

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 23 September 2013 at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), C Butterfield, W Jackson, C Osborne (substitute for Cllr Sutton), M Runchman, R Smith and S Walsh,

Absent: Cllrs J Ali, K Lynch, A Maycock and S Sutton

In attendance: Cllrs Martin Pettitt, Michael Scott, Geoff White. Central Bedfordshire Cllr N Sheppard and two members of the public. The Town Clerk was also in attendance.

- 1 Apologies for absence (C19/2013-14)**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ali, Lynch, Maycock and Sutton.
- 2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (C20/2013-14)**
 - i) Declarable Pecuniary Interests –None
 - ii) Other Interests –None
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting (C21/2013-14)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 10 June 2013 as a correct record of proceedings.
- 4 Affordable Housing Presentation (C22/2013-14)**
Item withdrawn as Sandy not eligible for exemption site for affordable housing.
- 5 New Road (C23/2013-14)**
The committee considered a report from the Town Clerk which had previously been circulated and a proposal to apply to CBC for match funding for payment down the length of New Road as suggested in the Town Council minutes of 29 July 2013. The Town Clerk advised that the cost of a 2m wide footway was approximately £11,000 per hundred metres. Members discussed inclusion of the footway in future versions of the LAMP for Biggleswade and Sandy, noting that the impact of the recent Tesco development and the new housing planned for Station Road had already been included in consideration of the last LAMP refresh though the impact of a new waste recycling facility planned in the area had not been taken into consideration. It was acknowledged that a pavement might encourage pedestrians to cross the A1 at a dangerous point but it was also noted that pedestrians

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were already using the road without a pavement. The Town Clerk stressed that the council would only be eligible to apply for funding for the financial year 2015/16.

RESOLVED to seek further details of the cost of a pavement down New Road from the Highways Department of Central Bedfordshire Council.

6 Orchard Road (C24/2013-14)

Members considered a proposal to campaign for a Traffic Regulation Order to deter HGVs on Orchard road as suggested in the Town Council minutes of 29 July 2013. Members expressed concern about damage to the road surface, parking and the dangers of HGVs using this road on a regular basis. The Town Clerk drew attention to advice from Central Bedfordshire Council that a TRO could only be imposed when there was a suitable alternative route. Members commented that there were no suitable routes for HGVs beside Beeston Green or elsewhere in Beeston

RESOLVED to recommend to Town Council that it should campaign vigorously for the construction of an entrance and exit to the timber yard at Beeston via the A1 so that safety is improved in Orchard Road.

7 Trees at Bedford Road Recreation Ground (C25/2013-14)

A resident addressed the council about the maple and lime trees at the back of Albion Court. The resident advised that she and two others shared her concerns that the lime trees were rampant growers which needed frequent attention. The trees had grown dense and blocked sun and light and were very close to her house. It was important that the trees should not become overpowering leading to future problems. The height of the trees was a further concern. The resident had tried to raise this with STC and CBC before the purchase of her house. At that time the resident at no 14 Albion Court also wrote to both councils about the trees. The resident noted information from STC that the trees were not due to be pruned until 2015 but asked that they were pruned in spring 2014 to the same specification as in 2012. The resident was willing to make a financial contribution to the removal of branches from the tree which overhung her garden if necessary though stressed she did not speak for other residents.

A report from the Deputy Clerk detailing the background to the case, information about the Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) protecting the trees and a history of the pruning of the trees had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Members noted the existence of the TPOs on

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all trees in the conservation area of Sandy and discussed the report and the residents' concerns along with the advice of the Tree Officer from CBC.

RESOLVED that the trees in Bedford Road Recreation Ground continue to be monitored by the Town Council staff and that the planning section of Central Bedfordshire Council is contacted in 2015 to ask them to arrange for an inspection of the trees.

8 Sandy Enhancement Group (C26/2013-14)

The Chairman of Sandy Enhancement Group (SEG) advised members that the group requested permission to plant hedging alongside fencing in Bedford Road Recreation Ground. Issues of species, maintenance, location, surveillance of the play area and other concerns were discussed.

RESOLVED that permission would not be granted at this stage and SEG would be invited to produce more detailed information about the work they would like to do.

9 Street Naming (C27/2013-14)

The Town Council has been invited to suggest a street name for the new housing development at Station Road.

RESOLVED that the name "Centurion Walk" would be proposed in view of the Roman history of this area of Sandy.

10 One Way for East Road (C28/2013-14)

Cllr Aldis had put forward a proposal that the Town Council should campaign for a one way system on East Road and a report on the proposal had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Aldis reported that residents of East Road had been canvassed about their views, of six written responses five were in favour and one was against the proposed change. Members discussed in some detail the implications of such a scheme for residents in Longfield Road and Glebe Road as well as in East Road itself.

RESOLVED to take no further action to campaign for this change.

11 Street Lighting (C29/2013-14)

A report on maintenance of individual Sandy Town Council street lighting columns together with relevant quotations had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were discussed.

RESOLVED that the following actions would be authorised:

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| Column S5, Western Way | Column to be removed and not replaced |
| Jenkins Pavilion Car Park Lights | Manufacturer's warranty to be checked and 6 columns to be made safe to be switched off. |
| Column S1, Brook End Beeston | Column to be made safe and not replaced. |
| Column S3 East Road | Column not to be replaced. |

The costs for this work would be confirmed and met from the remaining lighting maintenance budget of £1,510 with any amount over this sum to be funded from reserves.

12 **S106 Arts Funding (C30/2013-14)**

Members noted correspondence from Cllr Sharman with suggestions about how arts funding from the recent Tesco S106 agreement could be committed. The Town Clerk noted this fell within the remit of the Community Services and Environment Committee not the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee where it had originally been considered.

RESOLVED that at the next Town Council meeting a task and finish group is formally elected to produce recommendations for use of the funding and the responsibility for use of S106 arts funding was confirmed as being within the remit of the Community Services and Environment Committee.

13 **Pride in Sandy**

The Chairman gave an oral report on arrangements for the forthcoming Pride In Sandy day scheduled for 27 September 2013 and organised by Central Bedfordshire Council with support from Sandy Town Council. A pre-meeting had been hosted by STC on 17 September 2013. Participants on the day included Aragon Housing, STC, CBC, Bedfordshire Police, British Transport Police, Youth Offending Service, Groundworks, BRCC and others. Councillors Aldis Jackson, Pettitt, Runchman and Walsh confirmed their planned attendance at the event.