

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm

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

**Absent:** Cllrs P Blaine, A M Hill, T Knagg and N Thompson

**In attendance:** Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader) and Cllr P Smith and Cllr T Stock (CBC)

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence (134-2017/2018)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs P Blaine, A M Hill, T Knagg, N Thompson and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.  The Mayor gave Superintendent Boyle's apologies as he was unwell and could not attend. He would submit written answers to the questions the Clerk had sent. It is intended that Superintendent Boyle will attend a future meeting of Council.	Admin
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (135-2017/2018)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests</i> - None iii) <i>Dispensations</i> - None	
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Participation Session (136-2017/2018)</b> There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received prior to the meeting.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Crime and Policing (137-2017/2018)</b> i) Members received and noted the statistics from the CCTV control room covering Sandy.  ii) Members received and noted the latest crime figures for Sandy. A Member commented that not all the incidents were logged, and information does not report on the outcome of incidents. This matter was previously raised in a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.  iii) In the absence of Superintendent Boyle it was agreed that these and previous questions would be sent to him for clarification. Also the Council should support	Admin

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the Police Commissioner in her request for additional funding for Bedfordshire Police. The Clerk had sent a letter to the government in support and copies of the letter had been handed to other local councils for them to send in support.

## 5 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (138-2017/2018)

**RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 6 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (139-2017/2018)

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 receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. A Member stated that in the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the application for 5b Market Square, Sandy was called in. A CBC Councillor stated that it was not on the list for the next meeting and would check.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the Recommendation that the £3,080 income generated by the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights be rolled into earmarked reserves for the purpose of supporting future Christmas Lights Switch-On events.

The recommendation regarding the 2018/19 budget and precept approval will be dealt with in Item 10.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept that the Council adopt the Unauthorised

CBC Cllr Smith

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Encampment Policy and Procedure subject to the agreed amendments.

Members thanked the Clerk and staff for preparing the policy and procedure and for the restoration of The Pinnacle Field. The Clerk informed Members that a 'Frequently Asked Questions' guide on unauthorised encampments is being prepared and will be added to the website.

## 7 Financial Matters (140-2017/2018)

- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against the budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018).
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018).

## 8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (141-2017/2018)

Cllr Stock stated that the February Briefing Note for Councillors would be sent out tomorrow.

She reported that Bedfordshire Police had a new watch scheme co-ordinator, Juliette Donel.

She explained that she will be preparing a letter to the Highways Department for a consultation on parking restrictions for Willow Rise because of commuter parking. She will be delivering letters to residents of Willow Rise and will send a copy to the Clerk. She went on to say that various streets need parking restrictions but will not be included in this consultation. A Member stated that the Town Council is still awaiting the results of the parking survey carried out by CBC which Cllr Maudlin was asked to chase.

Cllr Maudlin

The upgrade of Winchester Road is still under negotiation between CBC and Aragon Housing, as it is costly to remove the planters.

Orchard Road, Beeston requires signage warning drivers not to enter The Green via Orchard Road. A local resident is keeping a

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log of all vehicles entering via Orchard Road. Highways England have said that street signage cannot be placed on the highway. There is a sign on The Green for HGV's to go out at the other end of The Green.

There will be a public viewing of CBC's Local Plan at the Orchard Centre, Biggleswade on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 and local councils can view between 2pm and 3pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Cllr Smith stated that CBC are pushing their website use and need support for residents to use it more. (My Bedfordshire). There is a grant funding scheme available to support residents in hospital to set up care at home to stop bed blocking. There is £10,000 available for travel to hospitals in the area. Bids are welcomed by the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. A Member stated that Sandy Good Neighbours already take residents to local hospitals.

Nominations are welcomed for "Cheering Volunteering 2018" with the closing date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.

CBC is again supporting The Great British Spring Clean and is encouraging local communities through town and parish councils to organise local litter picks. It is taking place between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The Clerk said that Lee Newton of CBC Assets stated that the draft Heads of Terms for the transfer of the Beeston land, should be with him by the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. That CBC would endeavour to provide parking and that the Town Council can be involved in discussions with potential developers during the tender process.

Cllr Smith stated that the final consultation regarding a 2 or 3 tier school system, will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **9 Action List (142-2017/2018)**

Members noted the action list and the Clerk informed the Council that he is still awaiting a confirmed date from Highways as to when car park line marking will be completed. The Clerk will pursue so arrangements can be made to make the least possible disruption to the car park.

The Clerk informed Members that Mr Burt M.P had met with the DoT and that notes of the meeting would be sent to the Clerk

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for distribution. Mr Burt is pursuing dates for a meeting between the DoT and Town and Parish Councils in the area.

The Clerk informed Members that at a meeting with Barclays Bank on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Councillors had put over a strong case for the bank changing its position. The petition was handed to the representative but it was confirmed the closure would be going ahead as scheduled.

## **10 2018/19 Budget and Precept (143-2017/2018)**

The Mayor briefed the meeting on the budget and precept papers and reminded Members that they had all had adequate time to peruse the papers. The budget papers had been to Policy Finance & Resources Committee several times, providing Members with the opportunity to comment and amend.

