

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, S Doyle, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, M Pettitt, M Scott (Chair), P Sharman, and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs P Blaine, C Osborne and N Thompson

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk) and Mrs V McFarlane (Administrator). Three members of the public were present.

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (166-2019/2020)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs P Blaine, C Osborne and N Thompson and CBC Cllr S Ford.

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2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (167-2019/20)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – Cllrs Jackson and Scott declared an interest on agenda item 11 as members of Sandy & District Horticultural Association. Cllr Sutton declared an interest on agenda item 19 as a member of the local branch of the Royal British Legion.
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

3 Motion (168-2019/20)

A motion was Proposed by Cllr Aldis; and Seconded by Cllrs Doyle and Lock, that following the Government's announcement of additional funding for bus services and cycleways, this Council instructs the Clerk to write to Richard Fuller MP, the Transport Minister - the Right Honourable Grant Shapps MP, Richard Carr (Chief Executive) and Cllr James Jamieson (Leader) of Central Bedfordshire Council informing them that:

- a. There is a strong local need to re-instate the local bus service on Sundays and Bank Holidays between Sandy, Biggleswade, Bedford and intermediate villages.
- b. The National Cycle Route 12 needs to be completed between Sandy to Biggleswade with further extensions north and south of the respective towns.

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Cllr Aldis said that in some areas of the country, people can rely on a good quality bus service and don't need to use a car which is better for the environment, however in Sandy this is not the case and on a Sunday and all Bank Holidays, there are now no buses running which leads to isolation and deprivation particularly for the elderly and disabled in our community. Examples were given as to how this could impact on people's lives – a visit to the local hospital or engaging in activities run on a Sunday or Monday.

Cllr Doyle added that in her work with Sandy Good Neighbours, many people mention how the lack of buses impacts on socialisation and people with disabilities are sometimes unable to use other forms of transport, or cannot afford the use of a car.

There seems to have been little progress on Cycle Route 12 in the last 20 years, although some improvement across Biggleswade Common but still a lack of signage.

A Member supported the motion and stated that in most planning applications, sustainability of the use of the local bus service is quoted and this is not the case as it does not work in reality. Another Member added that 20 years ago he understood that the cycle route to Pottton would be completed but this has never materialised. An amendment to the motion was proposed to include the cycle route to Pottton. A CBC Councillor added that she would be happy to work with Cllr Aldis on this and the Leader of Central Beds Council was keen on increasing cycleways.

The amendment was accepted.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** to pass the motion.

4 **Public Participation Session (169-2019/20)**

Two members of the public – both residents on the Fallowfield estate, have previously contacted a Councillor around the issue of not allowing dogs to be let off their leads in the recreation ground. There is a large sign stating this and it is understood that there have been recent incidents of fines being issued by the Central Beds Council dog warden. Would the Council consider options – for example, having a timed session – maybe an hour in the morning after children have gone into school or have a fenced area for dog users thus not causing problems for other users of the park? The second member of the public added that they would appreciate a happy conclusion – of having an hour in the morning with dogs off

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leads but with the understanding that they are put on a lead if children appear.

The Clerk reminded Members that CBC had consulted on PSPO's

RESOLVED to put the issue on a future Community Services & Environment committee agenda.

These two members of the public left the room.

5 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (170-2019/20)**

RESOLVED to:

Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 20th January 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

6 **Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (171-2019/20)**

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 Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 27 January 2020.

RESOLVED that the Council order 500 re-printed Green Wheel maps/leaflets at a cost of £133 and that the costs of the purchase come from underspend in the Council's Nature Reserve management budget.

- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 27 January 2020 and 17 February 2020.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 17 December 2019.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 17 February 2020.

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Sandy Fire Station towards the costs of providing a refurbished area for a cadet room. It was noted that the granting of the award from the Community

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Grants budget will result in an overspend of £130 for the current financial year.

A representative of the Fire Cadets thanked Members for their generosity and left the room.

RESOLVED that the Council adopt the draft CCTV Policy.

RESOLVED that the Council adopt the draft CCTV Procedure subject to the amendment in section 8.1, and that the Scheme of Delegations be changed to allow a CCTV working group to meet the role set out in the procedure.

RESOLVED that the Council adopt the draft CCTV FAQ subject to the amendments detailed.

7 Financial Matters (172-2019/20)

- i) Members noted a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to January 2020 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17th February 2020).
- ii) Members noted a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17th February 2020).
- iii) Members noted a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17th February 2020).

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (173-2019/20)

CBC Councillors Maudlin and Stock were present and gave updates on various matters. The Cheering Volunteering event is to be held on 4th June this year and is always a great evening. Please do think about who could be nominated for their work in local charities and projects.

