

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 30 June 2014 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, J Ali, T Cole, M Groom, W Jackson (Town Mayor), C Osborne, M Scott, D Sharman (Deputy Mayor), R Smith and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs C Butterfield, M Pettitt, M Runchman and K Sharp

In attendance: 6 members of the public, Central Bedfordshire Councillor C Maudlin, PCSO A Jeeves, Mr M Freeman, Customer Services Manager, Central Bedfordshire Highways, Ms D Hedley, Senior Youth Worker, Groundwork and the Town Clerk

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (47-2014/15)

The Mayor announced the resignation of Cllr S Walsh from Sandy Town Council with immediate effect, the reason given for the resignation was that working with the council no longer fitted with her personal profile.

Admin

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Butterfield, Pettitt, Runchman and Sharp.

Admin

Apologies for absence had also been received from CBC Cllr N Shephard.

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations (48-2014/15)

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – none declared
- ii) Non Disclosable Interests – Cllrs Aldis and Jackson drew attention to their roles as trustee of Sandy Skating & Youth Association 2000, Cllr Cole drew attention to her role as Secretary of Sandy Skating Association & Youth 2000
- iii) Dispensations – none requested

3 Public Participation Session (49-2014/15)

A member of the public spoke on behalf of a resident of Orchard Road Beeston who had that day witnessed 3 HGVs on Orchard Road pulling out onto A1 and blocking the A1 as they waited to perform their turn. As this was extremely dangerous in the view of the resident HGVs should be banned from using Orchard Road.

The Secretary of Sandy Allotment Association had submitted questions in advance of the meeting asking how many names were on the Town Council waiting list for allotments. Also had those people been notified

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that there was currently no site in parish and would Sandy Town Council co-operate in sending an Allotment Association newsletter to those on the list?

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had advised the Association that there were 106 names on the list, all names on the list had been advised that there was currently no site and the Town Council would co-operate in sending out a newsletter on behalf of the Association although the Association would be expected to contribute to costs.

A resident of Sandy had asked in advance of the meeting whether the Town Council would

a) liaise with Tempsford PC regarding the complaints expressed by a number of Sandy residents, to ensure these are included in monitoring figures?

b) request that the local planning authority, in considering the applicant's 'planning and mitigation report' (due 30 June 2014) consult with the Environment Agency with regard to odour complaints, and point out that Sandy residents too have complained of offensive odours this year. (planning reference CB/13/02595/MW)

c) publish a brief article in the next Town Council magazine giving the Environment Agency Hotline (0800 807060) number should any resident be sufficiently affected by the odour to complain.

The Town Clerk noted that liaison with Tempsford was already happening and an article on how to complain to the EA had been published on the website earlier in the month. Cllr Maudlin noted that CBC considered this was not a planning enforcement matter but should be dealt with via the environmental health route.

A resident from Orchard Road raised his concerns regarding the lack of footpath on Orchard Road. He had already been in communication with Central Bedfordshire Highways and it had been suggested to him that Sandy Town Council could support an application to the CBC Rural Transport Match Fund in order to secure a pavement. The Clerk noted this request and advised that this matter would be on the agenda of the next Community Services and Environment committee meeting of Sandy Town Council, meanwhile steps would be taken to ensure that the Town Council did not lose the opportunity to apply by missing any deadlines. Two residents from the other end of Orchard Road asked firstly whether there could be a footpath on both sides of the road and secondly what could be done about a dip in the road near their house. The dip filled with water and froze in the winter causing an ice hazard.

Town
Clerk

4 **Highways Matters (50-2014/15)**

Mr Martin Freeman, Customer Services Manager, Bedfordshire Highways had attended the meeting to respond to local concerns about

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highways matters and he gave an outline of work to be done in Sandy during the current year. This included resurfacing part of New Road, resurfacing carriage way and footway in East Rd, footway works in off-street footways off Dapifer Drive (this latter work was already done but the quality was not good and the work would be improved). There would also be street light lantern replacements costing up to £150,000 and a small drainage scheme in St Neots Road for which £5,000 had been set aside. In addition work continued on the Potton to Sandy cycle route.

In response to residents' concerns Mr Freeman confirmed his view that a footpath on one side of Orchard Road was a suitable project for the Rural Transport Match Funding scheme, though he stressed that a footpath on both sides of the road would increase the cost of the project considerably. The A1 and traffic on it was the responsibility of the Highways Agency although CBC could give them input about conditions on Orchard Road which affected the way vehicles pulled out onto the A1. The dip outside 29 Orchard Road would be investigated. Mr Freeman was asked about the introduction of traffic calming measures and he stressed the importance of not over-urbanizing a rural setting. He noted that if the traffic coming out of the Beeston Timber yard development was greater than that permitted when planning was given any objections should be directed to CBC planning enforcement officers.

Cllr Osborne expressed concern about the dangerousness of inappropriate traffic in Beeston which had been caused by the granting of planning permission to Beeston Timber yard (which STC had opposed) and noted STC's resolved position to campaign for improvements to Orchard Road.

Members discussed problems with holes in road surfaces and footpath surfaces in Sandy and Cllr Groom expressed concern about recent accidents in Sandy caused by such hazards. CBC Cllr Maudlin and CBC Cllr Aldis had been working with Sandy's Amey Area Technician to prioritise the worse surfaces in Sandy and several STC members had assisted with the process. Mr Freeman emphasized that the local identification of priorities was useful but did not guarantee that work would be carried out in the near future. Highways were using a five year plan to schedule the work to be done. Cllr Aldis emphasized that all hazards should be reported to CBC as soon as they were identified. The Mayor thanked Mr Freeman for attending and he left the meeting.

