

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lacey and N Thompson

In attendance: Mr I Reed (Deputy Town Clerk), Ward Councillor Stock and Mr M Guess and colleague of Spring Fibre and a colleague.
One member of the public attended

Action

1	Apologies for Absence (217–2022/2023) Apologies were received from Cllrs L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lacey and Ward Councillor Maudlin.	Admin
2	Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations number (218 - 2022/2023) <i>i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None</i> <i>ii) Non Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Osborne declared an interest in item 15 as he was president of Sandy FC</i> <i>iii) Dispensations – None</i>	Admin
3	Public Participation Session (219 - 2022/2023) Mr Peter Ward a coach for Sandy FC Colts attended the meeting to express his concerns to the Council about issues relating to water logged football pitches at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. He reported that he had experienced ten weeks of cancelled games during the current season. This had resulted in fixture congestion but also had an affect on young footballers unable to enjoy playing their favourite sport. The Mayor asked that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee on the condition of the Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. The particular but by no means the only concerns were the number of weekends this winter and spring where the pitches were not suitable for play due to waterlogging.	Town Clerk Deputy Clerk
4	Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (220 - 2022/2023) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Special Meeting of Sandy	Admin

Town Council held on Monday 27th March 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein - (221-2022/2023)

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 the meetings of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 6th and 27th March 2023.

ii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Policy, Finance & Resources Committee held on 3rd April 2023
The Chairman Councillor C Osborne updated the Council on the likely underspend on the current budget. It was noted that the predicted underspend of £27,000 was likely to be reduced to approximately £13 -£14,000 due to unplanned staffing and street lighting costs

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee held on 27th March 2023 and approve the following recommendation:

That in accordance with Financial Regulations the requirement to seek two more quotations is not appropriate because of the specialist nature of the work and Glyn Mould of the Carvers Workshop be asked to undertake the work during this Summer at a cost of £910.

iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 13th March 2023 and approve the following recommendations:

That Interim Personal Development Plans (PDP) be initiated in March/April with the annual final PDP agreed in September/October

That pay scale point rises should accrue automatically from year to year within a set band, unless it is felt that staff were underperforming in their role. This would bring all staff inline with the Clerk's pay scale agreement

That all PDPs will be set against SMART objectives

6 Spring Fibre (222-2022/2023)

The Council received a presentation from Michael Guess and a colleague from Spring Fibre about bringing ultrafast broadband to Sandy. The company were also looking at installations in Biggleswade and Shefford but the programme for Sandy would be completed first. The installation would be by 'Fibre to the

Clerk

Sandy Town Council

Premises' (FTTP). This would allow customers to access cheaper broadband because it was considered little competition in the area at the moment. The cable would be provided by digging trenches, using the existing Open Reach network or by providing poles. The company emphasised that their approach would avoid traffic disruption to the town. During a discussion with the company representatives it was explained as a utility company they had the right to undertake the work and would liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council Highways on how the work was carried out. It was estimated that once the works commenced it would take a number of months to complete.

Some Members expressed scepticism around the nature and scope of the proposed work programme as explained during the presentation. Concerns were raised around the impact on the town and in particular possible disruption to the highway network. The use of poles to carry fibre in places was also not welcomed by the meeting. Mr Guess and his colleague were thanked for their attendance.

7 **Community Day (223-2022/2023)**

Members received a verbal update from Emma Foxley of Lets Get Going a CIC company based in Sandy. She explained that further to her report to the Community Services and Environment Committee in January 2023 the Community Event would be held on 13 May at the Athletics track from 12 noon to 4pm..

The Mayor advised her that there may be significant parking issues on the day due to the works at Jenkins Pavilion that meant public car parking might be restricted.

The Council was further advised that the Community Day would allow the public to try activities like walking cricket, yoga and karate and many community groups would be represented at the event.

The Mayor welcomed the report and encouraged Emma to provide the Town Council with information on all the activities planned by Lets Get Going. The information would be promoted on the Town Council website.

It was also noted that Lets Get Going would be attending the Spring Fair Market on Sunday 23 April and the Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 7 May 2022.