The take up for grants has been outstanding. Each Ward Councillor has access to £2,000 from which they can allocate grants for local projects. This has been running since October and 40 eligible applications have so far been received. The first Community Assets Grant Scheme bidding round closed on Friday 28th February having £182,000 available, and received 34 applications at a value of £450,

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876. These grants are designed to help organisations to access funding for projects of benefit to the community.

The Winchester Road area has recently secured a further £50,000 from CBC and £50,000 from Grand Union for work to be done which gives a total of £300,000 to date. Applications for work will have to go through Planning which hopefully the Town Council will support. Improvements will be phased due to cost and funding.

CBC are renewing their Leisure Strategy for the period 2019-2035. This looks at current provision and what is required in line with assumed population growth. This document is separate to the Options Appraisal work which Tony Keaveney was carrying out. However, there may be some points of overlap. The next stage of the Leisure Strategy is to develop a draft strategy document which will be released for consultation. Members raised concerns over the lack of apparent progress with Sandye Place and the Options Appraisal work undertaken. The Council anticipated to hear back from CBC in February but are now informed Mr Keaveney is no longer working on the project. There appears to have been little done to move things forward and the Clerk has not yet heard from Mr Coffait, Director of Community Services, as he was told he would. CBC Cllr Stock was not able to provide the Council with a timeframe but stated that due to the added complication of needing to liaise with the DfE a decision would not be forthcoming for some time.

CBC Cllr Maudlin's motion on spending unexpected NHB funding received by CBC on tree planting was agreed by CBC. It is early days, but Town and Parish Councils will be invited to get involved in identifying areas for planting.

CBC has a plan in place for the Coronavirus outbreak and is being updated daily. Cllr Stock will contact Marcel Coiffait to organise a tidy up of the Days Inn site. Cllr Stock will also chase an update on the crossing at Station Road.

9 Action List (174–2019/20)

Members received updates and noted the action list.

East West Rail link – Several Members indicated their intention to go to the EWR engagement event to be held on 13th March in Sandy. Other Members who were unable to make this date will be attending events in neighbouring towns. A Member suggested that Town Councillors look to hold exit surveys with attendees at the Sandy event. Cllr Sutton volunteered to organise a rota and set up a

Cllr
Sutton/

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questionnaire. The Clerk will seek permission from the event organisers.

A1 – The Mayor and Deputy Mayor met with MP Richard Fuller. A Member said that he had read that variable speed cameras were being installed at the end of March/beginning of April, but in other correspondence this had not been clarified. Cllr Stock said that the cameras are being updated to digital versions and will not be variable speed cameras.

Sandye Place Academy – no news forthcoming regarding SPA at the moment with the Clerk still awaiting further information from CBC's Mr Coiffait.

10 East West Rail (175–2019/20)

- i) Members received and noted correspondence previously circulated on the Government's announcement of the preferred East West Rail corridor.
- ii) Members received and noted communication from EWR on a series of engagement events, including an event to be held on the 13th March 2020 in Sandy Village Hall.

A Member stated that attending the other town's EWR meetings will give the Council more of an idea as to the detail of what is being planned.

The Clerk has received a copy letter from CBC Cllr Ford from the Department for Transport stating that 'the EWR project does not require any alterations to the existing Sandy station'. Cllr Ford will be following the matter up with further questions.

11 Sandy Show 2020 (176–2019/20)

Members received and noted communication from the organisers of the Sandy Show explaining why the show would not be running in 2020.

A Member stated that the Chair of the Horticultural Association will be happy to meet with Councillors to discuss.

Another member stated that it would be a good idea to keep some aspects of the show going by for example having competitions to be held in the Council chamber although a third Member stated that he would be hesitant to create more work for the office by doing this as we do not have the resources or expertise.

Maybe the simpler aspects of the show would not be too complicated, and a mini event could be still be something for the community.

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The Council's representative on the Sandy Carnival explained that some elements of the Show might be brought into the Carnival.

It was agreed that those Members interested would arrange to meet with Mr Havergal to understand what was involved in the show set up and what might be feasible.

Cllrs

12 Support for Additional Crossing in High Street (177-2019/20)

Members considered whether the Town Council would support efforts to seek the installation of a crossing on the High Street at the point near St Swithun's School.

Members received a letter from the SG19 Road Safety Group which welcomes any proposal to increase road safety and supports local residents' wishes. They welcome a crossing of some sort but also extending the hours of the Traffic Management Officer (Lollipop Lady) during term time – this is vital in light of the recent accident and negligible in terms of funding for CBC. The location of this proposed crossing however is dangerously near the junction of the High Street with St Swithun's Way and Ivel Road and traffic, including fire engines on emergency call outs, pulling out of these roads will accelerate and would immediately be confronted with the proposed crossing. The pavement here is also narrow and does not meet DforT guidance.

A crossing on the High Street had been supported by Council in the past and a Councillor said that it was also important to maintain the Traffic Management Officer in this location during school times. Despite the speed restrictions, the traffic still moves fast along this road.

