

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 11th July 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lock, M Pettitt (Chair), P Sharman and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllr N Thompson

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk), Anne Elliot-Flockhart, Mrs J Ivanciu-Wilkinson (Co-Optee), Mrs Whiteaker (Mayor's award recipient) and one member of the public.

Action

1	Apologies for Absence from (40-2022/2023) Cllrs Jackson, Knagg, Osborne and Scott	Admin
	Apologies were also received from Ward Cllrs Ford, Maudlin and Stock	
2	Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations number(41-2022/2023) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None</i> ii) <i>Non Pecuniary Interests – Cllr L Ivanciu Wilkinson Item 5 for a personal relationship to the candidate.</i> iii) <i>Dispensations – none</i>	Admin
3	Public Participation Session (42-2022-2023) Three members of the public were present The Mayor introduced a request made by a member of the public to have part of the knee rail at the north end of Sunderland Park removed to allow for disabled access directly onto the grassed area by the All-Weather pitch. It was RESOLVED that the Outdoor Team remove a section of knee rail to create an accessible entrance at this area of the recreation ground. Due to concerns the entrance might encourage bikes and motorbikes onto the pitch at this point it was also agreed the area be monitored over the next few months and if necessary, the knee rail re-instated.	Outdoor Team
4	Mayor's Awards (43-2022-2023) The Mayor presented the Mayor's Award for Services to the Community to Mrs Patricia Whiteaker. Mrs Whiteaker had been nominated for the award by Cllr Aldis who applauded the work she	Admin

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had undertaken over 25 years as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Sandy Historical Society. Mrs Whiteaker's good works also extended to supporting the Stroke Club when it was in operation and Sandy Good Neighbours Scheme. The award was presented at the meeting as Mrs Whiteaker had not been able to attend the Platinum Jubilee Event when the other awards were presented.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Whiteaker for her contribution to Sandy and presented her with a certificate and the promise that a shield would be forthcoming.

5 **Co-option for Vacancy at Ivel Ward (44-2022-2023)**

Admin

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

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

When asked if she felt that work travel commitments might be an obstacle to attending and supporting Town Council meetings and Committees, she admitted that there might be a small impact on her availability but that she remained committed to working with the Council to support the residents of Sandy.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed to Co Opt Mrs J Ivanciu Wilkinson to Council. Having signed an Acceptance of Office form in front of the Clerk, she joined the meeting.

The Mayor offered her his congratulations and welcomed her to the Council.

6 **Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (45-2022-2023)**

Admin

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 20th June 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

7 **Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein - number (46-2022-2023)**

Admin

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub committees (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

i) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of meetings of Development Scrutiny Committees held on 13th June and 4th July 2022.

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ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy Finance and Resources Committee held on 20th July 2022

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 13th June 2022.

The Mayor **deferred** the Minutes of the HR Committee to the end of the meeting.

8 The Mayor also **deferred** items 8, 8.1 and 8.2 to be discussed at the end of the meeting, due to their confidential nature.

9 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors (47-2022-2023)

i) No Ward Councillors were present.

Cllr Hewitt conveyed the following comments from Cllr Maudlin. At the Development Management Committee meeting held on 6th July at CBC it was agreed that application CB/21/02363/ FULL be approved but with Planning Conditions attached. STC has since commented through Cllr Maudlin to CBC on its expectations for those planning conditions.

Members received an update about Sandye Place stating that the Department of Education were still asking questions of CBC about the site and that there would be no further updates about the future of the site before September. In the meantime, Cllr Maudlin had investigated the possibility of having sheep graze the area to keep the grass down but had not received a response to her enquiry as yet.

It was reported that while Streetwatch was doing well they were always looking for more members.

Cllr Pettitt reported that the double yellow lines had been applied at Swan Lane, thanks to the efforts of Cllr Stock and a tenacious Highways Officer, and said the work had resolved problems caused by large vans parking in the area.

ii) Members **noted** a quarterly meeting between the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Ward Councillors was set to take place on Tuesday 26th July.

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10 Planning Application (48-2022-2023)

The Council considered the following planning application which was for 6 dwellings;

CB/22/01964/REG3 Land Adjacent To 17, The Green, Beeston	Erection of six affordable dwellings including access and parking Near neighbours 22,24,26,26a,26b,28,30,32,34,36 High Road, Flats 1,2,3,4,5, 34a High Road 14,16,17,18,19,21,23,24,25,26a,26b The Green 2,4,6 Hillview 14a,14, 15,16, 17, 18,19,20, 21, 22,23,24 The Crescent 1,3,5 Whitestones, Beeston notified.
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It was acknowledged that the application had already been considered by the Council and this new submission was for a minor change to the external layout.

Admin

RESOLVED to submit no objection. Councillors commented that they welcomed this revised plan as it met a need for housing in Beeston. They stated they were keen to get an agreement in place for the land earmarked for allotments and a community orchard.

Clerk

11 Council Insurance (49-2022-2023)

Members noted the report on changing the Council's insurance provider for the forthcoming year. The following amendment was made to the report:

*11 The Council has a legal requirement to provide "best value" when it comes to insurance. WPS have conducted a review of provision and providers, including 17 UK insurance providers. As a result of this, **Military Mutual** Aviva were found to offer the best value and cover for the councils WPS represents.*

Clerk

12 Sandy Railway Station (50-2022-2023)

Members considered a motion from Cllr Aldis to oppose proposed plans to close the Ticket Office at Sandy Railway Station, which would see only purchase via machines or apps available. Cllr Aldis reported that the loss of a ticket clerk would also prohibit travellers from seeking the best value for money for their journey.

