

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the Annual meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, M Pettitt, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllrs W Jackson, T Knagg, C Osborne and CBC Cllr C Maudlin

**In attendance:** Mr C Robson (Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader), CBC Cllrs T Stock and S Ford

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 Election of Sandy Town Council Chair/Town Mayor for 2019-20 (1-2019/20)</b> Councillor Michael Scott was nominated and seconded to be Mayor for the municipal year 2019/20. No other nominations were received.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Cllr M P Scott for the municipal year 2019/20.</p>	
<p><b>2 To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office by newly elected Sandy Town Council Chair/Town Mayor (2-2019/20)</b> The declaration of acceptance of office of Town Mayor was made by Cllr Scott. The presentation of the Chain of Office was made to Cllr Scott.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked everyone for the opportunity to be re-elected as Town Mayor and said it was a pleasure and a privilege to be serving again. The Council faced many challenges in the year ahead but was in a good position to meet these.</p>	
<p><b>3 Mayor's Charity Account (3-2019/20)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that Cllr Scott as Mayor remains as signatory on the Mayor's charity account.</p>	
<p><b>4 Apologies for Absence (4-2019/2020)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs W Jackson, T Knagg, C Osborne and CBC Cllr C Maudlin.</p>	Admin
<p><b>5 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (5-2019/20)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> - None</li><li>ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> - None</li><li>iii) <i>Dispensations</i> - None</li></ul>	

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## 6 Election of Sandy Town Council Deputy Chair/Deputy Town Mayor (6-2019/20)

Councillor Martin Pettitt was nominated and seconded to be Deputy Mayor. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED** to elect Cllr M J Pettitt as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2019/20. The Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor's medallion to the new Deputy Town Mayor. Cllr Pettitt said it was a good learning experience last year and thanked Members for putting their trust in him again. He said there was a great deal of work to do and looked forward to working with the Members and officers.

## 7 Public Participation Session (7-2019/20)

A Member asked if the council were aware of VE Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and will the council celebrate the date? The Clerk responded that the item will be put on the next Community Services and Environment agenda.

Town Clerk

## 8 Minutes of previous Town Council Meetings (8-2019/20)

**RESOLVED** to:

Receive the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 9 Minutes of Committees and Recommendations therein (9-2019/20)

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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.
- ii) **RESOLVED** to receive and note the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**RESOLVED** to approve that the Flag Flying policy be adopted by the Council subject to the following amendments:

- The Union Flag to be flown on the following occasions;
- Birthday of the Monarch
- Birthday of the Monarch's Consort
- Birthday of the Heir Apparent

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- On the first working day following the birth of a new royal baby
- Remembrance Day

## 10 Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees (10-2019/20)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Development Scrutiny Committee comprise of Cllrs A Gibson, W Jackson, T Knagg, M Pettitt, P Sharman, S Sutton, N Thompson.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- ii) The Community Services & Environment Committee comprise of Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton, N Thompson.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- iii) The Policy Finance & Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott, P Sharman.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- iv) The Human Resources Committee comprise of Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt, S Sutton.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

- v) The Grievance and Complaints Committee comprise of Cllrs A Gibson, T Knagg, M Scott, P Sharman, N Thompson.

## 11 Election of Committee Chairs (11-2019/20)

- i) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr S Sutton be elected Chair of the Community Services & Environment Committee.
- ii) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr P Sharman be elected Chair of the Community Services & Environment Committee.
- iii) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr C Osborne be elected Chair of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee.
- iv) It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Cllr A M Hill be elected Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

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## 12 Working Groups (12-2019/20)

It was agreed that:

- i) The Cemetery Working Group comprise of Cllrs A Gibson, W Jackson, M Pettitt, M Scott, P Sharman, and S Sutton.
- ii) The CCTV Working Group comprise of Cllrs P Blaine, A Gibson and A M Hill.
- iii) The Community Plan Working Group comprise of Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott.
- iv) The Events Working Group comprise of Cllrs N Aldis, A Gibson, M Scott, S Sutton, N Thompson.

## 13 External Representation (13-2019/20)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to elect the following Members to serve as representatives on outside bodies. It was also proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that representatives report back at least annually.

		2019/20
1	22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee	Sutton
2	Talk of the Town Transport Committee	Hill
3	Village Hall Management Committee	Knagg
4	Sandy Twinning Association	Pettitt
5	Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights	Aldis
6	Sandy Charities	Sharman
7	Sandy Green Wheel	Aldis Gibson
8	Sandy Sports and Leisure Association	Scott Hill Knagg
9	Sandy Carnival Committee	Gibson
10	SG19 Road Safety Group	Aldis

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11	Sandy Community Children’s Centre	Blaine
12	Police Priority Setting Meetings	Thompson
13	The Riddy and Pinnacle Group	Pettitt Sutton

Members noted that Councillors co-opted to the Council to fill vacant seats should be given the chance to represent the Council on outside bodies. Therefore, representation on the following groups will be reviewed following the co-optation of new Councillors;

- The Sandy Green Wheel
- Sandy Carnival
- SG19 Group

## 14 Vacant Seats (14-2019/20)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the co-option process to fill the three vacant seats take place within the next six weeks and that past applicants be contacted to advise them there was an opportunity to be co-opted.

