

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 16th December 2019 commencing at 7.40pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair)

Absent: Cllrs S Doyle, N Thompson

In Attendance: Cllrs M Pettitt, P Sharman, CBC Cllr T Stock, Mr C Robson (Town Clerk), Mrs C Baker-Smith (Admin Team Leader)

Action

1 Apologies for absence (81-2019/20)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Doyle, Thompson.

Admin

2 Declarations of Interest (82-2019/20)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting (83-2019/20)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 4th November 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.

Admin

A Member asked when the replacement trees at Beeston would be planted and the Clerk advised that they were anticipated to be delivered the week commencing 13th January 2020.

4 Public Participation Session (84-2019/20)

There were no members of the public present. A Member said that they would like to speak on item 7 on the agenda.

5 Action list (85-2019/20)

Members received and noted the action list.

The Clerk updated Members that he had heard from CBC that they will now be progressing the Head of Terms for the community land at Beeston. Both parties will now need to sign the Heads of Terms and CBC have instructed solicitors to draw up the lease, with all previous suggestions from the committee being accepted and incorporated. A Working Group consisting of Cllrs Gibson, Hill, Scott and Sutton will look at the lease when it is prepared.

Town Clerk / Working group

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6 **Reported Parking Problems (86-2019/20)**

Members received and considered a request from a member of the public in regards to parking issues on a residential street.

A Member reported that he had been to look at the reported problems in Abbey Grove and proposed that the Town Council carry out a similar survey to the one in Swithun's Way. This was seconded. However, another Member stated that this problem had been going on for at least 20 years because there was insufficient parking, residents not using their garages and families now had more than one car. This problem is happening everywhere in Sandy and CBC are advising residents to contact the Town Council, giving them false hope in a solution. He believed that CBC were preparing a parking strategy which should look at these issues and questioned how the Town Council should deal with other similar requests that might come through.

A Member said that every road in Sandy and Beeston has a problem especially near schools but that removing verges for parking bays may not be a solution. He went on to say that this is a national problem and there is no easy solution, Abbey Grove is not the exception.

A Member said that the problem was getting worse and garages are too small nowadays to house cars. Abbey Grove which is owned by Grand Union, is different to many roads and that the Town Council will get more requests. There needs to be a solution on both social and private estates. Another Member suggested that the evidence from a survey could be taken to Grand Union who manage/own areas of the land.

Members suggested that the Town Council should be proactive in helping its residents by gathering information and pushing for solutions from CBC and other organisations. It was agreed that Cllrs Aldis and Doyle and another member of Pinnacle Ward would carry out the survey.

The Chair proposed that after this survey all future surveys should be carried out by CBC using a format provided by STC.

Members questioned whether CBC would carry on with the surveys. Another Member said that many roads do not have parking problems and consideration should be given to which roads are surveyed as part of community engagement.

A Member commented that the problems of parking in Swan Lane

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had been recognised but that no action had been taken by CBC for nearly 2 years. CBC Cllr Stock said she would re-look into the matter.

The Chair said that there should be discussions between the Town Council and Grand Union Housing and find out the number of houses in Grand Union ownership and then share information to find out if they have any concerns. The Clerk to write to Grand Union Housing.

Town
Clerk

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that a parking survey of Abbey Grove be carried out by Cllrs Aldis and Doyle and that the results of the survey be reported back to the committee.

Cllrs Aldis
& Doyle

7 **Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints (87-2019/20)**

Members received and considered information and a request in regard to complaints of anti-social behaviour in two locations in Sandy.

A Member said that problems in the Cauldwell Court area had been occurring over the last 6 months. The area known as the 'Mushroom' had been flattened in recent years to stop anti-social behaviour but now people were gathering and sitting on the low wall in the area. There used to be a mobile CCTV camera in place, but this was moved to the Fallowfield estate before falling beyond economic repair. Grand Union had previously funded 50% of the annual CCTV costs for the mobile camera but had stopped when they deemed there was no longer a need for the camera. Grand Union have said they have not received any recent complaints.

Members queried whether CCTV is the answer or whether it moved incidents elsewhere. Members also queried what action police had taken regarding the complaints.

