

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 28 November 2016 at 7.30pm

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

**Absent:** Cllr J Ali, Cllr C Maudlin (CBC), Cllr T Stock (CBC)

**In attendance:** Cllr P Smith (CBC), Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Mr P Barrows and Mr Simon Ford (Sandy Fire Service), Ms C Blake (Mosaics Project), Mr M Tipper and Mr P Wood (SSLA) and Mr P Bradley (RSPB).

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence (92-2016/2017)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ali and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.	Admin
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (93-2016/2017)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Osborne declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a member of his family is an employee of RSPB. Cllr Sutton declared a personal interest in Item 8 as she is an employee of RSPB. Cllr Pettitt declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is Secretary of SSLA. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None	Admin
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Participation Session (94-2016/2017)</b> Cllr Sparrow raised a question on behalf of a resident regarding drug use, playing football and general anti-social behaviour in the council car park in the evening. She asked if the council would look into what action might be taken and whether the CCTV cameras had caught any evidence of antisocial or criminal behaviour.  <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk contact the CCTV company to ascertain if the cameras with a view of the car park, had picked up evidence of antisocial or criminal behaviour.	Town Clerk
<b>4</b>	<b>Sandy Fire Service (95-2016/2017)</b> The Mayor introduced Paul Barrows and Simon Ford to the meeting and they gave a presentation on their recent fundraising events which raised in excess of £12,000. Councillors expressed	

# Sandy Town Council

their gratitude to the fire service for all they do and the amazing fundraising they had carried out. The Mayor thanked both gentlemen for attending and congratulated them on the awards they had received, which were well deserved.

## 5 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (96-2016/2017)**

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 24 October 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

## 6 **Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (97-2016/2017)**

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 7 and 21 November 2016.

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on 7 November 2016 and approve the **Recommendations** that:

- (a) **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports the Sandy Green Wheel initiative and contributes £2,000 for the next two years on the understanding that any s106 monies go towards this project.

Town Clerk

That this be added to the precept and that the Green Wheel group, with BRCC, produces an up to date assessment of the project for the Council.

Green Wheel Working Group

- (b) **RESOLVED** that the mobile camera be sited on the Fallowfield estate and that the Clerk write to the Police Crime Commissioner regarding CCTV and the lack of police presence to follow-up crimes in Sandy.

The Clerk informed Members that there would be a one-off cost of £180 to move the mobile CCTV camera and that a site visit would need to be arranged to secure a suitable location.

A Member queried whether the camera would have infa-red. The Clerk said he would ascertain if this was the case, but he doubted so. A member stated that most of the damage was caused in the daytime.

# Sandy Town Council

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on 21 November 2016 and approve the **Recommendations** that:

- (a) The Council amends the Co-option Policy to remove the requirement for candidates to get a proposer and seconder as part of the application. That the Policy wording be amended as proposed to clarify the co-option process.
- (b) The Town Council adopts the proposed Metal Detecting Policy with effect from 2 January 2017.

## **7 Financial Matters (98-2016/2017)**

- 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 21 November 2016).
- 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 21 November 2016).

## **8 RSPB (99-2016/2017)**

Peter Bradley – Senior Site Manager of RSPB – briefed the meeting on the proposed works to the deteriorating wall along the B1042. The RSPB would be submitting a pre-application to remove existing trees to enable them to sweep back the slopes and then re-plant with heather and trees. A post fence would replace the wall and the spoil would be used elsewhere on the reserve.

A Member raised the question of replacing the wall with bricks but the RSPB's engineers had stated that they could only use engineering bricks which would look out of place. Mr Bradley tabled illustrations of the new fence and surrounding area. Members were advised that the work would take place in the spring or autumn of 2017.

## **9 Story in Stone Mosaics Designs (100-2016/2017)**

Carolyn Blake updated the meeting on the project which was to be completed by March 2018. The artist's designs would be on

# Sandy Town Council

display to the public on Wednesday 30 November at Robert Peel Lower School in Sandy between 4pm and 8.30pm. Workshops were to be held in schools in January 2017. She expressed her thanks to the Clerk for his help and guidance in the project so far. Progress of the project can be found at [storyinstone.org.uk](http://storyinstone.org.uk). An agenda item on the feedback from the artist's designs would be put on the next Community Services & Environment Committee meeting. The Mayor thanked Carolyn Blake for her work.

