

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Blaine, A Gibson, J Hewitt, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), M Scott and P Sharman.

Absent: Cllrs P N Aldis, A M Hill, S Sutton and N Thompson.

In attendance: CBC Cllr T Stock, Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Ms J Hobson-Cooper (CBC Safer Community Engagement Officer), Mrs L Ivanciu-Wilkinson (Co-Optee) and Mrs N Sewell (Clerk in Waiting).

The Mayor welcomed all the guests and updated Members on Cllr Hill's steady progress and confirmed that he would be attending the Clerk's presentation on Thursday afternoon. Cllr Blaine updated Members on Cllr Aldis's progress in hospital after being taken in unexpectedly last week. The Mayor said that we meet in a changing world this evening and that we are all thinking of the plight of the Ukrainian people.

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (195-2021/2022)

Apologies had been received from Cllrs A Hill, W Jackson and M Scott and CBC Cllrs Ford and Maudlin.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (196-2021/22)

- (i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None.
- (ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – Both Cllrs Lock and Sharman declared an interest in agenda item 17 (iv) as they are both members on the committee of the FoSCL.
- (iii) *Dispensations* – None.

3 Public Participation Session (197-2021/22)

The Mayor said he had received two questions from residents.

The first regarding dog mess on pavements in the King's Road/Swansholme Gardens area not being picked up. Ms J Hobson-Cooper the Community Safety Officer said that she had brought two metal signs asking the public to tidy up after their dogs, into the office for distribution and that she would ask CBC for a dog bin to be sited at the end of King's Road.

J
Hobson-
Cooper

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The second question was regarding damaged verges on The Green at Beeston. The Clerk said it was an action point on PF&R's list. CBC Cllr Stock said that as a resident of Beeston, she thought that over time the verges had grown over the road and needed to be cut back. CBC Cllr Stock and Cllr Scott would investigate the Green's verges and report back. The Clerk said that this item would be put on the next CS&E agenda.

CBC Cllr
Stock/
Cllr
Scott

Town
Clerk

4 Co-option for Vacancy of Fallowfield Ward (198-2021/22)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs L Ivanciu-Wilkinson who had applied for co-option and was in attendance.

The Clerk confirmed that two applications had been received for co-option. Unfortunately, one candidate had not joined the meeting, but in line with the Council's Co-option Policy the process would continue, and Members would need to base their decision on the absent candidate's application form. Members were reminded that a candidate needed a proposer and seconder to move on to a vote. Voting would be done by ballot as per the recently amended Co-option Policy.

Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson was invited to speak on why she was applying for co-option to the Council. Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson expanded on her application form, her interests and her skill set, which she felt would help her in the role of Councillor.

A Member asked Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson if she could change one thing about Sandy what would it be? Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson said that she would like to see more activities for teenagers in Sandy.

A Member asked Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson why is now the time to join the council? Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson commented that she had more time now and had settled in Sandy.

Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson left the meeting as per the procedure set out in the Co-option Policy. The Chairman asked if there were any proposers for either or both of the candidates. Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson and the other candidate were proposed and seconded.

Members moved to vote on the proposed candidates by ballot. Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson received a majority of votes and was therefore co-opted to the Council.

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Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson rejoined the meeting and the Chairman announced the result. Mrs Ivanciu-Wilkinson signed her Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting. The Mayor offered her his congratulations and welcomed her to the council.

The Mayor requested the Clerk to write to the unsuccessful absent candidate saying they should not be deterred from re-applying in the future or standing at the next election.

5 Guest Speaker (199-2021/22)

Members heard from Julia Hobson-Cooper, CBC's Safer Community Engagement Officer on an Action Day to be held in Sandy on the 31st March 2022.

She explained that the aim of the day was to engage with residents and learn about their concerns. The police, fire service and other agencies would be available on the day to discuss areas with issues. CBC Councillors Caroline Maudlin and Tracey Stock and STC Cllr Joanna Hewitt and the Mayor would hold a surgery in the Jenkins Pavilion from 1pm-7pm. Other volunteers would be needed.

Cllr Hewitt had circulated an updated Community Safety Plan. A Member thanked both Cllr Hewitt and Julia and her team for a great plan. Julia Hobson-Cooper thanked Members for inviting her and then left the meeting.

6 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (200-2021/22)

Members received the minutes of a meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 24th January 2022 and **RESOLVED** to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

7 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (201-2021/22)

Members received and noted 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 Development Scrutiny Committees held on 31st January and 21st February 2022.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on the 31st January 2022.

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RESOLVED that Central Beds Council are asked to undertake a traffic flow and volume study on Sunderland Road at a cost of £300.

