

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 19 December 2016 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs T Cole, A M Hill, T Knagg, G Leach, M Scott, J Sparrow and S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllrs N Aldis, J Ali and C Osborne

In Attendance: Cllrs P Blaine, M Pettitt, D Sharman, P Sharman, Mr C Robson (Town Clerk) Mrs V McFarlane (Administrator), Ms C Blake and one member of the public.

Action

1 Apologies for absence (70-2016/17)

Cllrs Aldis, Ali, Osborne and CBC Cllr Maudlin.

2 Declarations of interest (71-2016/17)

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests – Cllr J Sparrow declared an interest in item 9 as one of the bus stops under consideration is close to her property.
- iii) Dispensations – None

3 Minutes of previous meeting (72-2016/17)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 7 November 2016 as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (73-2016/17)

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received.

5 Action list (74-2016/17)

Engayne Avenue Estate: Clearance work on Aragon owned areas of land had been carried out by the company and repair work to walls had been started. There is still some outstanding work, such as to unused garage lighting, which the Clerk will continue to pursue with Aragon.

Town Clerk

Bus Turning Circle and Service 73: The new 73 bus route, incorporating Engayne Avenue, had started on Sunday 4th December. A new bus shelter has been installed by CBC and this item can now come off the action list. The Clerk had received some

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reports that the buses were not using the turning circle and instead reversed into side streets to turn around. The Clerk will investigate the matter and report this to CBC and Stagecoach if appropriate.

Beeston Green Orchard/Allotment Project: The Clerk informed Members that CBC had advised him that various surveys, such as tree and ecology, had been carried out on the proposed allotment/orchard land. CBC are awaiting some reports back to support the planning application and it is anticipated that an application could be made within the first few weeks of the New Year. STC should get to view the application ahead of its submission.

A Member asked if the planning application was for the entire site. The Clerk confirmed this was the case and that the application will be for the 6 affordable houses and green recreation land, which in this case will be allotments and a community orchard.

The other items on the Action List were noted.

6 **Mosaics Project (75-2016/17)**

Members received the artist's designs and heard from Ms Carolyn Blake, the Project Manager. Members were informed that the public consultation event held on 30th November 2016 had gone well and there was positive feedback from councillors and residents of all three towns (Sandy, Potton and Biggleswade). The Sandy Historical Research Group had provided the artist with a lot of feedback which has resulted in some changes to the mosaics designs.

A Member noted that the turnips were due to be changed to onions and asked why. Members were informed that turnips had not been grown in Sandy at the time.

It was noted that Sandy is getting more than the original three mosaics and Members were informed this was because the size of the mosaics was reduced to allow for more of them. A Member asked what the dimensions of the mosaics would be. The mosaics are approximately 1cm deep and each varies in size. The square mosaics are 1m x 1m and the longer mosaics are 2m x 1m.

A Member asked whether the mosaics would be free standing or attached to a wall and how vandal proof they would be. The Project Manager informed Members that the mosaics would be attached to walls via a steel frame. This provided durability, longevity and allowed for the mosaics to be moved as required. The mosaics themselves are durable and clean easily.

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Members said they were looking forward to seeing the project starting and the development of the mosaics.

7 **Sandy War Memorial (76-2016/17)**

Members received and noted the report from the Town Clerk. Members were pleased that the application to get the War Memorial listed had been successful. The Clerk informed Members it would be February before he heard anything further on the funding application for restoration work.

The Chair asked if there was any more information available on the Memorials designer Reginal Blomfield. The Clerk stated that the office held some more information, but that it was limited. The Chair asked if the Sandy Historical Research Group could be contacted to ask if they held more information, so this could be more available by the Council. Val McFarlane agreed to carry out some initial historical research and contact the Sandy Historical Research Group for further support.

Admin

8 **Parking Restrictions (77-2016/17)**

Members received a brief report that detailed Cllr N Aldis's proposal that 1 hour parking restrictions be extended to additional areas in Sandy, specifically outside the Baptist Church and along Cambridge Road. That the implementation of these parking restrictions would free up more parking for shoppers and visitors to the town.