## **10 Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (101-2016/2017)**

Cllr Pettitt briefed the meeting on the history of the SSLA and explained that as no Trustees could be found to carry on, they were asking the Council to become sole trustee of the SSLA. The current trustees believe that the Council is in a position to ensure the future of the SSLA continues and that the facilities it manages continue for the benefit of the residents of Sandy. Mr Tipper explained that the current trustees would not be 'walking away' and still wished to be involved in the future of the SSLA. However, the best way to guarantee that future was by the Council becoming a trustee. Cllr Pettitt stated that the Council becoming a trustee could help overall with the management of the Sunderland Road sports facilities.

A Member asked whether the Clerk felt the concerns of the Charity Commission could be adequately addressed if the Council were to become a trustee. The Clerk confirmed that he believed they could, as long as the SSLA was kept clearly separate from the Council. The SSLA would require its own management committee, which the Council would need to appoint. If the Council were to become trustee, no SSLA business should be discussed at Council meetings and the SSLA would need to continue in its current form with its own bank account. The Mayor would automatically become Chair of the trustees, however the management committee could appoint its own Chairman to deal with the management of the SSLA.

Members raised questions regarding the Upper School and Stevenage Leisure and how much extra work this may make for the Council. The Clerk said he would need to work with the SSLA to establish the details.

Any change to the current set up and appointment of trustees would need to be approved by the Charity Commission.

**RESOLVED** that the Council continues to work with the SSLA to

# Sandy Town Council

establish if the Charity Commission will grant permission for the Town Council to become sole trustee of the SSLA.

## **11 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (102-2016/2017)**

73 Bus - Cllr Smith reported that Stagecoach would be bringing the service back to Engayne Avenue from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December following completion of the turning circle; however they would no longer be operating the Friday and Saturday evening journeys.

Please report any complaints regarding this service to Cllr Smith.  
Local Plan – The first draft was being presented to Central Beds Council on Tuesday 29 November. He also thanked the Council for hosting CBC’s Consultation afternoon at the council offices. It was noted that the Sandy consultation was considered one of the best attended.

Foodwaste Collection/Grass Cutting - The food waste and grass cutting contracts are up for renewal in 2017. The quality of the current grass cutting contract is not considered to be good enough and it has been decided to bring a new contractor in for 2017. The present grass cutting contractor will not be re-applying.

Car Parking Strategy – A public consultation will be out soon regarding providing drop-off zones for any new schools built in the future.

## **12 Action List (103-2016/2017)**

Members received the Action List and the Clerk informed Members that Cllr Pettitt would report back to the next meeting on the progress of the proposed Bedford Road Outdoor gym equipment, after a meeting over the Christmas period with the person involved.

Cllr Pettitt

The Clerk informed Members that he had attended a meeting with CBC’s Chief Executive, Mr Richard Carr. The Clerk will produce notes of that meeting for Members information. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the setup of Sandy Town Council, its projects, concerns and ambitions. The Clerk discussed projects where CBC could help the Council move forward and addressed how joint working may be better achieved. The pressure on Sandy’s Health Care was also discussed and it was agreed that CBC’s Director of Social Care, Health & Housing would meet with the Clerk and representatives of the Council to discuss the issues facing Sandy and the future of health care. CBC’s management team was unable to provide any additional information on the proposed East-West Rail link, but recognised its significance for Sandy and its future.

Town Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

The Clerk reported that the Chairs of committees had met with Alistair Burt MP to convey the Council's concerns over the pressures on doctors' surgeries in Sandy. The Clerk informed Members he will produce and provide notes of the meeting for information.