RESOLVED that the Council apply for £67,058 in Uncommitted Section 106 funding which would be eligible for allocation towards the Skatepark project, thereby reaching and exceeding the target funding rate of £150,000.

- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on the 21st February 2022.

RESOLVED that the Council replace six damaged lighting columns identified by the lighting contractor at a cost of £9,900 from the Council's RCF.

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (202-2021/22)

Cllr Stock reported:

COVID: Numbers were going down weekly and residents were living with it. She said that the NHS Partners were ready if a new variant appears.

Grants: The Ward Councillor grant would be £2,000 for each councillor which could be combined. Bids were welcome for the £2,000 grant which is available.

Highways: Cedar Gardens would be re-surfaced from 14th March. Churchill Way gardens that back onto the footpath had had sheds set alight, this was reported to police.

Work on Station and New Road will be happening on 20th until 24th June.

Lorna Carver the Director – Place and Communities will visit the council offices.

The road sweepers were in Sandy last week.

9 Action List (203-2021/22)

Members received and noted an action list on Full Council items.

East/West Rail Link: Cllr Blaine reported on the stakeholder meeting he had attended. He said that a new date for a meeting was awaited.

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A1 – Local Issues: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor together with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade, and Richard Fuller MP would be meeting on the 6th April 2022 at Biggleswade.

10 Electric Vehicle (204-2021/22)

Members received and noted a report on the purchase of an electric works vehicle.

It was proposed seconded and **RESOLVED** that the PF&R Committee consider the disposal of the existing diesel works vehicle.

11 Skatepark Project (205-2021/22)

Members received an update on the skatepark project.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to contribute an additional £3,827 in funding towards the build of a new skatepark at Sunderland Road from its Rolling Capital Fund if no further fundraising/grants are received. This will allow Council to move forward with the build schedule.

12 Leisure Services Jenkins Pavilion Proposal (206-2021/22)

Members received an update on CBC's Jenkins Pavilion Leisure proposal.

The Mayor informed Members that the plans had been withdrawn to be revised regarding unanswered questions over adequacy of parking provision at the site.

13 Jubilee Beacon (207-2021/22)

Members received and considered a report on a proposed Jubilee beacon.

It was proposed and seconded that the S106 monies be used to purchase a permanent beacon as a memorial to the Queen's 70th Jubilee and placed on The Pinnacle. A vote of 3 for and 5 against was recorded.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a gas beacon be used on the day and that a permanent memorial request be referred to the CS&E Committee. One vote against was recorded.

14 Neighbourhood Development Plan (208-2021/22)

Members received and noted an update report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

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15 Correspondence (209-2021/22)

- i) Members received a communication from Greensands Country Landscape Partnership to appoint a representative to the Rural economy and Sustainable Tourism Working Group.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Joanna Hewitt would be the council's representative.

- i) Members received and noted a communication from the Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the honours list, forwarded to the council by the Bedfordshire Honours Panel.

16 Consultations (210-2021/22)

Members noted the London Luton Airport statutory consultation on the proposed airport expansion is running from 8th February until 4th April 2022.

17 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (211-2021/22)

- i) Members received and noted the report from the Sandy Centre Group.
- ii) Members received and noted the report from the SSLA.
- iii) Members received and noted the report from Sandy Twinning Association.
- iv) Members received a verbal update report from Cllr Lock on behalf of the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights. At a meeting on the 23rd February Mrs Gee Leach was appointed Chair. She added that attendance last year had been down in relation to previous years and that more volunteers were being actively sought. The group would be having a stall at Sandy Carnival in June. The attractions for the day have started to be booked for the event on Sunday 27th November 2022. The next meeting will be on the 23rd March 2022.

18 News Release (212-2021/22)

- New councillor

19 Chairman's Items (213-2021/22)

The Chair asked that all Members complete the Police Commissioner's survey.

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The Chair reported that he would be having a meeting, together with the Deputy Mayor, with the Head of Sandy Secondary School in the next 2 weeks and if Members had any questions to put forward, please let the office know.

The Chair informed all Members that there would be three Beaver Cub Scout investitures in the Chamber on the 16th March in the evening.

The Chair thanked everyone who had attended his recent dinners at the China Express restaurant. £1,125 was raised over two evenings for the Mayor's charities.

20 Mayoral Engagements (214-2021/22)

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

21 Date of Next Full Council Meeting (215-2021/22)

Monday 11th April 2022.

The Mayor reminded Members of the leaving presentation for the Clerk on Thursday 19th March at 3.30pm in the Chamber. He formally thanked the Clerk on behalf of all Members for his hard work and dedication over the past six and a half years and wished him well for the future.