

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 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, J Hewitt (Chair), R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, M Scott, and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllrs Baker, C Osborne, M Pettitt, P Sharman, N Thompson, and Ward Cllr Pashby.

In attendance: Ward Cllrs S Bell and S Ford

Prior to the meeting 7 tickets were drawn for the Town Council's Christmas Raffle. The Town Council Administration Team to contact all raffle winners to ask them to collect their prizes.

Action

1 Apologies for Absence (152-2023/2024)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Baker, Osborne, Pettitt, Sharman and Thompson.

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (153-2023/2024)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non-Pecuniary Interests* – Cllrs A Lock and R Lock declared an interest on Item 12 as members of the PCC.
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

3 Public Participation Session (154-2023/2024)

No members of the public were present.

4 Minutes of Meeting of Town Council (155 – 2023/2024)

Received the Minutes of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 30th October at 7.36pm and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

RESOLVED to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein (156-2023/2024)

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 Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6th

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

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November and 27th November 2023. Recommendation dealt with under item 10.

- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 20th November 2023.
- iii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on 6th November 2023 and agree the following recommendations:
 - a) Bedford Road Recreation Ground Pavilion: That the Council make a payment of £1,500 towards the costs of the door replacement with the funds coming from Capital.
- iv) **RESOLVED to receive and note the minutes of the** Human Resources Committee held on 27th November 2023 and agree for the recommendations intended to be dealt with under item 16 be deferred due to the absence of the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk

6 Adoption of gov.uk email addresses (157-2023/2024)

Members received a report from report from the Clerk regarding the benefits to council of the adoption by all Members of: gov.uk email addresses and the associated costs to do so.

RESOLVED to adopt gov.uk email addresses.

Town Clerk/Chess IT

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire (158-2023/2024)

Members received the following report from Sandy Ward Councillors.

All three CBC ward councillors have given Sandy Youth Club £500 each totally £1,500, towards facility improvements and equipment, this is to improve the facilities for the youth provision of Sandy.

All three ward councillors were in full support of the Asset Community Value application regarding Sandy Place Academy which was submitted by Sandy Historical Research Group.

Planning Application CB/23/03546 - 80 Bedroomed Carehome on the A1 Sandy. Cllr Ford has "called in" the application due to concerns on the following:

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- Access/Egress onto the site.
- Noise Pollution.
- Vehicle emissions.
- Lack of safe access to footpaths to local amenities and the local community.

Allotments - an answer from Tony Keaveney received but further answers being sought before Mondays CS&E Committee meeting. An update will be given at the meeting.

Beeston - Sandy Grab Services, Brook End - the company has now relocated to a new site at Tempsford Road, Everton. Planning enforcement issues are still ongoing and Cllr Bell is the lead for this project.

Athletics Track - New fencing around the track will be installed by ASHE during Easter half term 2024.

Cllr Aldis requested an update on the Speed Cameras on A1 and Cllr Ford confirmed that an update would be going to Central Bedfordshire Council's meeting in January 2024.

Cllr Sutton spoke about the Public Consultation on Central Bedfordshire Council's Budget, bus subsidies and public transport managed by CBC. She added that particular criticism had been aimed at the bus service with some elderly people calling it "appalling." She stated STC would need to encourage residents to take part on the Budget Consultation. It was confirmed it could be undertaken online or there were some paper copies of the consultation available at Sandy Library and a limited number of paper copies at the Town Council Offices for those that needed them i.e., were not online or have access to a computer.

The following items were also addressed:

- *EV Ports in Sandy Town Centre:* Cllr Sutton asked Cllr Ford to provide some further detail on the cost of the overnight charging by Wednesday 13th December in time for the next meeting of the Community, Services & Environment Committee on 18th December.
- *Allotments:* STC has 100 interested parties for allotments (approximately 4 acres) and Cllr Ford is working with CBC to look at different options. Cllr Ford will provide all information directly to the Clerk.

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- *Planning application CB/23/03546*: Cllr Ford will add the STC comments from Item 10 to the called in paper.
- *Beeston* – Sandy Grab Services: Cllr Blackley raised that the road was in a terrible condition and very dangerous with verges damaged and a constant large flood now across the road and requested that this is cleaned up and restored by Terry Dennis (owner) or by SGS, as they are responsible for the damage. This should not wait until the inclement weather has improved. Cllr Ford will take this forward to the Enforcement Team.

8 **Calendar of Meetings (159 -2023/2024)**

Members receive a report from the Deputy Clerk on suggested dates for Council and Committee meetings in 2024/25 and a recommendation to reduce the number of meetings across the year to allow for a break in the Committee cycle.