8 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Council (224-2022/2023)**

Members received and noted a report from Ward Councillor Tracey Stock:

Central Bedfordshire Council – Update

Clerk
Deputy
clerk

Admin

- The new highway partner was Milestone
- The new leisure provider was Everyone Active – it was noted that the staff at the Jenkins Pavilion had been transferred to the new organization under the TUPE regulations

Cheering Volunteering

At the Rufus Centre, Flitwick on 7 June Central Bedfordshire Council was organising 'Cheering Volunteering' an opportunity for volunteers to be recognised for their contribution to help local communities and local causes.

Consultation on Housing Asset Management Strategy

Central Bedfordshire Council was holding a consultation which closed on Tuesday 25 April

Domestic Abuse Survey -5 April to 31 May

Central Bedfordshire Council was inviting people to share the experience of domestic abuse through a short survey

Removal of bottle bank from The Bell public house

A discussion took place on identifying potential replacement sites Councillor Stock advised the meeting that after 8 years she was stepping down as a CBC Councillor. She advised the Mayor that it had been a pleasure to work with the officers and Members of the Town Council.

The Mayor thanked her for her commitment to represent Sandy and Beeston and the Town Council.

9 Lamppost Contract (225-2022/2023)

The meeting considered a report setting out the quotes for the ongoing maintenance of lampposts in Sandy. The Council had sought three quotations but one company had decided not to submit a quote.

RESOLVED to accept the quote from Company A as the best value for money and with a contractor the Town Council has worked with over a long term period.

Clerk

10 Action Plan (226-2022/2023)

The Council discussed priorities of the Council for the next five years. This would lead to an Action Plan being created for adoption by the new council when it formed in May.

RESOLVED that the following priorities be identified;

Completion of new council depot and cemetery extension (the issues were linked)

Sandye Place – now that the site was no longer contained a DFEE registered school

Jenkins Pavilion

The future of the A1 and the consequences of the Black Cat

Clerk

Sandy Town Council

Improvements

Improve the Democratic Representation on the Town Council (it was noted that the Council would be commencing a new four year term with four Councillor vacancies)

11	<p>Town Centre Welcome Signs (227-2022/2023) The Committee discussed a report on the design of three town centre entrance signs to replace older looking signs on New Road, Potton Road and Girtford Bridge, Sandy. The Council was reminded that the Community Services and Environment Committee had approved the design and location of the signs (Minute 90-2021/22 refers). The report sought approval for the costs of the signs. The total cost for the signs was £4,582.15 plus carriage and VAT. Once the purchase of the signs were approved the Council will seek permission from Central Bedfordshire Council to install the signs at approved locations.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the costs of the signs to be manufactured by Sign of the Times at a total price of £4,582 15 plus carriage and VAT be approved and that the Community Services and Environment Committee be requested to consider providing a fourth welcome sign</p>	Deputy Clerk
12	<p>Action List (228-2022/2023) Members received and noted updates to an action list on Full Council items.</p> <p><u>A1 Local Issues</u> The meeting noted that some Members of the Council had met with Richard Fuller MP on 28th January to discuss several matters including concerns over the A1. Also, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor reported that they had also had an opportunity to speak to Richard Holden MP and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport and that concerns about the A1 were raised. The Mayor was disappointed to report that since the meetings no updates had been received from either the MP or Mr Holden.</p>	
13	<p>BATPC Affiliation Fees for 2023/24 (229-2022/2023) Members were advised that the cost of being an affiliate member of the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils for the Council year 2023/24 was £2,186.00.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree to pay the sum of £2,186 to Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils for membership</p>	Clerk

