

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 27 February 2017 at 7.30pm

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

**Absent:** Cllrs J Ali, W Jackson, M Scott (Deputy Mayor), Cllr C Maudlin (CBC)

**In attendance:** Cllr P Smith (CBC), Cllr T Stock (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Mr V Wan (CBC's Interim Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning), Dr J Graffy (Kings Road Surgery) and 9 members of the public

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Apologies for Absence (138-2016/2017)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Jackson, Scott and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.</p> <p>The Mayor called for one minute's silence in remembrance of Mr Jack Sapsworth (past High Sheriff), Mrs Scott (Cllr Scott's mother) and Mr J Siegler (CEO of Bedfordshire &amp; Luton Community Foundation) who had recently passed away.</p>	Admin
<p><b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (139-2016/2017)</b></p> <p>i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None</p> <p>ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Hill declared an interest in Items 8 &amp; 9 having being involved in discussions at Moggerhanger Lower School and Item 16 as President of Twinning Association. Cllr Osborne declared an interest in Items 8 &amp; 9 as his wife is Chair of Governors at St Swithun's School. Cllr Aldis declared an interest in Item 17 as a member of SHRG.</p> <p>iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None</p>	Admin
<p><b>3 Public Participation Session (140-2016/2017)</b> There were several questions and these would be raised at the items on the Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (141-2016/2017)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 13 February 2017 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	Admin

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## 5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (142-2016/2017)

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 Development Scrutiny Committee held on 30 January 2017.

**RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 20 February 2017.

Minutes dated 20 February 2017:

Item 6 i) and ii) it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council renew discussions with Central Beds Council regarding concerns over the Bartram's Timber site.

CLlr Stock stated that she had chased up the weight limit for Orchard Road and a weight restriction was to be put in place.

Item 3 – It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Development Scrutiny Committee be delegated executive powers to respond on the Council's behalf to an application for The Bell Public House to be listed as an "asset of community value" at its next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Community Services & Environment Committee held on 30 January 2017.

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy, Finance & Resources Committee held on 13 February 2017 and approve the **Recommendations** that:

The Council carry out the following changes to the Council's car park to support the Kings Road Surgery in its relocation to Shannon Court.

**RESOLVED** that a disabled bay be converted into an emergency vehicle (ambulance) bay.

**RESOLVED** that the current row of 3 disabled bays and 6 standards bays is converted into 1 ambulance bay, 4 disabled bays and 2 reserved doctor's spaces.

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**RESOLVED** that the cost of the work be shared 50/50 between the surgery and the Town Council.

Dr J. Graffy spoke on the matter and thanked the Council for its support. He queried whether the Council would consider amending the flow of the car park. Members agreed that a change to the flow of the car park should not be considered until the new surgery was in operation and the effects of its relocation could be fully observed and understood.

A Member queried whether the Council could enter into an agreement with The William Peel Public House to use land to the rear of the pub for overflow parking or parking for the doctors' surgery employees. A previous tenant of Shannon Court had such an arrangement.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Sir William Peel Public House and enquire about parking at the rear of the property as in the past and to acquire a cost for the removal of the concrete raised area in the existing car park.

Town Clerk

**RESOLVED** that the Council approve the cross hatch marking at the entrance to Shannon Court on the condition that the applicant covers the cost of the work.

**RESOLVED** to approve that cross hatching and 'Keep Clear' markings be painted in the area outside Ivel Funeral Services side entrance, subject to the applicant paying for the work to be carried out and that the area will not be used by the business to park vehicles.

It was **RESOLVED** that the approval of the minutes from the Extraordinary Human Resources Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2017 would be taken at the next full council meeting on Monday 10th April 2017.

## 6 Financial Matters (143-2016/2017)

- 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 13 February 2017).
- ii) **RESOLVED** to note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and

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scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 13 February 2017).

## **7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (144-2016/2017)**

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

Cllr Stock stated that the recent Town & Parish Council Conference on emergency planning was attended by three Sandy councillors and was a worthwhile meeting. The Members who attended the conference agreed.

Nominations for the Cheering Volunteers Awards need to be in by the 31 March 2017.

The Budget Consultation was approved (3% increase in social care and 1.5% general increase). A Member asked where the cuts were coming from? Cllr Stock explained that they were efficiencies not cuts and will advise on the specific figures.

Cllr Smith stated that the government had reduced housing subsidies and costs to councils. They were working smarter – sharing services with other councils to improve efficiencies and cut costs.

A Member stated that there was a lot of litter on the A1 and Cllr Smith would ask CBC about clearing the verges of litter.

