

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 25 June 2018 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs G Leach and D Sharman, and CBC Cllrs C Maudlin and P Smith

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Cllr T Stock (CBC), and 7 members of the public

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (35-2018/2019) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs D Sharman and G Leach, and CBC Cllrs P Smith and C Maudlin.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (36-2018/2019) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	
<p>3 Public Participation Session (37-2018/2019) A Member of the public, Mr S Allen Chairman of SG19, spoke in relation to Agenda Item 9 and provided a written copy of his statement to the Clerk.</p> <p>Mr Allen expressed his disappointment with the recent meeting with DfT which was arranged by Alistair Burt. Mr Allen commented;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting seemed to be a 'damp squib' and has taken a long time in its planning. SG19 wrote to Mr Burt in October 2017 and received no response.• After some six months of waiting for a meeting, just six days' notice of the meeting was given.• Mr Allen stated that Mr Burt does not seem to be representing the interests of Sandy and Beeston, confirmed by the fact that he did not attend the arranged meeting himself and including neighbouring parishes. This may make some sense but takes focus away from Sandy's specific needs. Highways England (HE) have	

Sandy Town Council

made it very clear to SG19 that support from the MP is very important, but to his knowledge Mr Burt has never approached a relevant Minister during the last four years.

- Mr Burt is not effective in getting SG19 or Sandy Town Council's message across to government ministers or departments.
- At the meeting it was stated that the 1994 route no longer makes sense. Mr Allen questioned why this should be the case.
- Mr Allen asked why no mention of pollution was made following a report which showed Sandy was amongst the worst areas in the country.

The Chairman commented that he agreed with the concerns raised by Mr Allen.

A member of the public, Mr R Barlow, spoke on Agenda Item 10. Mr Barlow stated that as Councillors are aware, it is extremely difficult to get facilities such as allotments and museums without considerable investment. The only feasible way such facilities will become available is via sc106 and development. The applicant for the proposed development to the north of Sandy has worked with the Sandy Allotment Association to ensure allotment provision is included in the proposal.

Whether the Council support the proposed application or not, both the Sandy Historical Research Group and the Sandy and District Leisure Gardeners and Allotment Association ask that the Council urge CBC that if approval is given, this should be conditional on the town getting benefits.

Cllr N Aldis raised a question from a member of the public asking if the Council would be taking any action to improve the road outside the village hall. The Clerk informed Members that quotes had been received for repair work and that they would be taken to the Policy Finance & Resources committee for consideration.

Cllr M Pettitt raised a question from a member of the public about a poorly parked road sweeper on Swan Lane. Members

Sandy Town Council

agreed that the parking of the vehicle on a regular basis was an issue and was causing a hazard to other drivers. Cllr Stock informed Members that an enforcement officer had previously looked at parking issues on Swan Lane. If a vehicle is less than 7.5ft long, it is not illegal to park there.

Members agreed that this situation was different as the vehicle was parked dangerously close to a junction and the issue may be a Police matter. It was agreed to;

- 1) Write to the employer/company of the road sweeper to express the Council's concerns about inappropriate parking.
- 2) Cllr Stock would continue to push for parking restrictions.
- 3) The Council will encourage residents to report such incidents to the police.

4 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (38-2018/2019)**

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 21 May 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 4 June 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (39-2018/2019)**

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 receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 21 May 2018 and 11 June 2018.
- ii. **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on 4 June 2018.

It was noted that the recommendation to approve the 2017/18 accounts was to be dealt with at Item 12 of the agenda.

Sandy Town Council

It was agreed to place the recommendation that a scheme of landscaping and planting be used to prevent access to The Pinnacle field on hold following emergency measures taken to secure the site. It was agreed that the recommendation would be reconsidered by the Policy, Finance and Resources committee.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation that the Data Protection Policy be adopted by Council.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation that the Privacy Notice be adopted by Council.

- iii. **RESOLVED** to receive and note the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 11 June 2018.

6 Financial Matters (40-2018/2019)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to 30 April 2018 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 4 June 2018).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 4 June 2018).
- iii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 4 June 2018).

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (41-2018/2019)

Cllr Stock informed Members that local resident Mr Ken Lynch had been awarded the runner-up Lifetime Achievement Award at Central Bedfordshire Council's Cheering Volunteers awards.

A new email address has been created by CBC for the reporting of HGV issues, such as HGVs using restricted roads. Members of the public and Councillors can contact CBC at hgv@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk to report HGV issues. This follows a crack-down on HGVs breaching regulations.

Sandy Town Council

Cllr Stock informed Members that Aragon Housing have contributed to the funds available for improvement works around the Winchester Road estate. The works will concentrate on the creation of more parking areas. Progress is slow, but Aragon have begun work in removing some redundant garages to make way for new parking bays.

Ward Councillors are receiving an increasing number of complaints about commuter parking on roads near the train station. This is a daily issue for many residents and Cllr Stock would like the Town Council's support in pushing Highways to find a solution.