Town Clerk

## 15 Bank Signatories (15-2019/20)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the current signatories remain the same.

Town Clerk

## 16 General Power of Competence (16-2019/20)

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to take the powers of General Power of Competence and agree that the Town Council meets the criteria for eligibility relating to its Electoral Mandate and qualified Clerk.

Town Clerk

## 17 Planning Application (17-2019/20)

Members received and considered planning application CB/19/01243/FULL residential development comprising 45 apartments together with landscaping, access, parking and all ancillary work at the former RKB Engineering, New Road, Sandy SG19 1NX.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- 1) The Council believes this application is an overdevelopment of the site and that high density, four storey housing developments are out of keeping with the rest of the town. The Council feels that the previous application for 33 dwellings

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was more appropriate based on the size and location of this highly visible site.

- 2) The Council objects to the inclusion of two four storey blocks within this application, which are deemed inappropriate for this location which is an important entrance way to the town of Sandy.

The proposed dwellings are not of a design which is in keeping with the scale, character, or appearance of the area, or indeed any other area of Sandy. While three story dwellings do exist in a development along New Road, these have been sunken into the ground and therefore appear as only two stories from the road. The height of the proposed four storey blocks, in what is a more rural part of the town would be the highest buildings in Sandy and would be highly visible from all viewpoints, blocking the view from the town across to Stratford Road and the RSPB land.

- 3) The application's proposed parking provision is inadequate and does not meet CBC's parking standards. Only one space is provided per unit and no parking provision is made for visitors to the site.

Roads in this locality already struggle with the burden of congested parking due to the lack of available parking provision at the station, a lack of visitor spaces on the proposed development will clearly result in other residential roads being used by visitors to the site and therefore further worsening Sandy's parking issues at this side of the town.

- 4) By reducing the number of parking spaces, the developers are implying that the site will have higher pedestrian movement and residents will be walking or cycling to commute and access local services. However, the application makes no provision for safely linking this site to the rest of the town via pedestrian crossings and road safety measures.

The increased number of properties on this site will increase the need for safe crossing measures. In particular, the lack of connectivity with the train station means that any pedestrians travelling between these two sites would need to cross New Road twice, further highlighting the need for a continuation of the footpath on the development's side of the road or the installation of safe crossing points.

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- 5) In its response to the previous application on this site, Sandy Town Council highlighted the need for a safer pedestrian route along New Road, via the creation of a paved pedestrian footpath. New Road is a well-used pedestrian route between Beeston and Sandy despite the lack of a safe footpath. The additional traffic movements that will be created by this development warrant the need for a safe pavement along New Road to the A1 to come forward as part of this development.
- 6) The increased number of dwellings will have a negative impact on the local road network. The Council highlight issues over the poor visibility from the entrance/exit of this site. The junction is positioned on a bend and is extremely close to a busy junction leading to the Tesco site. The increased traffic movements resulting from the additional houses will exacerbate the situation and potentially lead to accidents.
- 7) Members noted that no provision has been made to meet relevant fire regulations for buildings of that height. The Council made specific reference to the lack of a sprinkler system or a second continuous staircase, required for safe exit from the building.
- 8) Both this Council and CBC recently engaged with the East West Rail consultation, which included the possibility of route options through Sandy. All planning decisions should take into account the future of this important strategic scheme.

## **18 Internal Audit (18-2019/20)**

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that Haines Watts continue as the Council's internal auditor to complete the second half of the 2018/19 financial year audit.

## **19 Scheme of Delegations (19-2019/20)**

A Member asked if anything had changed and the Clerk said that the Events Working Group had been added and that Terms of Reference had been added to all working groups.

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the Scheme of Delegations.

## **20 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations (20-2019/20)**

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** to continue with the current Town Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations without any amendments or changes until such time as the Town

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Clerk or Council wishes to make changes or following advice from NALC.

## **21 Review of Council Policies & Procedures (21-2019/20)**

It was proposed and seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council accepts its current policies and procedures but delegates to the Policy Committee to review these in depth and bring to Full Council any amendments or policy proposal changes for ratification.

## **22 Subscriptions (22-2019/20)**

Members received and noted the subscriptions paid by the Council. A Member asked if the magazine from the IOG could be made available to Members. The Clerk advised that the office would notify Members when the magazine was available to view in the office.

Admin

## **23 A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Community Forum (23-2019/20)**

Members considered sending two representatives to a progress meeting on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement Scheme on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and Cllrs Blaine and Gibson agreed to attend.

## **24 Police and Crime Commissioner (24-2019/20)**

- i) Members noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner will be holding a 'Meet the PCC' event at Sandy Town Council's offices on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 5.51pm to 6.45pm. The Deputy Mayor will be hosting the event in the Mayor's absence.
- ii) Members noted that the Annual Police & Crime Commissioners Annual Parish Conference will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 from 6pm to 7.30pm at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick. Cllr Gibson will be attending.

## **25 Reports from Representatives (25-2019/20)**

- i) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association's trip to Malaunay.
- ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on the talk of the Town Minibus (TOTT) AGM.

## **26 News Release (26-2019/20)**

Co-option of new councillors

Town  
Clerk

## **27 Chairman's Items (27-2019/20)**

There were no Chairman's items.



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**28**     **Date of Next Meeting (28-2019/20)**  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

