

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs T Knagg, N Thompson and CBC Cllrs S Ford and T Stock

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk), CBC Cllr C Maudlin, Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), Mrs A Elliott-Flockhart (Administrator)(part meeting) and one member of the public

Action

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence (54-2020/2021)
Apologies had been received from CBC Cllrs S Ford and T Stock. | Admin |
| 2 | Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (55-2020/21)
i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None
ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – None
iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None | |
| 3 | Public Participation Session (56-2020/21)
A Member asked about the progress of a pedestrian crossing outside St Swithun's school. CBC Cllr Maudlin said that due to a senior Highways Officer on sick leave, a new member of staff would carry out a consultation, but this would not be ready before the next meeting in December.

The Clerk had received a question via email from a resident regarding the changes to Luton Airport flight paths. The resident said that the noise levels would be high over Sandy with more flights passing overhead. They asked that the Town Council support their cause and it was agreed to place this item on the next CS&E agenda. CBC Cllr Maudlin said that CBC would be discussing this at a meeting this week and she would inform the Clerk of the outcome before the CS&E meeting Monday week. | Cllr Maudlin/
Town Clerk |

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**4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (57-2020/21)
RESOLVED to:**

Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 28th September 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

**5 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein
(58-2020/21)**

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 5th October 2020.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that 'buy local' banners be purchased now and that an application for a grant towards the purchase be made from the Ward Councillors fund.

- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on 5th October 2020 and 26th October 2020.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 12th October 2020.
- iv) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 26th October 2020. Cllr Osborne reminded Members that the budget process had started and requested that Members keep the papers from the meeting for the next meeting.

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6 Planning Application (59-2020/21)

i) CB/20/03596/REG3 – The Meadows, (Formerly Holiday Inn, Girtford Bridge, Sandy, SG19 1NA

Sandy Town Council **resolved** to make no objections and were supportive of the overall scheme of this application. Members were concerned about the fence being too high which might give the impression to residents of being isolated and excluded from the wider area of Sandy.

ii)CB/20/03459/REG3 – Land adjacent to 17 The Green, Beeston
Sandy Town Council **resolved** to support this application but raise concerns regarding access over the Green. CBC do own a strip of land at this site, but extra crossings have been created across village green land which belongs to Sandy Town Council.

7 Co-option of Town Councillors (60-2020/21)

Members noted that no applications had been received for the co-option of a Councillor to fill the vacant seat in the Fallowfield Ward.

The Clerk updated Members that he had received one application last week. He said he had been advised by BATPC that Members should consider this application and the post should be advertised again and brought to the December Full Council meeting.

Cllr Osborne left the meeting.

8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (61-2020/21)

Members received verbal reports from the Central Bedfordshire Councillor.

Cllr Maudlin gave a Covid-19 update. She said that individual testing had gone down, there were 9 suspected cases in Sandy and that the figure was 3.9% up in Central Bedfordshire.

The Sandy Secondary School consultation and the Flu strategy had been approved and she would email them to the Clerk.

She said that Cheering Volunteering nominations can now be entered online.

A Member asked for an update regarding the Winchester Road project. Cllr Maudlin said she would chase this up.

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A Member said that there had not been any flu jabs available in Sandy for the last 6 weeks, but other Members said that they had either had a flu jab recently or had made a future appointment for one. A Member also said that there was a shortage everywhere, as the manufacturers had not provided enough but that more would be made available in late November.

9 Neighbourhood Development Plan (62-2020/21)

Members received the proposed Terms of Reference for the Sandy Neighbourhood Development Plan.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to agree to the Terms of Reference and to add that the group will elect its own Chairperson.

10 COVID-19 (63-2020/21)

Members received and noted a report from the Clerk on Council operations and services during the second COVID-19 lockdown.

The Clerk reported that one member of the outside team was in self-isolation for 14 days.

11 Leisure Services (64-2020/21)

Members received and noted a letter from CBC's Director of Children's Services and a brief verbal update on leisure services from the Clerk.

This item would be included in all future Full Council agendas.