14	<p>S106 Money unallocated funds (230-2022/2023)</p> <p>The Council meeting considered a report that detailed a last minute request from Central Bedfordshire Council for the Town Council to submit S106 applications that were associated with community and village hall requirements and repairs. The meeting noted that there was a sum of £9,446.40 available. It was further reported that the Council had been advised there would be some flexibility in considering the applications. The following works had been put forward:</p>	Clerk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of youth shelter, Bedford Road Park • Installation of gates at Fallowfield play area • Installation of anti vandal toilet roll holders and maintenance works at the two public conveniences <p>Unfortunately, the quotations for the work had not been received for consideration at the meeting. The officers were encouraged to follow through with the applications once the quotations were received. The Mayor also asked if any funding could be secured for the boundary fence at the scout hut and the purchase and installation of proposed security gates at the Bedford Road Pavilion. The Mayor also enquired whether any of the available funds might be secured for work which may be necessary to maintain the fence around the Sandy Town Bowls Club green.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>that all the projects identified in the minute be progressed and applications be submitted as appropriate</p>	
15	<p>Bedford Road Pavilion (231-2022/2023)</p> <p>Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk about requests made to change certain aspects of the lease between Sandy Football Club and the Town Council. The football club had also raised the energy costs of the building and the fact that the Club was meeting the total costs of the energy bills. The issues raised included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Maintenance • Door security • Carparking 	Clerk
	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk be asked the Chairman of the Community Services and Environment Committee to meet with representatives of the club to discuss these matters further in June 2023</p>	
16	<p>Newsletter Template (232-2022/2023)</p> <p>The Council meeting received the newsletter template with enthusiasm. A short discussion took place about the content of the newsletter and Members were encouraged to put forward items for publication</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Council welcomes the template for a quarterly newsletter</p>	Clerk Community Engagement

Sandy Town Council

- 17 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies (233-2022/2023)**
i) Members received and noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association Committee meeting held on 28 February 2023. Clerk
- ii) Members received and noted a report from Cllr Pettitt on the Sandy Twinning Association. He confirmed the plans for the visit of 30 friends from Malaunay between 28th April and 1st May. A reception for the visitors would be held in the council chamber on 28 April. All members of the Council were invited to attend. An Anniversary Dinner was to be held on Sunday evening.
- 18 Correspondence (234-2022/2023)** Clerk
Members noted correspondence which had been circulated to them via email prior to the meeting.
At the request of the Mayor the meeting gave consideration to A00386 Churchill Way, Sandy – Revocation of Disabled Parking Bay – consultation. Comments invited by 5 May 2023.
RESOLVED
That the proposal to revoke a disabled parking bay in Churchill Way, Sandy be considered at the additional meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee to be held on 5 May 2023
- 19 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. **(235 -2022/2023)**
- 20 First Registration Queries (236-2022/2023)** Clerk
The Committee considered a report regarding a potential application for adverse possession of a strip of land that was not currently registered with Land Registry and lies within the boundary of Bedford Road Recreation Ground. It was noted that any action to seek possession of the land would incur legal and Land Registry charges totaling b£1,240 plus VAT.
It was RESOLVED to make an application for adverse possession of the land at Bedford Road Recreation Ground
- 21 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.
(237- 2022/2023)
- 22 Mayoral Engagements (238 -2022/2023)**
Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

At the meeting the Mayor included in the list of his activities the litter pick held at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground on 24 March which was part of the Great British Litter Pick.

23 News/Press Release (239 –2022/2023)

- Coronation Big Lunch on 7 May 2023 – Press Release
- St Swithuns’ Church – celebration service for the Rector-23 April 2023
- The Council was holding a Spring Market in the Town Centre on Sunday 23 April. All Members were welcome to attend
- Councillor Osborne reported that because the church had a vacancy for a rector the Bishop would be holding a meeting on 27 June at the church to receive views on the recruitment of a new celebrant. All Members were invited to attend.

Community
Engagement
Officer

24 Chairman’s Items (240– 2022/2023)

The Mayor made the following announcements;

- Councillor Blaine was not returning to the Council after the elections in May. The Mayor thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Town Council
- He also reported that Councillors J and L Ivanciu-Wilkinson would not be returning as Councillors. He thanked them for their service
- The Mayor reported only eleven Councillors would be returning to the Town Council after the elections. He stated he was disappointed there would no elections for Town Council this year. He expressed his desire for the Town Council to take steps to speedily fill the four vacancies by co-option.
- He advised the Council he was disappointed not to have achieved more in his two years in office
- He expressed his thanks to all Councillors and Town Council staff in supporting him and it was an honour and a privilege to have been the Mayor of the town for the past two years

Clerk

25 Date of the next meeting: 22nd May 2023 (Annual meeting of the Council)

Admin

The Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday 24th April 2023 in the Theatre Hall at Sandy Secondary School starting at 7pm.

The meeting closed at: 21:51