**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 29 October 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

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| **Present:** | Cllrs N Aldis, W Jackson (Chairman), A Maycock, C Osborne (substitute for Cllr Scott), Mrs M Runchman and Mrs S Walsh. |
| **Absent:** | Cllrs J Ali, K Lynch, M Scott, R Smith and Mrs S Sutton. |
| **Members in attendance:** | Cllr Pettitt  Three members of the public attended and the Deputy Town Clerk was also in attendance. |

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| **1** | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Lynch, Scott, Smith and Sutton. |
| **2** | **Declaration of interests**  Cllr Aldis declared his interests as shown on the published register of interests.  Cllr Walsh declared a personal interest in Item 4 as a supporter of Sandy Skatepark. |
| **3** | **Minutes of previous meeting**  **It was resolved:** to approve the minutes of meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 20 August 2012 as a correct record of proceedings. |
| **4** | **Skate Park**  A member of the public spoke to the Committee about the Skate Park.  A report from Officers was received and noted. Whilst the report was discussed a member thought that rather than Cllr Aldis and Cllr Lynch this should be Mr Aldis and Mr Lynch as they are not council representatives on the Skate Park Association.  Cllr Aldis advised that Mr Blaine would like to withdraw from being a trustee of Skate Park association. Cllr Aldis was asked if the association had any assets and Cllr Aldis advised that the association had no assets. Members discussed the Skate Park with the three members of the public present. Members discussed supporting replacement of the Skate Park and as previously mentioned at the Town Council meeting on the 23rd July 2012 a possible interest free loan, though the normal safeguards eg personal guarantees would need to be put in place.  Following much discussion **it was resolved**: (i) to confirm the Town Council’s agreed position and at the Town Council meeting on the 23rd July 2012 this was as follows to ask Central Bedfordshire Council to divert resources to offer other activities in Sandy during the summer holidays, following the removal of the skate park and that Cllr Maudlin contact the Deputy Town Clerk about who to contact about diverting resources to Sandy to offer other activities during the school holidays.  (ii) That no amount is included in the revenue budget for the next financial year as it is likely that any such expenditure would be from capital.  (iii) That the constitution of the Skate Park Association is clarified and designated roles within the Association are confirmed.  Three members of the public started to leave the meeting. |
| **5** | **A1 – Vegetation**  Cllr Aldis and then Cllrs Walsh spoke to the three members of the public whilst the meeting continued. The three members of the public then left the meeting during this item.  The two responses to previous correspondence received and considered at the Committee were noted. Members were disappointed that no work had been undertaken to the A1 – Vegetation.  After much discussion about vegetation and sight lines.  **It was resolved**: to write to the Highways Agency about the vegetation cutting along the A1 as the Committee had concerns about inadequate cutting of vegetation in the vicinity of the following locations New Road, Lime Avenue and Orchard Road. |
| **6** | **Riddy and Pinnacle Meeting**  Members discussed the Riddy and Pinnacle minutes and then **it was resolved**: (i) that the Town Council with the BRCC establish ownership of the land to the west of A1 on the opposite side of the river to the Riddy.  (ii) that the amount that the Town Council receive from the higher level stewardship is confirmed at the next Town Council meeting.  (iii) that the request for the Riddy management agreement for 2013/14 be increased by 3.5% from £5665 to £5863.25 be taken to Policy, Finance and Resources committee and then to Town Council as part of the estimates process.  (iv) that £500 the same as last year be put forward to the Estimates process for contingency for the Riddy.  (v) that £500 be put in to contingency for emergency tree works should some of the larger oaks die from Sudden Oak Death and need making safe for the Pinnacle be taken to the Estimates process.  (vi) that the annual budget for the Management Agreement of £3,200 remains the same for 2013/14 as it was in 2012/13 be taken to the Estimates process.  (vii) that the Riddy management agreement for 2013/14 be confirmed following the Town Council precept setting meeting. |
| **7** | **GLC Estate Report**  The report from Cllrs Aldis, Ali and Lunn was noted and discussed as was the report from the Town Clerk.  The Deputy Town Clerk advised members about conversation he had with Cllr Lynch on the afternoon of the 29th October 2012 about unemployed people carrying out work in the Engayne Avenue area of the town. Cllr Lynch advised the Deputy Town Clerk that he had arranged with Central Bedfordshire Council and Seetec (Sight, Enhancement, Education and Technology) for unemployed people to carry out maintenance in this area starting on the 5th November initially with two people, increasing by two people every week up to ten, the people have all been unemployed for at least six months.  Members were concerned about supervision, equipment, rubbish disposal, Health and Safety and whether Cllr Lynch had spoken to Aragon Housing Association. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that when speaking to Cllr Lynch that he had mentioned all of the members’ concerns to him. |
| **8** | **Town Council Communications**  The report from the Clerk was noted. Members discussed the report at length. Members raised concerns about the Bulletin and these included the following (1) that not everywhere in Sandy received the Bulletin every month, (2) that the Bulletin is delivered too late in the month, (3) that the Bulletin is named the Biggleswade Bulletin, (4) that the Sandy Town Council page is always after the Biggleswade Town Council page, (5) that the Bulletin is not a sufficiently high enough quality publication.  **It was resolved:** (i)that a new community engagement strategy is prepared for consideration at Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.  (ii) that the new website is eagerly awaited.  (iii) that the Committee welcome the Annual Bulletin.  (iv) that the Committee support the Sandy Tourism Guide.  (v) that a copy of the community engagement strategy is provided to all members.  (vi) to recommend to Council that the Committee do not feel it is appropriate to enter into Social Media. |
| **9** | **Sandy Enhancement Group**  The report from the Clerk was noted. Members discussed Sandy Enhancement Group, commenting that more members of the group are residents rather than members of the Council.  **It was resolved:** to refer the report to Sandy Enhancement Group for comment. |
| **10** | **Dog Fouling**  The report from the Clerk was noted and discussed.  The Deputy Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Town Clerk has advised him that a representative from Central Bedfordshire Council will be attending a future council meeting to discuss about dog fouling and dog wardening. Members said that they had never seen a dog warden in Sandy.  Members expressed concern about various areas for dog fouling and various other areas where dogs are seen not on leads. Members commented that one of the worst areas for dog fouling is Sandcast footpath which forms part of Bridleway 8, members were advised that a council meeting will be taking place to discuss Bridleway 8. Members discussed identify areas and signage.  Members discussed about the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act and the Deputy Town Clerk advised that a number of years ago that the Town Council had set up a working group with regard to enforcement of issues and these included dog related items.  **It was resolved:** (i) to confirm if a representative from Central Bedfordshire Council will be attending a future council meeting to discuss about dog fouling and dog wardening.  (ii) to issue a press release that the problem with dog fouling and dogs not on leads will be taken seriously.  (iii) that the information from the previous working group with regard to enforcement of issues and these included dog related items is taken to a future council meeting. |
| **11** | **Jenkins Pavilion and Sandy Sports and Leisure Centre**  The report from the Clerk was noted. Members were informed that a meeting will be taking place on Monday 5th November with representatives from Sandy Sports and Leisure Association, Sport England, Central Bedfordshire Council and the Town Clerk.  The Deputy Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Town Clerk has advised him that a further report will follow at the Policy, Finance Resources Committee meeting.  **It was resolved:** to defer the item until further information is available. |
| **12** | **Press Release**  **It was resolved:** That a press release is issued for the skate park and dog fouling. |
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