5 Police Matters (51-2014/15)

A report on policing in Sandy during the preceding weeks had been

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circulated before the meeting and PCSO Ann Jeeves spoke to the report giving explanations for the various crime figures and types of crime. Members asked questions about crimes of violence against the person which had increased over the past few years. PCSO Jeeves explained this was chiefly due to changes in recording methods and the introduction of harassment legislation breaches of which fell into this category.

Good progress had been made with establishing the Speedwatch group in Sandy and the group was now identifying speeding motorists most recently on Sunderland Road which was a 30 mph limit though speeds of up to 53 mph had been recorded. The roads currently risk assessed for Speedwatch activity were the High Street, Sunderland Road, Bedford Road, St Neots Road and London Road.

RESOLVED to note the police report. The Mayor thanked PCSO Jeeves for attending and she left the meeting.

6 Minutes of previous meetings including recommendations therein (52-2014/15)

i) Community Services and Environment Committee

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee on 23 June 2014 and to consider recommendations therein.

a) Skate Park Project (016-14/15)

Diana Hedley, Senior Youth Worker from Groundwork spoke about the proposal which had been recommended by the committee and answered questions from Members who then discussed the proposal. The Town Mayor advised that the Skating Association had not committed to contributing to the feasibility study/consultation and therefore it was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the recommendation and the item would be considered again by the Community Services and Environment Committee on 4 August 2014. The Mayor thanked Ms Hedley for attending and she left the meeting.

b) Redevelopment of depot at Stratford Road (017-14/15)

Members discussed the recommendations of the committee in some detail and noted that the council did not have any financial information about any of these changes recommended and that the totality of the likely expenditure alongside the cemetery development project and the impact of change of use of space at Sunderland Road (currently committed to recreation) would need to be fully considered, explained and justified to the community. Therefore it was **RESOLVED** that a range of options should be fully costed to assist in the decision making process. It would also be important to consult with the staff team. It was **RESOLVED**

Town
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That the original depot working group which would undertake this work would be widened to include Cllrs Ali and Jackson as well as Cllr Pettitt, Scott and Aldis and the group would consider the depot redevelopment and the cemetery extension as a combined project. The group would set its own terms of reference and report these to the PF&R Committee and the CS&E Committee.

Cllrs Ali
Aldis
Jackson
Pettit
Scott

c) Sandy Enhancement Group (019-14/15)

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation that Sandy Enhancement Group became an independent community group which would be able to apply for funds for 2014-15 from the sum already budgeted by STC (should a specific project arise during the year). Thereafter SEG could apply for support via STC's usual community funding scheme.

d) Christmas Lights (020-14/15)

RESOLVED to note the report from the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights in particular noting the need for additional volunteers to help with the switch on event on 30 November 2014.

ii) Town Council

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 19 May 2014 as a correct record of proceedings

iii) Development Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 2 June 2014 and 23 June 2014

iv) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 2 June 2014 the recommendations within the minutes would be dealt with separately at item 7.

v) Human Resources Committee

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee on 16 June 2014. Aspects of the minutes were discussed and the Clerk was asked to include the matter of staff job satisfaction/reward on the next agenda of the HR Committee so that members could consider rewards other than financial rewards. The Mayor noted that he had in hand work to secure legal advice work arising from business discussed at the meeting.

Pension Arrangements (19-2014/15)

RESOLVED to approve participation in joint purchase of a template document from Pensions Adviser Mark Crutchley in the sum of £100.

7 Governance and Annual Return (53-2014/15)

Recommendations from the PF&R Meeting held on 6 June were

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- considered in detail and a draft review of the effectiveness of the council internal controls was also considered.
- i) **RESOLVED** to approve the final internal audit report for the year 2013/14 and the internal audit section of the annual return
Town Clerk
- ii) **RESOLVED** to approve the review the of effectiveness of the council's internal controls as written
Town Clerk
- iii) **RESOLVED** to approve the annual accounts and the accounting statement on the annual return
Town Clerk
- iv) **RESOLVED** to approve the statement of governance on the annual return and to ask the Clerk and Chairman to sign the return and submit it to the External Auditor with any necessary additional papers.
Town Clerk and Town Mayor
- 8 Financial matters (54-2014/15)**
- i) **RESOLVED** to note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
Town Clerk
- ii) **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments made for May 2014.
RESOLVED to confirm arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks for the year ahead as described by the Clerk in the report accompanying the agenda.
Town Clerk
- 9 Adoption of Public Open Space near Berwick Way (55-2014/15)**
- RESOLVED** to confirm the council's intention to adopt public open space near Berwick Way, Sandy in return from a commuted sum of £28,849.21 from building developer Taylor Wimpey and to authorise the Town Clerk to sign the necessary paperwork once all the maintenance issues had been resolved.
Members emphasised the importance of securing the land in as pristine a condition as possible.
Town Clerk
- 10 News Release (56-2014/15)**
- To issue news releases congratulating the Speedwatch Group and informing the community about the resignation of Cllr Walsh.
Town Clerk
- 11 Items for Information (57-2014/15)**
- The Town Mayor advised the council that on Saturday 6th September 2014 and on Friday 19th September he would be holding two coffee morning events to invite members of the public to attend the chamber and find out about becoming a councillor or to get to know existing councillors.
A Elliott-Flockhart
- 12 Election to HR Committee (58-2014/15)**
- In view of the resignation of Cllr Walsh it was noted that a vacancy had been created on the HR Committee.
RESOLVED to elect Cllr Groom to the vacant position.
Admin