There had been no changes to the budget that was set out at Policy, Finance and Resources on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and it had not changed from the budget presented to Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Members received and discussed the recommendation from the Policy Finance & Resources Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 that the proposed 2018/19 budget of £562,607 be approved with a precept of £140.65 – an increase of 3.45% (an annual increase of £4.69 per Band D property) for the next financial year.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the proposed 2018/19 budget and precept be approved, and that the Council's thanks be recorded to all those involved in the process.

## **11 Internal Audit (144-2017/2018)**

Members received and considered a copy of the internal audit report.

The Clerk stated that the accountant would be asked to produce trade debtors and creditors summaries each month, as had been recommended by the internal auditors on page 41 of the report. A Member offered thanks to the Clerk and staff for their work in preparing the financial records.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Internal Auditors' report.

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## 12 Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (145-2017/2018)

CBC's Local Plan documentation was received and considered.

The Mayor went through the report and noted that Tempsford development was on hold; there was no development for Sandy and that there was a green gap between Sandy and northwards. This represented much of what the Town Council had called for. It appears CBC have taken onboard concerns over making any decision about development in and around Sandy while the future of the A1 and East West Rail Link remains unclear.

Members discussed the proposed gap north of Sandy and whether it would be sufficient. Members considered whether the Council needed to request that the gap was a certain distance as a sizeable gap was needed. A Member cautioned that the Council needed to be clear in what it was stating.

A Member expressed puzzlement over what the future of Sandy was going to be over the next 10 years. It was noted that the plan will be reviewed within 5 years and that at the point Tempsford and Sandy development might come forward.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to reiterate previous comments:

- Welcome no development until the future of the East West Rail Link and changes to the A1 are decided
- Acknowledge concern that a lack of development would mean there would be no funding to develop Sandy
- Welcome the countryside gap north of Sandy
- Question the sustainability of the government's approach to allocating unmet housing supply to neighbouring authorities.

## 13 The Pinnacle (146-2017/2018)

- i) Members received and considered a proposed renewal lease for the Pinnacle.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to agree to a lease for the first year with the option to terminate in September 2018 from 25 March 2019 and refer this item to Community Services & Environment Committee to be looked at in more detail.

Town Clerk

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- ii) Members received and considered a request for use of The Pinnacle Field by H Harris & Sons to hold its annual fair on the field.

Town Clerk

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to ask Henry Harris if he could move the date of the visit from April to later in the year because of the field being wet and causing further damage after the encampment at Christmas. The day fee was set at £130.

## 14 Car Park (147-2017/2018)

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which detailed the number of vacant parking spaces in the car park over a two week period. It was noted that the car park was full by 11am and Members felt options needed to be looked at to see how the situation might be improved.

It was noted that many users of the car park worked in Sandy and the Council should consult with business owners and employers as to their thoughts on changes to the parking system.

Members discussed the queues which formed at the barrier to the car park in the mornings. The Clerk confirmed there was signage there which asked people not to wait. It was agreed that opening the car park earlier could lead to increased use by commuters and that opening it later may increase queues due to more people arriving in Sandy for a 9am start.

A Member stated that the Council needs to start considering all alternative options, including charging and time limits. A previous Clerk had presented a detailed report on options available and this could be used as a basis.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that research is made into charging, zone parking, short-term parking, overnight parking and parking by residents.

Town Clerk

## 15 Councillor Surgeries (148-2017/2018)

A report was presented to Members detailing issues raised at the last Councillor surgery. The matters raised were either under the responsibility of CBC or related to the recent unauthorised encampment. Councillors present advised residents accordingly and updated them on the Council's development of an unauthorised encampment policy and procedure.

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A resident had complained about the lack of a crossing patrol officer at the St Swithun's school end of the High Street. Members were informed that CBC were in the process of recruiting someone for this position.

The next Councillor surgery will be on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

## **16 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies (149-2017/2018)**

- i) A report from the Mayor and Town Clerk on December's NALC conference was received and noted.
- ii) A report from Cllr Hill on a recent BATPC training event on appraisals was received and noted.
- iii) A report from Cllr M Hill on the Talk of the Town minibus was received and noted. A Member requested that the Talk of the Town was included on the Council's website under the Health & Wellbeing section.

Admin

## **17 News Releases (150-2017/2018)**

To issue a news release on Town Council budget and precept request.

Admin

## **18 Chairman's Items (151-2017/2018)**

The Mayor reminded Members of his dinner at The Gandhi restaurant on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and raffle prizes would be welcomed.

The final mosaics were due to be unveiled on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, but the date would be confirmed.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Civic Service would be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3pm at St Swithun's Church and invitations would be sent out in due course.

The Community Plan Working Group meeting would be on the 5<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm with the Community Boards presentation by Cllr Stock at 7.30pm.

At the end of the meeting a Member proposed birthday congratulations to Cllr Aldis, Cllr Leach and the Clerk this week.

## **19 Date of Next Meeting (152-2017/2018) Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**