While it was pointed out that no definitive plans were imminent for this change **it was RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to Network Rail to declare the Council's concerns and to copy in the Local Member of Parliament Richard Fuller.

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- 13 Annual Report 2021/22 (51-2022-2023)**
- Members considered a draft Annual Report for the year 2021/22. A few minor amends were requested, which the Clerk confirmed would be actioned before publication. The Mayor thanked all involved in putting the publication together. The Clerk confirmed that as well as copies being available on the Town Council's website hard copies would also be available from Sandy Library and the Reception of Sandy Town Council's offices. The Clerk agreed that a poster would advertise the availability of the Annual Report at the Council Offices and on noticeboards around the town.

Admin

14 Action List – (52-2022-2023)

East West Rail

Cllr Blaine reported that he had attended a further meeting by Zoom on 16th June. He reported that the meeting was largely an explanation of bureaucratic processes laid down for the planning and building of such a project, as had been the case with the previous meeting he attended.

He said the meeting gave no information on outcomes from the second non-statutory consultation which were already significantly late. He reported he had received draft notes of the meeting for comment and a confirmation they would be published on the website, towards the end of July.

Clerk

Referring to a discussion on the same matter Cllr Pettitt had with the Mayor of St Neots and Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council he proposed that a meeting be set up between the three councils to agree a joint approach on the best way to move things forward, not just on the East West Rail project but other projects such as proposed changes to the A1 and Blackcat Roundabout. Cllr Hewitt pointed out that these issues could not be looked at in isolation and it was agreed that even if the wider authorities were not, then Sandy Town Council should look at the cumulative impact of these projects on Sandy. The Clerk was instructed to organize a meeting between Members of the three councils to facilitate that discussion.

AI Local Issues

No further updates to report

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Sandye Place

Members noted the update from Cllr Maudlin that no further news would be forthcoming before September 2022 (see item 9)

15 Neighbourhood Plan (53-2022-2023)

Members received a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan from Cllr Hewitt. She reported that they were holding a consultation event in the Market Square on Green Infrastructure on Friday 15th July 2022. Previous consultation events had been held at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Sandy Carnival on *Future Engagement and the Future use of Sandye Place* and further ones were being planned at other events including the Sunderland Road SkateJam.

She also reported that through a grant NHP had been able to commission traffic consultants to undertake a traffic management survey and plan, and that they had also recently taken on another consultant with experience of NHPs who would help to work out the group's policies, which were key to the process. The consultant being a former CBC planning officer would also help find funding for the group to apply for to cover their costs.

16 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (54-2022/2023)

Members received and noted the report from the Sandy Twinning Association. Cllr Pettitt reported that a meeting was to be held on Wednesday 13th July to discuss next steps for the Association.

Members received and noted the report from the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (SSLA).

17 Minutes of the SSLA AGM (55-2022-2023)

As sole Trustee to the SSLA, Members received and noted the Minutes of the SSLA AGM held on 16th June 2022.

18 Councillor Surgery (56-2022-2023)

Members received and noted a report from Cllr Aldis regarding the Councillor Surgery held on 24th June 2022.

On item 9 it was confirmed that the walled memorials belonged to the Baptist Church and the Clerk reported they had been contacted and the resident's request passed on.

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On item 13 it was noted that the resident was from Birch Grove, not Birch Close, as stated.

Cllr Aldis said that the event had gone well with many actions being taken forward already.

Admin

19 **Mayoral Engagements (57-2022-2023)**

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor between 27th April and 5th July.

20 **News Release (58-2022-2023)**

- Co-option of new Councillor, Mrs J Ivanciu Wilkinson
- High Street Closure taking place for the new Pedestrian Crossing by St Swithuns School in September over 3 -5 days.
- Progress on the Skatepark at Sunderland Road
- Launch of the Mosaic Competition to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year.

8.0 (*Deferred from earlier*) It was **proposed and agreed** that in terms of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, the following items 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. **(59-2022-2023)**

Admin

Clerk

7 iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of HR Committee held on 4th July 2022. **(60-2022-2023)**

8.1 Members received and considered a recommendation from the HR Committee held on 4th July 2022 **(61-2022-2023)**:

Clerk

- To agree to the creation of a new Deputy Clerk role. **RESOLVED to agree.** Clerk to complete Job Description, Personal Specification, and recruitment timeline in liaison with HR Committee
- To agree to the request to reduce the hours of the Admin Team Leader. **RESOLVED to agree**
- To consider recruitment of an admin assistant role on an annualized hours contract. **RESOLVED to agree**

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8.2 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC (62-2022-2023)

It was **RESOLVED**: that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and the Public be readmitted to the meeting.

21 Chairman's Items – (63-2022-2023)

The Chairman wished to thank the Clerk for the swift action taken to remove an illegal encampment of Travellers on Sunderland Road that took place on Monday 27th June. He also thanked the support from the Deputy Mayor that enabled this action to take place. The Chairman reported that with the help of Cllr Stock, members of the Outdoor Team and two members of staff from SLA clear up of the area was able to be completed and all restored by 5pm on Tuesday 28th June.

The Police were able to serve a Section 60c Notice on the encampment which remains in place for another 12 months. This action meant that the Council did not incur the usual high costs of eviction from the site and only had to cover a £250.00 fee for the presence of a vehicle recovery unit as requested by the Police.

He highlighted the need to investigate how the Council could now act to further secure the area to avoid future breaches.

22 Date of next meeting (64-2022-2023)

25th July 2022 (EOM) and 22nd August 2022 (Town Council)