A Member said that residents and council members in Shefford had joined forces and stopped anti-social behaviour in their town and perhaps the Town Council should contact them and ask them how they did it. It was agreed that this would be a sensible action.

Town
Clerk

It was reported that the police were aware of the anti-social behaviour in Georgetown and Members questioned whether CCTV was needed or practical. The land in the area is not under Town Council ownership or management. It was suggested that there must be CCTV cameras on the business as you go into Georgetown and they must be capturing incidents. Police could make requests to the businesses if incidents had occurred.

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A Member queried whether the police would keep an eye on Cauldwell Court and Georgetown if there were cameras in place and would those cameras move the problem to another location. It was suggested that all agencies needed to come together to deal with the problem.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council request a police heat map showing all reported incidents so a greater understanding can be established of how many people are reporting anti-social behaviour, its frequency and where it is occurring. Note that anti-social behaviour statistics are not reported as part of the police.uk crime statistics. Continue to encourage residents to report incidents to 101 and provide details to Grand Union as well as the Town Council. Facilitate site meetings with Grand Union and representatives from the Community Policing Team to discuss potential joined up approaches to tackling reports of anti-social behaviour. Consider whether evidence provided could justify CCTV and whether this would have the desired impact on incidents of anti-social behaviour. Seek advice from Shefford Town Council.

**Town
Clerk**

8 Community Engagement (88-2019/20)

Members considered whether the Town Council wishes to renew its monthly page in the Bulletin for a further year as part of its community engagement.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Bulletin is renewed for a further year.

**Town
Clerk**

9 Youth Engagement (89-2019/20)

Members considered the creation of a Youth Advisory Panel.

A Member said that a minimal budget would be needed for this project to cover associated staff costs, printing and any other possible resources. Another Member said that the success of a youth panel may depend on the attitude of the management in schools and it would need someone in the school to come on board to support and help with the continuity of the project. A Member said that other youth groups ie. Air and Army Cadets, Scouts and Guides should be included.

Members agreed that a panel could be a proactive way forward in engaging young people in Sandy and seeking their views and input. Timing the launch of a panel with the start of the new school year in 2020 was considered sensible.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the committee agree in principle to the establishment of a Youth Advisory Panel to facilitate engagement with young people in Sandy. That the Council aim to launch the panel in September 2020. That councillors are assigned to help develop a more detailed proposal on the structure, aims, objectives and how the Youth Panel will operate. That a detailed proposal is brought back to the committee at its meeting of 9th March 2020 for further consideration.

It was agreed that a meeting take place in January/February 2020 with Cllrs Aldis, Doyle, Lock, Pettitt and Knagg to prepare a proposal.

10 **Events Report (90-2019/20)**

i) Members received and noted minutes from the Events Working Group Remembrance Day wash-up meeting. A Member said he supported the group's recommendation that participants should be nearer to the Cenotaph and in twos or threes to lay their wreaths. The wreath laying and church service took too long for the youngsters taking part. This was also recognised by the Working Group.

ii) It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council pay for a four speaker PA system to be provided for future remembrance days at a cost of £100 and that this be included in the 2020/21 community events support budget.

Town Clerk

A Member said that there had been 2,300 visitors to the Tree Festival at St Swithun's Church.

11 **Upcoming Events (91-2019/20)**

i) Members noted a list of upcoming events. It was suggested that event times be added to the list. Cllr Sharman said he would assist at the ATC Parade and Service on the 9th February and the VE Day event on the 8th May 2020.

Admin

ii) Members noted an update on the proposed VE Day event. A Member suggested that mugs be bought for all primary year aged students in Sandy. The Clerk said that he had already acquired costs and an item would be included on the next PFR agenda for further consideration. He also said that another funfair would need to be sought as Henry Harris funfair was attending another event. The Events Working Group would decide what type of funfair was needed.

Town Clerk

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It was noted that there would be a meeting of the events working group in January 2020.

12 Chairman's Items (92-2019/20)

There were none.

13 Date of Next Meeting (93-2019/20)

Monday 27th January 2020