Cllr Smith said that there was no further update on CBC's Local Plan following the Government's White Paper, however it was still CBC's aim to issue a final Local Plan by 2018. CBC is currently reviewing the White Paper and its implications for the plan.

A Member stated that the green waste stoppage over the last few months had caused a lot of fly-tipping and CBC should think again about stopping the service. Cllr Smith said that there is softer foliage during winter hence no collections.

## **8 Proposed Changes to School Tiers in Sandy (145-2016/2017)**

Mr Victor Wan updated the meeting on the proposals for the changes to school tiers in Sandy.

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The governing bodies of local schools had been out to consultation.

Moggerhanger Lower School – primary school – 2018

Robert Peel Lower School – primary school – September 2017

St Swithun’s Lower School – primary school – 2017/18

John Donne Lower School – primary school – 2017/18

Sandy Upper School – secondary school (extending age range for Year 7 in 2018)

Statutory consultations will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 regarding building work on sites (4 sites involved) and if favourable building work will commence in 2017/18.

Everton Lower School is a community school and requires executive approval to become a primary school which will be determined on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Laburnum and Maple Tree Lower Schools and Sandye Place Academy are not changing their age ranges. Parents to be informed as to whether their children go to primary or middle school.

A Member stated that the new proposals will not work, it’s not a coherent system. Mr Wan stated that academies decide how they move on, CBC cannot direct them they can only advise. He also said that CBC does not have the power to say two or three tier systems.

CBC Cllr Stock stated that all the schools were working together in Sandy and meeting regularly to decide how to work together. A paper would be issued in the next few weeks.

CBC Cllr Smith stated that the current system is broken and is drifting downwards, league tables are down and a three-tier system does not work.

A Member stated that the council supports a coherent and sensible approach.

A member of the public asked what the total number of respondents from each school to the consultation was? If the additional classrooms cannot be built on playing fields where will they be built? Mr Wan said he would send demographic results to the Clerk.

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## 9 **Publication of Statutory Notices – Robert Peel, St Swithun’s & John Donne Lower Schools (146-2016/2017)**

Members received details of a statutory consultation regarding the “proposed enlargement of the premises of the school” for St Swithun’s, Robert Peel and John Donne Lower Schools.

After discussion Members raised the following observations:

- There would be an increase in traffic at peak times at the schools.
- Sandye Place Academy should become a primary school and take the overspill without the need for enlarging other school premises.
- The council represents the town and should take a view.
- The council should be able to comment on the plans.
- Parents have had to decide this year without clear clarification and guidance from CBC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wan for attending the meeting.

## 10 **Central Bedfordshire Council Overview and Scrutiny Consultation (147-2016/2017)**

The consultation questionnaire was received and a Member proposed and it was **RESOLVED** that the council put forward three topics to be considered:

- i) Devolution of services.
- ii) Education in Sandy
- iii) NHS takeover of adult social care.

## 11 **Action List (148-2016/2017)**

Members received the Action List.

### **Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Outdoor Gym**

**Equipment** - Cllr Pettitt informed Members that he had not been able to progress the proposed Bedford Road Outdoor gym equipment as the member of the public involved had not returned his communication. It was agreed that this item be deleted.

**Surgery Re-location to Shannon Court** – The re-location of the surgery has now been scheduled for June 2017. It was agreed that this item be deleted.

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## **12 Proposed New Licensed Premises on Sandy High Street (149-2016/2017)**

A report from the Town Clerk was received and the Mayor thanked both the Clerk and Cllr Cole for compiling it.

Several members of the public had raised questions on the proposed new licensed premises and the Council was made aware of a petition objecting to the licence application.

The members of the public objected to the application on the following grounds:

- Anti-social behaviour due to alcohol and drugs
- Premises too small and wrong location
- Fire hazards
- Smokers forced onto a narrow footpath outside premises onto busy High Street
- Public nuisance to flat tenants – noise, vibration, lighting
- Increased Litter
- Future shopkeepers put off taking on premises on the High Street

After discussion Members stated that while they felt that the proposed business could be a positive benefit for Sandy, it is the location of the premises and the specifics of this building which raise most concern and ultimately makes the licence application unsuitable. The Council's objections to the application are summarised as follows:

### **1) The prevention of crime and disorder**

While the licence applicant may not be generally held responsible for the conduct of individuals once they leave the premises the Council do feel that it must be responsible if its setup which results in forcing patrons to congregate in an unsuitable location and increasing the potential for disorder.