The Chair informed Members that the Baptist Church had indicated that they would not be in favour of the proposal. A representative of the Church commented that;

'Sandy Baptist Church is at the heart of our town and conducts many community activities and is used daily by various groups across the town. In addition the congregation meet there on a Sunday, for our Toddler Group on a Tuesday afternoon and on other intermittent occasions. By limiting the parking in this layby to 1 hour it would seriously restrict the public's use of our facilities as well as creating difficulties for ourselves.'

Members discussed the matter and commented as follows;

A Member stated that he supported the idea of increasing a parking restriction on to Cambridge Road, however only as far as the Council offices.

A lengthening of the 1 hour parking restriction outside St Swithuns

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Church may be more appropriate, as some businesses have commented that 1 hour is often not long enough for visitors to the town to use certain services.

That a restriction of 2 – 3 hours outside the Baptist Church may help the organisation rather than hinder it.

Concern was raised that if further 1 hour restrictions are brought in there will be a detrimental impact on other areas, particularly residential streets.

A Member commented that if there were to be any changes to car parking then CBC would need to carry out public consultation and that a lot of discussion would be generated. Therefore at this stage it is unnecessary to specify a time period or areas. Sandy is in need of a parking review and the Council should request that CBC consider carrying out such a review, including the appropriateness of 1 hour restrictions.

A Member stated they were concerned changes would place more pressure on an already overburdened town centre car park and asked what had triggered the proposed extension of restrictions, had they come from public requests.

The Chair commented that this was outside our remit as the responsibility and appropriate powers lay with CBC.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Town Council ask CBC to carry out a parking study for Sandy including the appropriateness of 1 hour restrictions and that the results come back to the Town Council for further consultation.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Central Bedfordshire Council to request that a parking study be carried out for Sandy Town Council and that the 1 hour parking restriction be considered within this study. That the Clerk contact the Baptist church to ask whether they felt any parking restrictions would help them.

9 Bus Shelters (78-2016/17)

Members received and discussed a report from the Town Clerk. The Clerk informed Members that CBC had been considering the Council's request for the installation of bus shelters at Fallowfield and St Neots Road. The shelter at Fallowfield, near the Co-op had been approved and the Clerk will meet with CBC's Public Transport Manager in January to discuss the site further. Shelters on St Neots Road are still under consideration and the Clerk's meeting with CBC

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will also cover stops on this road. CBC have recently carried out consultation with residents on installing a shelter further up St Neots Road on the southbound side. The Transport Manager has asked for Sandy Town Council's thoughts on this.

A Member asked whether there was any information available on how often people were using the bus stop, as it is not something that a Member of the public has ever raised with her. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had not received any requests for a shelter at this stop and that to his knowledge CBC did not have numbers available on the level of bus stop users. CBC had stated that they had received a number of requests over the years.

A Member asked about section 106 contributions for bus shelters. The Clerk confirmed that this was covering Real Time information for Sandy bus stops, including the bus stop in the market square.

Members stated that they would like more information from CBC on passenger numbers for the CBC proposed shelter on St Neots Road prior to making comments on the suitability of a shelter at this stop.

Town
Clerk

10 **Town Centre Data – Benchmarking (79-2016/17)**

Members noted that the bench marking data collection would be carried out in mid-January and the results would be reported back to the next committee meeting if they were ready in time.

11 **Christmas Lights Switch on Event Review (80-2016/17)**

The Clerk informed Members that a full report, including information on resources, costs and organisation would be coming to Council in the New Year, but that he wished to provide a brief verbal report on the day itself. The Clerk confirmed the event went well and that no negative feedback had been received or to his knowledge posted on social media sites. Stall holders had provided positive feedback and many had asked to be involved in next year's event. There was a good level of help on the day from the Scouts, Air Cadets and Councillors and the set up and packing away of the event went smoothly. There were lessons to be learnt for future years which will be elaborated on in the forthcoming report. A Member stated that he had also received positive feedback, including the lights.

12 **Chair's Items (81-2016/17)**

The Chair wished all members a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

13 **Date of Next Meeting (82-2016/17)**

30 January 2017

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