It was Proposed and Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council write to Central Beds Council in support of a crossing on the High Street as well as highlighting the importance of keeping the current Traffic Management Officer in place.

Town Clerk

13 A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet (178-2019/20)

To receive a project update and note that the next Western Area Community Forum will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 7pm in Wyboston Village Hall.

Members noted that Cllrs Gibson and Blaine attended the first meeting, but Cllr Gibson was unable to attend the second. It was agreed that Cllrs Aldis and Blaine will attend the next meeting on 17th March and report back to Council.

Cllrs
Aldis/
Blaine

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14 End Business Rates on Public Toilets (179-2019/20)

Members received correspondence from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and noted the Clerk has responded to the survey.

15 Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (180-2019/20)

Members considered approving that the Council join the ICCM. Three members of the admin and outdoor team had recently attended a course on cemetery management, and it was noted that this course proved to be very useful in terms of understanding procedures which are being carried out correctly and those procedures that need updating moving forward.

RESOLVED that the Council join the ICCM for a 12-month budget period, noting that an overspend of £77 is incurred in the 2019/20 subscriptions budget.

Admin

16 Police and Crime Commissioner (181-2019/20)

Members received a summary of a meeting held with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 24th February 2020.

A Member thanked the Clerk for putting together a thorough report which effectively pulled out the main points covered during that meeting. It was noted that the next Police Priority Setting meeting will be on Wednesday 8th April and it is important Members attend.

A Member asked if we are leveraging all avenues and resources, as there are grants that can be applied for and we also need to be working more with community police officers as other Town Councils do. It was suggested that a group consider police interaction further and the matter goes on a future agenda.

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17 Councillor Surgeries (182-2019/20)

Members considered scheduling dates for further Councillor Surgeries. Members were happy for the Councillor surgeries to continue and the Mayor requested that Members email their availability to the Admin Team Leader for her to co-ordinate the rota. A Member asked if the June date could be altered to coincide with the Sandy Carnival, and another Member suggested that we have both and therefore arrange to have a Councillor stall at the Carnival as well.

Councillor Aldis requested that the office check the October date as he thought this had been booked in to coincide with another function to be held in the Chamber on 17th October. The Clerk also asked

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Members to put their names forward for the Councillor surgery on Friday 3rd April 2020.

18 Reports from Representatives (183-2019/20)

Members received the following reports from Council representatives and the Mayor thanked them for their work.

- i) Members received and noted a report from Councillor Hill on the Twinning Association Visit.
- ii) Members received and noted a report from Councillor Gibson on the Sandy Carnival Committee.
It was confirmed that entries for the Carnival Prince and Princess competition turn up on the day. Posters will be circulated to local primary schools and it has already been launched on Facebook and on the Town Council website.
- iii) Members received and noted a report on the Mayor and Deputy Mayors' meeting with MP Richard Fuller.
The Mayor and Deputy Mayor appreciated the new MP Richard Fuller visiting the offices in January and he had a good look around to get an idea of important issues.
- iv) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Pettitt on the Pigeon Appeal hearing. A decision was anticipated in approximately 4 weeks' time.
- v) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the SSLA's progress in refurbishing the all-weather pitch.
A Member asked for some clarity on the VAT uncertainty for SSLA. It was explained that it is vital that this can be reclaimed to afford the next stage of refurbishment but that he is reasonably optimistic.
- vi) Members received and considered a report from Cllr Hewitt and the Clerk from the Sandy Centre Group.
RESOLVED that the Council would support the group by engaging with the RSPB over including a link to the organisation in the new town entrance signage.
RESOLVED to support the proposal of looking at use of Meanwhile spaces and delegate the Clerk to work with CBC on investigating how a project could be taken forward.
- vii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Aldis on the Talk of the Town. Cllr Aldis asked that Members note that he is not the Talk of the Town representative, this being Cllr Hill.

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19 Royal British Legion Awards (184-2019/20)

Members received information on awards recently received by the Sandy Royal British Legion and commented on the wonderful job the organisation is doing. A letter of congratulations had been sent.

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20 Mayor's Engagements (185-2019/20)

Members noted the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements.

21 News Release (186-2019/20)

It was agreed to issue news releases on the following matters;

- Council's support for the installation of a crossing on the High Street near St Swithun's School.
- Letter to Transport Secretary in support of re-instating buses on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and completing cycleway between Sandy and Biggleswade, and Sandy and Potton.
- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's meeting with the new MP – Richard Fuller.

22 Chairman's Items (187-2019/20)

The Mayor said that he had received a letter of thanks from Great Ormond Street Hospital for the £500 contribution made as a result of the generous donations from those attending the Carol Service in December.

23 Date of Next Meeting (188-2019/20)

Monday 6th April 2020.

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