

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 4 August 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), C Butterfield, M Runchman, M Scott, R Smith and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs J Ali, T Cole and C Osborne

In Attendance: Cllr M Groom and M Pettitt. One member of the public, Town Clerk

- 1 **Apologies for absence (024-14/15)** *Action*
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, Cole and Osborne.
- 2 **Declarations of interest (025-14/15)**
 - i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None
 - ii) Non-disclosable Interests – Cllr Aldis drew attention to his role as a Trustee of Sandy Skating and Youth Association 2000.
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting (026-14/15)** *Admin*
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 23 June 2014 as a correct record of proceedings.
- 4 **Beeston Common Petition (027-14/15)**
A petition signed by over 180 residents of Beeston for requesting that the council give active consideration to the provision of a footpath alongside Beeston Common had been received and circulated in advance of the meeting together with a report from the clerk. The chairman advised that he had assisted residents with the wording of the petition but had made no indication about whether he supported the proposal. A letter from a person with grazier's rights on the common had recently been received by the clerk since the agenda was published objecting to any encroachment on the green. Following a wide-ranging discussion it was **RESOLVED** to defer a decision about whether or not to support the request for a footpath until more information was available. *Town Clerk*

It was recognised that even if this proposal were to be

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supported the timescale for introduction of such a footpath would be lengthy. Further information about the legal situation was needed and members wished to explore the use of physical traffic calming measures. Financing for the project would also be a significant consideration. Members noted with regret that the increased incidence of HGV traffic affecting Beeston Green was a consequence of a planning decision over which they and the local community had had little influence. The clerk agreed to write to the lead petitioner and put up a notice in Beeston explaining the council's position.

Town Clerk

5 Orchard Road (028-14/15)

A written update report on traffic and road surfacing issues with regard to Orchard Road, Beeston has been provided by the clerk in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to

- 1) Contact the Highways Agency to ask for further information on the position with regard to restricting turning of HGVs on the A1
- 2) Contact Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to ask for yellow lines on the corners of Orchard Road where it adjoined the A1 in order to prevent obstructions to sight lines as drivers approached the A1 from Orchard Road
- 3) Contact CBC to ask for a traffic survey to be conducted in Beeston along Orchard Road and along Beeston Green

Town Clerk

Town Clerk
and CBC
Ward
Members

6 Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Play Equipment (029-14/15)

The committee discussed the future of play equipment at Bedford Road following a recent near miss incident which involved an entrapment accident on the clatter bridge of a Wicksteed Junior Unit. The part of the play equipment involved had been inspected and passed as safe by RoSPA in May 2014 and the manufacturer had confirmed that it had no record of similar entrapment incidents. However the equipment was installed in the mid 1990s and did not conform to the current safety standards set out by BSEN1176 (which applies to new equipment only). It was recognised that long term financial planning for the replacement of play equipment was needed and the clerk had brought this item to council to seek clarification about whether the council wished to continue repairs of equipment with a limited lifespan.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED to replace the clatter bridge with a V bridge (at a cost of £1,123.00 and to carry out any other essential repairs to

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the Wicksteed Multiplay from within the existing budget. The clerk advised that the committee would be kept informed of progress.

Availability of any S106 funds for new play equipment would be researched.

7 **CBC Service Report (030-14/15)**

Some members had asked that the unusually high level of reports/complaints from residents of Sandy to CBC during June/July should be discussed at committee. Analysis of the report showed that many items were seasonal eg relating to overgrowing vegetation, trees etc and also included reports from Blunham. Members agreed that in general CBC were responding promptly and effectively judging by the outcomes recorded which was a considerable improvement on previous years and the fact that more people were reporting was not necessarily an indication of an increase in problems.

8 **Sandy Markets (031-14/15)**

Cllr Groom spoke to his proposals about the future of Sandy's Friday and Farmers' Markets which had been circulated by written report in advance of the meeting. Cllr Groom put forward the case for more investment in the council's markets and debate ensued with some members reminding the committee of previous efforts both by the council and others to revive the market.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Groom would be mandated to form a working group to investigate ways of rejuvenating the market and to bring relevant costed proposals back to Policy, Finance and Resource Committee and/or Town Council.

Cllr Groom

9 **Skate Park Project (032-14/15)**

Two reports from the Clerk on follow-up work with Sandy Skating Association 2000 were noted. Cllr Aldis advised that since the reports had been written the Skating Association Trustees had met and concluded that there should be one more attempt to see if there was any interest among young people in Sandy in developing a Skate Park. The Trustees wanted to investigate whether it was possible to have only one piece of equipment on the present tarmac. The Association had approximately £2,000 in its funds. The Trustees were keen to meet with the Clerk and discuss matters further but did not feel they could undertake any work with Groundworks.

RESOLVED to note the position of the Association's Trustees

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and to consider the position again at a later date.

10 Redevelopment of depot at Stratford Road/Cemetery Extension (033-14/15)

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended) members of the public and press would be excluded for the next item of business which involved the likely disclosure of confidential information as defined as exempt information in Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (confidential data).

A confidential report prepared by the working group had been circulated in advance of the meeting and this was discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the working group's terms of reference as follows:

- To make a recommendation on the amount of storage space required by the council
- To explore options for relocations of the depot
- To obtain estimates for any solutions that are recommended
- To consult with the Town Clerk and the outdoor staff members on what is required in which location and the needs of the staff team

It was noted that the proposals put forward in the working group's report had been agreed in principle by the HR committee at a meeting on 28 July 2014.

It was **RESOLVED to recommend** to council that the proposal described in the WG report to work towards an office base for the outdoor staff at 10 Cambridge Road and to secure garaging space for the vehicles as described so that a replacement for the Skoda can be obtained as soon as possible should be agreed in principle subject to detailed costings.

11 Sandy Cricket Club Licence (034-14/15)

RESOLVED to note an update report with regard to negotiation of a licence for use of Jenkins Pavilion and the cricket square and outfield at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground by Sandy Cricket Club. This item would be carried forward to a future agenda.

Town Clerk

12 Speed Cameras in Central Bedfordshire (035-14/15)

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Revised correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council about safety cameras in Central Bedfordshire had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was discussed.

RESOLVED to contact CBC and advise that Sandy Town Council wished to see cameras retained on the A1 and would like to see average speed cameras between the Black Cat RAB and Biggleswade North RAB.

Town Clerk