The application does not identify any outdoor area where patrons would be able to smoke, in line with the smoke free law. If there were an area to the back of the building this would be inaccessible to patrons, as the only entrance/exit for patrons to use, as identified in the Change of Use application, leads on to the High Street. The pavement outside the premises is narrow and unsuitable for use as a smoking area due to the high volume of foot traffic that passes, including mobility scooters and push chairs. In addition, the road is the

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main road through Sandy and is constantly busy at all times of the day. The potential of having patrons standing on such a narrow pavement poses a risk to the patrons, pavement users and drivers.

## **2) Public Safety**

The safety of individuals on the premises will clearly be at risk if the licence is approved due to the size of the premises, floor space and the lack of sufficient fire exits.

There is no indication of maximum capacity in either the licensing or Change of Use application. If approved a maximum capacity must be applied and then enforced by the applicant. The Council questions how the applicant will do this.

There is only one exit indicated on the plan put forward by the applicant. This is wholly unsuitable and extremely dangerous in case of fire or emergency.

## **3) Prevention of Public Nuisance**

7 High Street Sandy is an older terraced building surrounded on both sides, and above, by other businesses and residences. The approval of a music licence will have a detrimental effect on the residents of the flat above and adjoining the premises. The building does not have sufficient sound proofing to support the application.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to object to the application.

The Chairman of Development Scrutiny stated that the change of use application would be on the agenda of the next Development Scrutiny meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

## **13 Crime Statistics January 2017 (150-2016/2017)**

The crime statistics were received and after discussion several points were raised.

A Member stated that they had seen a marked improvement in police presence over the last two weeks. Another Member commented that they had not seen any police presence at all and that crimes occur because of no police.

A Member stated that there were no driving offences listed, although speeding through the town was happening daily.



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A Member asked if the Clerk had received any feedback from the Police and Crime Commissioner, he had not and would chase this again. The visit to Hertfordshire Partnership regarding CCTV was making progress and the Clerk would email councillors to ascertain evening dates to attend.

Town Clerk

## 14 Harris's Fun Fair (151-2016/17)

The request to hold a Fun Fair on The Pinnacle Field from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 was considered and it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the request and to charge a fee of £125.00 per operational day (4 days).

Admin  
Team  
Leader

## 15 Risk Assessment Review (152-2016/2017)

The Risk Assessment was reviewed and it was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the assessment.

## 16 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (153-2016/2017)

i) Sandy Twinning Association – Cllr Pettitt's report was received and noted and he reported that the 18 September 2017 would be the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between Malaunay and Sandy. He would like to present a gift from the council to the Mayor of Malaunay. It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to purchase a gift with a budget of £100. Cllrs Hill and Pettitt to liaise with the Clerk.

Cllrs Hill,  
Pettitt/Town  
Clerk

ii) Healthwatch Meeting – Cllr Blaine's report was received and noted. The Clerk reported that he had received a communication setting out new dates in March for further meetings. Members discussed the report and expressed their concerns about any potential changes which would see Bedford Hospital downgraded or put at risk.

It was agreed that the Clerk submit the concerns of the council regarding the possible downgrading of Bedford Hospital by moving the Accident & Emergency Department and the maternity unit to Milton Keynes.

Town Clerk

*The Chairman noted that it was 10pm and as such the Council would need to suspend standing orders if it wished to continue.*

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*It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Standing orders were suspended.*

- iii) Sandy Carnival Committee - Cllr Cole's report was received and noted.
- iv) Report from a meeting with Alistair Burt MP on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – The report was received and noted and the Clerk stated that Mr Burt's office would send a complete record of the meeting in due course.

A Member who was present at the meeting informed the Council that the meeting had been shorter than intended due to Mr. Burt being delayed and residents of Potton arriving early for a meeting they scheduled. This was disappointing.

## **17 Proposed Town Councillors Surgery (154-2016/2017)**

It was agreed to hold a Councillors Surgery and display by the Sandy Historical Research Group on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 between 10am-1pm in the council offices. The Clerk to ascertain if any other councillors would wish to attend the surgery.

Town Clerk

## **18 News Releases (155-2016/2017)**

The council's objection to any downgrading or closure of Bedford Hospital.

Town Clerk

## **19 Chairman's Items (156-2016/2017)**

The Chairman reminded Members of the Civic Service being held on the 2nd April 2017 at St Swithun's Church and to confirm their attendance if they had not already done so.

There would be a visit to the Army Cadets HQ on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 and Members would be contacted to advise of their attendance.

The Chairman would be taking part in the Sandy 10 Race on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and would welcome any donations of sponsorship.

## **20 Date of Next Meeting (157-2016/2017) Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.