

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, T Cole, W Jackson, T Knagg, G Leach, M Pettitt, M Scott (Deputy Mayor), P Sharman, S Sutton, N Thompson

Absent: Cllrs A M Hill, C Osborne, D Sharman, J Sparrow, C Maudlin (CBC) and P Smith (CBC)

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Cllr T Stock (CBC) and Ms C Poulton and Ms E Markquick (Greensand Country Landscape Partnership)

	Action
<p>1 Apologies for Absence (80-2017/2018) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr C Maudlin and P Smith (CBC), Cllrs Hill, Osborne, D Sharman and J Sparrow.</p>	Admin
<p>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations 81-2017/2018) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Sutton declared an interest in Item 5 as she is an RSPB Employee who are involved in the Greensands Partnership. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	
<p>3 Public Participation Session (82-2017/2018) There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.</p>	
<p>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (83-2017/2018) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 14th August 2017 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>5 Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (84-2017/2018) The Deputy Mayor welcomed Claire Poulton the Programme Manager and Eloise Markquick from Greensand Country Landscape Partnership to the meeting. Claire gave a presentation explaining that the partnership is made up of various organisations and covers an area from Gamlingay to Leighton Buzzard around 220 square kilometers. Their aim is</p>	

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“to preserve land for the future” which includes preserving historic parkland, landscapes character and habitat by setting up management plans to preserve living heathland, working woodlands, historic parks, community heritage. The Partnership will be working with private landowners and smaller groups within communities such as Robert Peel Lower School. Communities and landowners can apply for funding to create islands and corridors of habitat in between the main four habitats the partnership will be regenerating.

The Partnership will be providing training in woodland management and creating 3 geological trails in the area. Towns can also apply to have talks put on for residents about the project and the geology of the area. The Greensands Ridge walk is also to be extended and the interpretive text for the walk to be improved and republished. New cycle routes are to be created to link into national routes. The aim is to generate economic growth in towns close to the walk by linking them into the route.

The partnership plans to hold festivals in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to celebrate and get people interested in the Greensands landscape.

Councils can pledge to support the project by helping in any way they can. The Deputy Mayor thanked Claire for the presentation and said that the Town Council would revisit the project at a future meeting of Community Services and Environment.

6 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (85-2017/2018)

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 Human Resources held on 18th September 2017.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 14th August and 4th September 2017.

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- iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 4th September 2017.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Recommendation that a planning agent is engaged to assist in submitting a planning application to CBC for the installation of a covered community stand as part of the Market Town Match Fund regeneration works at an estimated cost of £580.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Recommendation not to sell Council owned amenity land at The Limes, Beeston following a request by a member of the public.

- iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 11th September 2017.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Recommendation that the Council purchase a Roberine F3 Triple Flail Mower for the maintenance of its grassed areas and that the quote form company A be recommended for acceptance at a cost of £27,500.

A Member enquired if the mower would be able to cut other areas of land in Sandy and the Clerk said that the Council were looking to assist CBC with the cutting of various areas in Sandy.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Recommendation that the Council consider its strategy for implementing and reviewing the Community Engagement policy at a Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting.

7 Financial Matters (86-2017/2018)

- 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 11th September 2017).

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- 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 11th September 2017).

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (87-2017/2018)

The briefing report was received and noted. Cllr Stock asked if anyone had any questions and a Member stated that some roads in Sandy had been filled in by the Velocity Patcher but others had not. Cllr Stock said that all the roads in Sandy would be looked at but if the holes were too shallow they could not be filled in. Cllr Stock reminded the meeting that the Town & Parish Conference was taking place on the 21st November 2017 and an agenda would be circulated soon. She also asked if anyone had attended the Just Ask Bus visit to Sandy last week and a Member said that he had but was disappointed because his questions could not be answered by the staff on the bus. She also said the road gullies would be cleaned in the near future.

9 Action List (88-2017/2018)

Members noted the action list. Cllr Stock said that she had attended a surgery held by Alistair Burt MP along with a representative of SG19, a group which she sits on. The Deputy Mayor queried why the Town Council had not been informed about the meeting in view of the work the Clerk was doing to organise a meeting with Mr Burt and the Department of Transport.

10 Sandy Sports & Leisure Association (89-2017/2018)

The Clerk's report was received and the Chairman asked that Cllr Pettitt go through the report and associated documents to ensure Members were fully briefed on the proposal.

Cllr Pettitt thanked the Clerk for the time taken to produce the report and Cllr Stock for liaising with Sandy Upper School. He then went on to brief the meeting on the draft constitution and management schedule. He said that at a meeting in October/November 2017 the SSLA would relinquish their role as Trustee and hand it over to the Town Council on the 1st December 2017 to be sole trustee. He said that a committee of nine would sit in May and November each year. Stevenage Leisure would carry on managing and maintaining the all-weather pitch for the foreseeable future and that the responsibilities of SLL and the SSLA were detailed in the

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management schedule. The SSLA holds enough funds to meet maintenance or refurbish costs for the pitch and there will be no financial implication for the Council.

The Council will need to appoint two members to the management committee for the SSLA once the change has gone through.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the RECOMMENDATION to approve the proposed amended SSLA constitution and that the Council become sole trustee of the Charity from the 1st December 2017.

11 Proposed Hospital Merger (90-2017/2018)

The letter from Central Bedfordshire Council's Chief Executive was received and noted. Members commented that nothing had come directly from the NHS and there had not been reference to the matter at recent talks on the STP changes.

12 Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (91-2017/2018)

The copy of Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Plan was received and considered. Members noted that the document included some important and useful information that the Council should review.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that this document be taken to Sandy Town Council's Local Plan Working Group to be discussed.

13 Crime Figures for Sandy (92-2017/2018)

The crime figures for Sandy for August were received.

The Town Council had sent questions to the Police Crime Commissioner who would be attending a closed meeting to be held on Monday 2nd October 2017 at the council offices.

14 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (93-2017/2018)

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

15 News Releases (94-2017/2018)

Presentation from the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership.

16 Chairman's Items (95-2017/2018)

The Deputy Mayor reported on items in the Mayor's absence.

Town Clerk

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Gunns Bakery is celebrating 50 years of business in the town and asked that the Town Council record its congratulations and a letter is sent.

The Fire Service held its Awards Ceremony evening two weeks ago and Sandy received a number of awards – Firefighter Vestry Barnum was awarded the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from HM’s Lord Lieutenant and the Service Cadet Challenge Award went to five cadets from Sandy Fire Station. The Town Council to record its congratulations and a letter be sent.

The HM’s Lord Lieutenant visited the Story in Stone Mosaic displays recently.

The Mayor’s Indian Lunch on Sunday 1st October is in danger of being cancelled as a result of a lack of support. Only two of the Town Council’s councillors have booked to attend. Last year this was the main fundraising event of the year and we will be letting down a business in Sandy which offered to support the Mayor’s Charities.

The Mayor asked that an agenda item be brought to a future meeting on what are councillors wanting the Mayor to do with reference to fundraising as this is not the first event to be cancelled in recent years.

The CCTV visit to Stevenage arranged for Wednesday the 18th October and Members are encouraged to attend.

**17 Date of Next Meeting (96-2017/2018)
Monday 6th November 2017**