A Councillor commented that STC should support any efforts to improve the matter. Any scheme which may be proposed to tackle the parking issues should come to this Council for consideration. CBC needs to be careful that a solution to one problem doesn't create another by simply moving parking problems to other areas of the town.

A Member noted that Network Rail have withdrawn a proposal to sell land next to the train station, and perhaps this could be used for temporary parking. Cllr Stock confirmed that approaches had been made to Network Rail to try and set up a meeting.

A Member asked when CBC Customer Services would be moving into Sandy library and how often they would operate. Cllr Stock confirmed that they were due to begin on 7 July 2018 and would operate from Sandy 1 day a week. The pilot scheme in Shefford had worked well.

A Member raised ongoing concerns about the potholes on New Road and the lack of sufficient line marking on the Station Road roundabout. Cllr Stock confirmed that Ward Members would continue to chase CBC for action on both matters.

8 Action List (42-2018/2019)

Members noted the action list.

9 Department for Transport Meeting (43-2018/2019)

Members received and considered notes on a meeting with the Department of Transport which was attended by Council representatives.

Sandy Town Council

Members discussed the matter at length and commented that;

- The Council has been trying to get a meeting with Alistair Burt, MP and representatives from the DfT for over two years. The recent meeting was not what the Council had pushed for and it was extremely disappointing that the MP was not present.
- The Council has previously been told that addressing infrastructure issues on the A1 was a priority, the worst part of which is in Sandy. The recent meeting seems to suggest the A1 is no longer a priority for DfT. No progress appears to have been made since the last meeting with DfT in February 2016.
- Members noted that representatives from DfT had stated that improvements to the A1 or a new route for the A1 were dependent on increased housing numbers. Improvements to the A1 will be expensive and will need to be supported by increased development in this area.
- Members agreed with Mr Allen's comments and stated that the only way matters around the A1 will be progressed is with the help of the local MP. As a representative of Sandy he is the one figure who can voice our concerns and speak with the relevant decision makers.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Alistair Burt MP to explain the Council's concerns over the lack of progress on improvements to the A1. To request a meeting with Mr Burt as soon as possible.

Town Clerk

10 Planning Application submitted by Pidgeon Land Ltd (44-2018/2019)

Members received and considered the planning application for land to the north of Sunderland Road, Sandy.

RESOLVED to object to the proposed application of 228 houses to the north of Fallowfield on the following grounds;

Town Clerk

- Housing development to the north of Sandy would expand the town away from its centre, creating a disjointed and unco-ordinated community.

Sandy Town Council

- Housing development to the north will create a dormitory town with poor connectivity and relationship to the existing settlement.
- The road network to the north of the town and the A1 cannot handle the increased vehicle movement and congestion.
- Sunderland Road was always intended to be a barrier to further development to the north.
- This site was put forward during CBC's Call for Sites process (ALP320). The site was not allocated for development within the Local Plan. Ward Members for Sandy have already expressed that they will not be supporting the development for that reason.
- The 250 houses proposed are in excess of CBC's methodology for calculating an acceptable number of dwellings. The methodology was published in the Council's site assessment reports in 2017.
- The Local Plan identifies land north of Sandy as an important countryside gap (CG4). Proposed development would destroy the proposed Countryside Gap and lead to unsustainable development.
- The application is speculative and if approved this would open up the area to the west, north and east of the proposed site - a significant area of land which would accommodate considerably more houses. Furthermore, residential extension to the north in any size would not be 'logical', as the settlement would continue to move away from its centre.
- There are major infrastructure issues within and around Sandy that must be addressed before any development of this size could be considered acceptable.
- Emerging decisions on strategic infrastructure routes will have a significant effect on the area and if approved the proposed application could impact on future national infrastructure decisions about the A1 and East-West Rail.

Sandy Town Council

It was approved that Cllrs Blaine, Sutton or Hill would attend CBC's Planning meeting to speak on behalf of the Council's objection.

A Member expressed their support to the Sandy Allotment Association and Historical Research Group, who had asked that the Council push for allotment and museum provision as part of any upcoming development. Members agreed that they would continue to push for benefits to Sandy from any development that may be approved in the future.

11 Corporate Governance (45-2018/2019)

- i. Members received and considered the internal audit year-end report.
Council received the year-end internal audit report, noting that there were no issues raised by this audit. Staff were thanked for their work in achieving this.
- ii. Members received the Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return. **RESOLVED** to answer in the affirmative the following Corporate Governance questions in Section 1 of the 2017/18 Annual Return, and to sign this section:
 1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.
 2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measurements designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.
 3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.
 4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
 5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and took appropriate steps to manage those

Chairman/RFO

Sandy Town Council

risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audits.

8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.

12 Annual Return (46-2018/2019)

- i. **RESOLVED** to approve the 2017/18 annual accounts as prepared by the Council's accountant.
- ii. **RESOLVED** to approve and sign Section 2 of the 2017/18 Annual return.

Chairman/RFO

13 Annual Report (47-2018/2019)

Members received and considered a draft Annual Report for 2017/19. The following amendments were agreed;

Page 30 – Clarification on a full complement of Councillors following the elections in May 2019.

