chair be Cllr Scott.

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2. The Community Services & Environment Committee comprise of Cllrs P N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, T Knagg, G Leach, C Osborne, M Scott, J Sparrow, S Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Sutton.
3. The Development Scrutiny Committee comprise of Cllrs P Blaine, W Jackson, T Knagg, G Leach, M Pettitt, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow, S Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Pettitt.
4. The Human Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs P N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt, S Sutton and that the Chair be Cllr Hill.
5. The Grievance and Complaints Committee comprise of Cllrs P Blaine, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman and J Sparrow.

16 Working Groups (15-2017/2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to elect the following members to the Council's Working Groups.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cemetery Working Group | Cllr. W Jackson |
| | Cllr. M Pettitt |
| | Cllr. M Scott |
| | Cllr. D Sharman |
| | Cllr P Sharman |
| | Cllr. J Sparrow |
| | Cllr. S Sutton |
| Beeston Working Group | Cllr. M Hill |
| | Cllr. M Scott |
| | CBC Cllr. T Stock |
| Community Plan Working Group | Cllr. N Aldis |
| | Cllr. P Blaine |
| | Cllr. T Cole |
| | Cllr. M Hill |
| | Cllr. M Scott |
| | Cllr. J Sparrow |
| | Mayor |
| | Chair/Vice Chair of Development Scrutiny |
| Events Working Group | Cllr. N Aldis |
| | Cllr. M Hill |
| | Cllr. W Jackson |

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17 External Representation (16-2017-2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to elect the following members to serve as representatives on outside bodies.

| | | 2017/18 Representative |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | 22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee | Cllr. Sutton |
| 2 | Talk of the Town Transport Committee | Cllr. Hill |
| 3 | Village Hall Management Committee | Cllr. Sparrow |
| 4 | Sandy Twinning Association | Cllr. Pettitt |
| 5 | Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights | Cllr. Aldis Cllr. Hill Cllr. Jackson Cllr. P Sharman |
| 6 | Sandy Charities | Cllr. P Sharman (until May 2019) |
| 7 | Sandy Sports and Leisure Association | Cllr. Hill |
| 8 | Sandy Walkers are Welcome | Cllr. Leach Cllr. Jackson (Cllr. D Sharman sits on committee not representing the Council) |
| 9 | Sandy Carnival Committee | Cllr. Cole |
| 10 | Chamber of Trade | Cllr. Blaine |
| 11 | SG19 Road Safety Group | Cllr. Aldis |
| 12 | Sandy Community Children's Centre | Cllr. Leach |
| 13 | Sandy Green Wheel | Cllr. Aldis Cllr. Sharman |

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18 Standing Orders (17-2017-2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Standing Orders but to rectify the gender wording and to lower the tender procurement requirement value to £60,000.

19 Scheme of Delegations (18-2017-2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Scheme of Delegations subject to rectifying the amount that the Town Clerk is authorised to incur expenditure up to a maximum of £1,500.

20 Financial Regulations (19-2017-2018)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Regulations.

21 Action List (20-2017/2018)

Members received and noted the Action List.

Surgery Re-Location: The Clerk reported that he had been advised that the move would now be later than July due to ongoing negotiations with the NHS.

Road Investment Strategy A1: The Clerk reported that the Department of Transport had received the council's comments and these were being taken into consideration. Councillors will be invited to attend a meeting in the future.

22 Fallowfield Recreation Area (21-2017/2018)

The Clerk's report was received and considered and it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept Quote A and that the fencing is paid for from the Fallowfield budget.

23 Planning Applications (22-2017/2018)

- I) **CB/17/01326/OUT**: The application was received and considered and it was **RESOLVED** to make no objection and indeed to welcome the application as it is preferable to witnessing the long-term deterioration of the existing industrial buildings. Members are also mindful that this site scored highly on the recent CBC call for sites especially due to proximity to the railway station and hence this outline application is seen as inevitable.

However, and in considering this outline application Council Members expressed some concerns which it was hoped would be taken fully into account as and

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when a full application is made. The outline plans do not indicate a likely pedestrian access and egress to New Road. In its response to the last call for sites members of STC did express concerns around heritage and archaeology in view of previous finds at sites immediately to the south 20+ years ago and much more recently to the north when the Tesco store was built.

Finally, in considering the proposed scheme and in the context of the existing issues pertaining to Station Road / New Road as an increasingly busy route between Sandy and Potton and the A1 north and south members felt this application to be the catalyst for urgently revisiting the Local Area Transport Plan which highlighted a tranche of deficiencies not least the need for extensive resurfacing.

- II)** CB/17/02053/FULL: The application was received and considered and it was **RESOLVED** to make no objections.

24 Sandy Good Neighbours (23- 2017/2018)

Cllr Aldis left the room and the request was received and considered. It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the request be denied. Cllr Aldis returned to the meeting and asked that the second request be withdrawn.

25 Greensand Country Landscape Partnership – ROW Project (24-2017-2018).

The request was received and considered. It was proposed and seconded to **RESOLVE** that the Clerk writes to the Central Bedfordshire Council stating that the council supports the scheme but at the present time they have no resources to assist in the scheme. They also suggested that they link the scheme with the Green Wheel project.

Town Clerk

26 Community Plan (25-2017/18)

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

27 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (26-2017/2018)

- i) Cllr Hill's report on the NALC Conference at Farnborough was received and noted.
- ii) Cllr Hill's report on the Talk of the Town Minibus was received and noted.

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- iii) Cllr Pettitt's report on Sandy Twinning Association was received and noted. He went on to say that he had photographs of the event and he was presented with a paperweight and a book for the Mayor from the Mayor of Malaunay. He asked that perhaps a suitable location could be found to house all the twinning items that the council had received.

The Clerk stated that the council had received an invitation from the Polish Mayor to attend their annual carnival on the weekend of the 17 and 18 June for up to six guests. If anyone would like to attend only the flights would need to be paid for and let the Clerk know if interested.

28 News Releases (27-2017/2018)

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's re-election.

Admin

29 Chairman's Items (28-2017/2018)

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Hill on the birth of his new granddaughter and he also sent Council's condolences to Cllr Jackson and his family for their recent loss.

He stated that Jeffrey Henshaw had received the High Sheriff's award.

He had received a letter of thanks from Canine Partners for the Mayor's donation.

He also stated that the Defibrillator at Bedford Road Recreation Ground which was bought with funds from the Mayor's Charity and in conjunction with Bedfordshire Fire Service and Sandy Football Club would be fitted in June.

The Clerk stated that he had received an email from Mr Patterson regarding the poor state of the two Indian restaurants in Sandy. He had replied that the council had no enforcement powers to intervene.

30 Date of Next Meeting (29-2017/2018) Monday 26th June 2017