RESOLVED to remove the need to meet in August in order to create a seasonal break in the Committee cycle and for a revised Calendar to reflect this to be brought back to council for final agreement. For a further discussion regarding working groups to be taken to the HR Committee in March 2024.

9 **Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (160-2023/2024)**

To receive the following reports from Council representatives on outside bodies;

- Cllr M Pettitt – SSLA Draft minutes 21.11.2023
- Cllr R Lock - Sandy Community Children’s Centre
- Cllr Hewitt - Police Priority Setting
- Cllr Hewitt - CBC Community Safety Action Plan
- Cllr Hewitt – Sandy Village Hall Management Committee

RESOLVED to note the reports.

Cllr Lock agreed to pass on Cllr Scott’s question to Sandy Community Children’s Centre regarding the size and required number of locked boxes.

Cllr Aldis raised concerns regarding an additional bar and social area being put onto the bowling green site vs using the Village Hall. He stated that this request shouldn’t be supported and that it was important for Cllr Hewitt to meet with the head of the Bowling Club to discuss and remind them that the bowling green belongs to STC.

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10 **Planning Application (161-2023/2024)**

Members considered the following application which had already been passed through the Development Scrutiny Committee on 27th November 2023.

RESOLVED to include the following objections to the original recommendation:

- i. Overdevelopment leading to poor amenities outside for potential residents.
- ii. Insufficient parking for staff, residents, visitors, and medical practitioners.
- iii. Inadequate sustainable transport plan
- iv. Inadequate noise mitigation measures from the A1 and industrial premises on three sides
- v. Inaccurate pollution report which understates the level of air pollution in the area
- vi. Light pollution in the area is at an excessive level

Deputy Clerk

Members also felt that as the building was to be a specialist dementia facility, the site was not an appropriate location considering the severity of the illness.

11 **Cemetery Extension Project (162-2023/2024)**

Members received a quote from CDS to undertake the Planning Conditions Application at a cost of £3,660. Funds to come from Rolling Capital.

RESOLVED to approve the quote.

Town Clerk

12 **Closed Churchyard – Estimate for surveying the cost of Maintaining Boundary Walls (163-2023/2024)**

Members were asked to consider a quote of £1,200 to have a survey of the Churchyard wall conducted in order to understand costs for the full repair of the Churchyard wall.

RESOLVED not to continue with a survey due to the costs involved. It was suggested that officers check with Cllr Osborne (as senior Church Warden) to understand if the wall falls under a preservation order. In addition, it was suggested that the fallen-down iron stone, breezeblock, and rubble wall be removed to make it safe and replace the area with a fence to create the boundary line.

Deputy/Clerk

13 **Action Plan (164-2023/2024)**

Members received the Town Council's Action Plan.

RESOLVED to note the Action Plan and make the following updates.

- Cemetery Extension: amend point 4 (landscaping to start) is September 2024 (not December 2023)

Town Clerk

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- Beeston Allotments: amend point 4 to confirm that it has been completed

It was also asked if the Deputy Clerk could confirm if a grant to undertake pitch improvement at Sunderland Road had been applied for, as it was agreed some months ago to move forward.

14 Correspondence (165-2023/2024)

Members received a list of correspondence sent to the Town Council since the last meeting of Full Council and any actions arising from such items. All correspondence circulated to Members separately

RESOLVED to note the correspondence.

Town Clerk

15 COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION (166-2023/2024)

RESOLVED it was not necessary to go into Private Session as item 16 would be deferred to a future meeting due to the absence of the Clerk.

16 HR update (167-2023/2024)

RESOLVED to defer the verbal update from the Clerk to a future meeting as the Clerk was absent from the meeting due to illness.

17 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC (168-2023/2024)

RESOLVED unnecessary action as no Private Session called.

18 Mayoral Engagements (169-2023/2024)

The Mayor would provide a round up of all engagements at the next meeting of Town Council to include the period between the October and December meetings and all Christmas events.

19 Chairman's Items (170-2023/2024)

- It was proposed that a Member and staff Christmas get together be held at the Council Offices after the DS & CS&E Committee meetings on Monday 18th December.
- Staff would also be invited to Christmas drinks by Cllr Hewitt who would work with the Clerk to arrange a suitable date.
- A strategy session and five year planning meeting was proposed for a Saturday in January, date TBC.

20 Date of next meeting (171-2023/2024)

Full Council 22nd January 2024

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The meeting closed at 21.50

