

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 27 January 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm

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

Absent: Cllrs J Ali and K Lynch

In attendance: Town Clerk and two members of the public.

Apologies for absence (46-13/14)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Lynch and Cllr Ali.

Declarations of interest (47-13/14)

- i) Declarable Pecuniary Interests - None
- ii) Personal Interests – Cllr Butterfield drew attention to his status as a tenant of Aragon Housing Association, Cllr Aldis drew attention to his status as Chairman of Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights and Chairman of SHRG

Minutes of previous meeting(48-13/14)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 16 December 2014 as a correct record of proceedings.

Members noted that this committee had not received a formal report following the meeting of the Deputy Mayor and Cllr Osborne with Sandy Bowling Club (although the matter had been reported to Town Council) and asked for this item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action

Clerk

Town Council Gazebos(49-13/14)

A briefing note on potential arrangements for the use/hire of Town Council gazebos by community groups had been circulated in advance of the meeting and this was noted and discussed with additional input from the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Group which had met and discussed this matter on 23 January. In principle it was agreed that the gazebos would be hired to community groups only and not to private individuals, that a deposit would be charged for each instance of hire and a hire charge would also be made, scales yet to be agreed. It was agreed that appropriate risk assessments and specific terms and conditions of hire were needed. Storage of the equipment was discussed.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to provide a set of detailed

Clerk

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proposed arrangements encompassing these general principles for further consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the committee would give consideration to the use of the council's storage facilities at the Banks Pavilion with a view to formalizing storage agreements with local groups. A site visit would be arranged for Cllrs Aldis, Osborne and Runchman and photographs of the storage facilities would be provided at the next meeting.

Deputy
Clerk,
Cllrs
Aldis,
Osborne,
Runch-
man &
Town
Clerk

Aragon Estate/Engayne Avenue(50-13/14)

Cllr Aldis reported that he had attended a meeting with Bob Hopkins, Assistant Director at Aragon Housing and with CBC Cllr Naomi Sheppard and a representative of Amey. The focus of the meeting had been parking issues in the Aragon estate in Sandy and the consequences of parking problems in terms of neighbour disputes, security, safety etc. Amey had introduced bollards to prevent parking on grass. It had been agreed that the raised brick beds in the estate could be reduced to ease parking problems and Aragon would pay for the removal of the beds provided Amey would perform the necessary works to bring the area up to highway standard. Amey had not yet agreed to fund this work.

Cllr Aldis

On the wider issue of a meeting to discuss general issues in the Aragon estate Cllr Aldis was continuing efforts to arrange a multi-agency meeting to explore the issues raised in a report to this committee at a meeting on 4 November 2014 and members would be notified when this was arranged.

Cllr Aldis

Community Orchard(51-13/14)

A report on progress with the Sandy Community Orchard project at Beeston was tabled and discussed. (Copy in minute book.) Members were keen for outstanding information to be provided to the Town Council by CBC and for further progress to be made as soon as possible.

Admin

RESOLVED to note the report and to ask the Clerk to expedite matters as far as practical.

Clerk

Christmas Lights(52-13/14)

Financial information about the expenditure and income on the Christmas Lights had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk noted that not all invoices had yet been received for the illuminations but the final total would be under budget. The income and expenditure for the community switch on event to support the Lights had been £6,197 and £6,119 respectively representing a break-even position which was better than anticipated in the original budget.

Cllr Aldis reported that there had been Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

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Meetings on Thursday 18th December 2013 and Thursday 23rd January 2014 and the group had discussed all aspects of the event and the learning which had come from it. Feedback from the community had been very positive although many were disappointed by the tree. The crowd size for the switch on event had been bigger than anticipated and it was expected that crowd safety barriers would be needed in future. This reflected the success of the event in the previous year and the benefit of good weather. Two fundraising events were planned by the Lights Group, an Indian meal at the Maharajah on 25 March 2014 and a Chinese meal at the China Express in September 2014 date to be confirmed. Members of the group stressed that they hoped to have more involvement from councillors who had not participated in the lights events in future.

The proposed switch on date for 2014 was Sunday 30 November and participants would be notified as soon as this was approved. Members noted the group's dissatisfaction with one of the contractors used for the community event had been exceptionally and unacceptably rude to the Mayor and Council Officers and that the use of alternative contractors would be explored.

RESOLVED to note the report and to approve and publicise the switch on date of Sunday 30 November.

Fallowfield(53-13/14)

The Town Clerk reported that pressure of work in the office had meant that a comprehensive and detailed report on areas managed by the Town Council in Fallowfield was not yet available although a summary report had been circulated by the Deputy Town Clerk in advance of the meeting. The report contained information about Maple Tree School's response to the proposed changes at Fallowfield Open Space and members discussed the school's concerns that changes to the fencing might lead to damage to school property. The school had also asked whether the Town Council would be willing to meet the costs of damage caused by users of the Public Open Space and whether CCTV might be installed in the area.

At this point Cllr Aldis drew attention to his status as a Governor of Maple Tree School. Members had sympathy with the school's position but felt that the proposed changes would not necessarily increase the likelihood of antisocial and/or criminal behaviour. It was felt more dialogue with the school would be beneficial and the possibility of installing CCTV would be considered in the current review of CCTV. It was noted that Council already had a resolved position on the removal of the fences and no changes were proposed. Further discussion followed and the importance of communicating with the residents of Fallowfield was stressed.

The Town Clerk advised that a detailed report on the work plans for Fallowfield would be provided as soon as workloads permitted.

Cemetery Extension/Former Allotment Site(54-13/14)

An update report on management of the former allotment site with details

Friends of
Sandy
Xmas
Lights/
Town
Clerk

Deputy
Town
Clerk

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of the next steps in undertaking the cemetery extension project was tabled at the meeting (copy in minute book). This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to obtain a timetable from CDS for consideration at a future meeting. Cllr Osborne noted the costings provided in the Town Clerk's report and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee that the appropriate virements were made to fund the necessary expenditure on security equipment.

Town Clerk/
PF&R

Adoption of Public Open Space at Berwick Way(55-13/14)

An update report from the Town Clerk on the adoption of land at Berwick Way/Sunderland Road previously approved by Sandy Town Council was tabled at the meeting and discussed (copy in minute book). The Clerk confirmed that negotiations with Taylor Wimpey's agent would continue but that the Council's solicitors had previously been advised to request an undertaking from Taylor Wimpey's solicitors that they would meet all future legal fees as approximately £3,000 had already been incurred in legal fees on this transaction which dated back to 2008.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED to note the report and the position regarding legal fees.