Page 38 – The cost of cleaning up The Pinnacle is to be included in the CSE committee report.

Page 40 – Include David Lamb's training seminar.

Section 106 is mentioned a few times. It should not be assumed that readers will know what section 106 is and an explanation should be provided.

RESOLVED to approve the annual report subject to the above-mentioned amendments.

Admin

A Member commented that as the Council are reviewing the last year it would be appropriate to record Councillors thanks to Cllr C Osborne for his efforts as Mayor during the year. The Chairman said he was happy to do so but reminded Members that this had already been done at the Annual Council meeting.

Sandy Town Council

The Council thanked Cllr Colin Osborne for his efforts in the role of Mayor over the last two years.

14 Sunderland Road Play Park Improvements (48-2018/2019)

Members considered the location of a replacement Sunderland Road play park. The working group had initially looked at relocating a new play park to the Berwick Way end of Sunderland Road.

Councillors had expressed some concerns about the relocation and as such, further quotes were sought for the removal of the existing equipment. The cost saved on having to install new fencing for a new play park will be able to cover the removal of the old play park.

Members noted that there was already CCTV in place at the existing location and that it is further away from homes. There is also a pathway network, village hall car park and lighting from the Jenkins.

RESOLVED to install the new equipment for Sunderland Road play park and that the new park be located in the same position as the existing park.

Members asked the timing of the replacement works be done after the school holidays and at a time to cause the least possible inconvenience.

15 Beeston Green Management Plan (49-2018/2019)

RESOLVED to adopt the Beeston Green Management Plan.

A Member noted that CBC's new HGV email address should be included.

A Member queried the access rights over the Green and whether this section should be expanded on. It was agreed that an exercise be carried out to establish which properties have access over The Green within their deeds or separate documentation evidencing approval of access.

Members referred to an exercise previously carried out by Mid Beds Council in formalising access. At the time a fee was charged to residents. It was agreed the Clerk would look into historical records from 2005 to find details relating to action

Town Clerk

Sandy Town Council

taken by Mid Beds. The matter is to come back to committee for consideration with all relevant information available.

16 Community Governance Review (50-2018/2019)

Members received and considered draft recommendations within the Community Governance Review.

Members discussed the proposed changes, which would mean a section of land within the parish of Sandy would now fall within Moggerhanger parish.

Members differed in opinion as to whether residents within the area in question felt as though they were part of Sandy or Moggerhanger. It was felt that the change tidied the boundary of the parish up, making the line between the two parishes clear.

RESOLVED to support the draft recommendations within the Community Governance review.

Admin

17 Crime and Policing (51-2018/2019)

- i. Members noted that there were no CCTV reported incidents in May 2018.
- ii. Members received and reviewed crime statistics for May 2018. The Clerk informed Members that more detailed information could be obtained from the bedfordshire.police.uk website. It would be a time-consuming job to bring this information to Council in a report format. The information would also be a couple of months in arrears due to the time it is made available from the Police. Members agreed that that no additional information is added to the crime reports, but that Councillors continue to receive the most recent information available at Full Council.

18 Reports from Representatives (52-2018/2019)

Members received a report from Cllr M Hill on the AGM of the SSLA. A Member asked whether the Town Council would receive copies of formalised annual accounts, and as trustee the Council should have access to these. The secretary of the SSLA confirmed that accounts are provided by accountants and a set for March 2018 will be provided.

A Member noted that the issues around the poor condition of the school changing rooms was ongoing. This has been an

Sandy Town Council

issue for some time and needs to be resolved. The original arrangement states that the upper school gets free use of the all-weather pitch in return for making its changing rooms available to Stevenage Leisure (SLL) users. Due to the state of the changing rooms this is not happening, and it is having an impact on the management of the Jenkins Pavilion by SLL. It was suggested that the free use of the pitch by the school be withdrawn until the matter is resolved. Members believed that CBC had committed money to the improvement of the school changing rooms and questioned why no action was been taken.

A Member stated that there were leases between the SSLA and other parties, including CBC and STC that need to be renewed soon. SSLA is working to get assurances from CBC that these leases will be renewed without any issues.

It was agreed that all parties need to meet to seek a solution to the matter. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk are to identify the relevant people and seek a meeting as soon as possible.

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Town Clerk

19 News Release (53-2018/2019)

It was agreed to write news releases on the Council's objection to the housing application to the north of Fallowfield and an update on the new play park equipment.

Admin

20 Chairman's Items (54-2018/2019)

The Chairman led Councillors in formally recording their best wishes to Cllr D Sharman.

The Chairman informed Members that he had issued letters to the Sandy Carnival Committee and the Beeston Open Gardens committee thanking them for putting on two wonderful events for Sandy.

The Mayor's first charity event will be held on 6 July 2018 in the Sandy Conservative club. The event is a quiz to which all are invited.

21 Date of Next Meeting (55-2018/2019) Monday 6 August 2018