It was confirmed that CBC's Jill Dickinson would be taking over from Marcel Coiffait as the contact in regards to Sandye Place.

Councillors were concerned about the lack of progress on the SPA site and the lack of input from our MP. While the DfE may still have the lease, CBC should have a plan and vision in place for the site, to ensure that should the lease be released quickly, effective plans could be put into place. CBC should be in a position to share their ambitions for the site with the Town Council. The Council had previously submitted a document outlining some suggestions it felt would benefit the community but had not received a formal response on how that submission would factor into the decision-making process.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would respond to the letter expressing the Town Council's concerns and asking for a formal response to the options report that the Town Council submitted to Tony Keaveney.

Town
Clerk

Councillor Osborne re-joined the meeting.

12 **COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION (65-2020/21)**

Exclusion of the public and press

As item 12 of the agenda would be dealing with contractual matters and valuations it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that in terms of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, discussion on the following item will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, proposed and agreed that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

13

Tilco (66 -2020/21)

Members received and considered a report from the Clerk on a response received from Taylor Wimpey's agent Tilco in relation to transfer of land in Sandy.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council reply to Tilco, stating that it is willing to look at transferring the land but that it would ask Taylor Wimpey to meet its existing maintenance which is overdue and carry out additional maintenance to cut all areas and clear growth in preparation for any adoption by the Town Council and that the Council ask for a site visit with Taylor Wimpey to review the parcels of land and the work that needs doing and that the maintenance costs for the land are considered in the 2021/22 financial year budget process.

RESOLVED to exit private sessions and permit public and press to rejoin the meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies Act 1960.

14

Virtual Meetings (67-2020/21)

Members reviewed the virtual meeting protocol and received a summary of Member feedback on meetings held to date.

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After discussion, Members agreed that although there had been connectivity problems this evening, virtual meetings were being as effective as they could be, and enabled the Council's work to continue and progress. Members were encouraged to note and follow the best practice set out in the report.

15 Correspondence (68-2020/21)

Members received and noted the communication from the Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit on the latest round of grant funding.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that if eligible, an application is put forward for the next stage of outdoor gym equipment provision (£5,000 maximum application amount).

16 Consultations (69-2020/21)

Members received and considered a communication from the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils on a consultation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Members submit any comments through to the Clerk and a response is to be compiled and sent to NALC.

17 Councillor Surgery (70-2020/21)

Cllr Gibson said that due to the onset of winter, any future surgeries should not be held outside until Spring 2021.

The Clerk reported that issues to do with paving at Glebe Road and overhanging hedges from residences onto the public highway had been reported to CBC, who had responsibility for the relative areas. A query regarding parking restrictions in the Market Square will be put on the CS&E committee agenda for further consideration.

18 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (71-2020/21)

(i) Members noted that the TOTT minibus was not currently operating.

(ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Twinning Association.

(iii) Members received a report from Cllr Hill on the SSLA. Cllr Pettitt corrected an error in the report, stating 'scoreboard' should have read 'side screen'.

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(iv) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Gibson on the Sandy Carnival.

(v) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Pettitt on the BATPC AGM.

19 News Release (72-2020/21)

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

- Christmas Lights Switch-On

20 Chairman's Items (73-2020/21)

The Chairman asked the Clerk to brief Members on the issues the Council were having with cladding at the Council's depot building. As the need to correct the cladding is becoming more urgent, the Clerk was obtaining three quotes from alternative companies to carry out repair work. In conjunction with the Mayor and Chairman of PFR, the Clerk would select a preferred contractor to correct the cladding problems if the quotes were within the delegated remit set out in the Council's standing orders.

Members were informed that refurbishment work at the Cemetery chapel was complete and that the Clerk would arrange for a video to be sent to all Councillors showing the work.

The Chairman said that a two-minute silence would be held at 11am on Wednesday 11th November for Armistice Day at St Swithun's Church, for any Members who would like to attend.

21 Date of Next Meeting (74-2020/21)

Monday 14th December 2020.