Members present had detailed the Council's concerns regarding the issues facing Sandy's surgeries and the detrimental impact any future development would have on health care in Sandy. Mr Burt recognised the problems faced by Sandy and outlined the problem the NHS faced nationally due to low numbers of available GPs. It was recognised that both short term and long term solutions are needed and that there needs to be strategic thinking around the future of Sandy's health care provision and that of the region. There must be discussion on wider issues about where investment and resources go. The relocation of Kings Road Surgery could provide a short term solution for Sandy, but it is not a long term remedy and the NHS should be liaising with the Council. Mr Burt confirmed he would facilitate a meeting between representatives of Sandy Town Council and a senior primary care officer for the region to discuss the issues Sandy is facing and the future of health care in the town. Mr Burt pointed out it was important to have meetings with decision makers where possible. The future of Bedford Hospital was also discussed and Members stressed the importance of a fully equipped general hospital in Bedford for Sandy and the surrounding area, especially with the potential of a growing population. Mr Burt acknowledged the concerns and stated that he believed it was unlikely an announcement of any strategic kind relating to the hospital would happen until late spring 2017.

The future of Development in Sandy was also discussed, along with the impact of the East-West Rail link. Councillors had emphasised the Council's position that no decision on the future development of Sandy should be made until there is clarity on the East West Rail Link and the A1. Mr Burt sympathised with the Council's point of view and confirmed he would put this forward in representations to CBC, Network Rail and the Department of Transport.

The Mayor raised the question as to who should attend such meetings when they arose, as he and the Clerk needed some guidance on the Council chosen protocol. Members agreed that the current system worked and should not be changed. Chairmen and Vice Chairmen had been elected by Members to represent

# Sandy Town Council

the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and committee chairs/vice chairs would represent Council at meetings when there was limited attendance.

Mr Burt is holding a meeting in February 2017 for Town and Parish Councillors. If any Councillor would like to attend or put questions or agenda items forward, they should let the Clerk know.

Councillors

## 13 **Beeston Village Green (104-2016/2017)**

The draft of the Beeston Village Green Management Plan was received and noted. The Clerk briefed the meeting on the document and Cllr Hill explained that such a document was needed because things change over the years e.g. metal detecting, parking, grass cutting, and access over the Green. To manage such changes the Council needs to create a working document which can govern the management of the Green and record and address changes as they happen. The Clerk stated that if any Members have issues or suggestions on the management plan, to let him know.

## 14 **Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan (105-2016/2017)**

The Clerk's report was received and discussed by Members. It was noted that there was an error in the report and the comments for the 'Swaden' sites had been transposed.

It was proposed and seconded that the table of sites be amended to correct comments on the Swaden site and be accepted as the Council's position on the Call for Sites land.

A Member opposed the plan saying that the location of schools should be included and that the site assessment criteria were wrong and should be amended. An alternative evaluation was presented. It was proposed and seconded that an alternative site assessment be adopted. Members voted against the substantive proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that the table of sites be amended to correct comments on the Swaden site and be accepted as the Council's position on the Call for Sites land.

## 15 **Bench Mark Training (106-2016/2017)**

The Clerk's report was received and it was **RESOLVED** that the

# Sandy Town Council

Council contract People and Places to carry out the data gathering, analysis, town-on-town comparison and report production at a cost of £1,300.00.

## **16 Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies (107-2016/2017)**

i) The report from the Carnival Committee was received and noted. The Mayor thanked Cllr Cole for the report, which Members agreed was comprehensive and informative.

ii) The Chair of the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights committee reminded Members that the light switch on event was scheduled for the 4 December and asked for volunteers on the day to offer assistance between 8am and 6pm.

## **17 News Releases (108-2016/2017)**

To issue press releases regarding the relocation of the mobile camera, the introduction of the Council's metal detecting policy and steps being taken to address anti-social behaviour in the Council car park.

The Clerk to register the Council's concerns regarding the Biggleswade Chronicle declining local news articles in December and that as of January 2017, volunteers who send in local news will not be paid.

## **18 Chairman's Items (109-2016/2017)**

The Chairman reported on his mayoral events during the past few weeks highlighting the mayor's reception at the Massai concert on the 9 October, a certificate presented to the Taj Mahal for hosting the dinner on the 30 October, the Remembrance Day weekend events for our Polish visitors, the Fire Service Awards and the Sandy Upper School Awards evening. The Chairman reminded Members of the Mayor's Carol Service on the 17 December at St Swithun's Church at 7pm and a diary note for the Civic Service on 2 April 2017.

The Clerk reported that he had received two requests from circuses to come to Sandy next year and it was **RESOLVED** to invite both to attend.

## **19 Date of Next Meeting: 16 January 2017 (110-2016/2017)**