

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 19th December 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, M Pettitt (Chair),

Absent: Cllrs J Hewitt, J Ivanciu-Wilkinson, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, C Osborne, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton, and N Thompson

In attendance: Mrs N Sewell (Clerk), Deputy Clerk Ian Reed, Ward Cllrs Ford, Maudlin and Stock, Stephen Mooring, Darren Woodward and 8 members of the public.

Action

1 Apologies for Absence from (142-2022/23)

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Hewitt, J Ivanciu-Wilkinson, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, C Osborne, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton, and N Thompson.

Admin

2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations number (143 - 2022/2023)

- i) *Disclosable Pecuniary Interests* – None
- ii) *Non Pecuniary Interests* – None
- iii) *Dispensations* – None

Admin

3 Public Participation Session (144-2022/2023)

8 members of the public were present, all of whom were present for item 6. No questions were raised on that item at this time.

Cllr Aldis commented that several residents had asked him if during the winter months the STC outdoor team could undertake gritting on the pathways around Sandy as the ice and snow had made the town centre treacherous for visitors.

The Chair pointed out that gritting came under the responsibility of CBC Highways and added that the outdoor team had been busy during the previous week covering areas of responsibility for the Town Council with grit, which had led to having to re stock the salt bins.

The Clerk added that consideration would need to be taken not only to the time it would take the outdoor team to do such work but also proper training, equipment, storage, and costs for materials required as well as any H&S implications for the team

Town Clerk

and the wider council. Sandy has 178 streets and there would be a need to prioritise areas.

Cllr Aldis confirmed he was only looking at the Town Centre/Market Square area for coverage not all pathways in the town.

It was agreed that a full report would be taken to the next CS&E Committee meeting for consideration.

4 Minutes of previous Town Council Meeting (145-2022/2023)

Admin

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the previous meeting of Sandy Town Council held on Monday 14th November 2022 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings with the following amendment noted, that Cllr Lacey attended the meeting and was not absent as reported.

5 Minutes of Committees and recommendations therein - number (146-2022/2023)

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 meeting of Development Scrutiny Committee held on 5th December 2022.

ii) **RESOLVED** to defer the minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 12th December and Committee recommendations to the next full meeting of the Town Council.

iii) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the meeting of Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 21st November 2022.

iv) **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of meetings of HR Committee held on 5th December 2022 and approve the recommendation to extend the contract for one Temporary Member of staff until Friday 13th January to cover the current shortfall in the admin team until a Civic and Planning Officer can be recruited. This contract is to be reviewed in early January 2023.

6 Proposed New Woodland at Beeston (147-2022/2023)

Members received an updated plan regarding designs to create a New Woodland at Beeston with a provision for Community Orchard and Allotments.

Sandy Town Council

Stephen Mooring, Head of Sustainability at CBC and Darren Woodward, Forest Development Manager were present to answer questions. Consideration had been taken regarding previous concerns from residents about the original plans and the new design had taken these into account, as such the threat to current businesses operating from the area were no longer an issue.

Following the redesign and a need to protect archaeological features on the site, the original site for allotments had been moved and a substantially reduced area offered in its place.

Cllr Ford left the meeting at 20.00

RESOLVED to note the report. Sandy Town Council is keen to see the planting commence if adequate provision of land is made available for allotments. STC to liaise with Stephen Mooring on the required number of plots and area mass needed to provision for those plots.

Clerk

7 **Reports from Central Bedfordshire Council (148-2022/2023)**

Cllr Tracey Stock gave an update on the crossing in the High Street. She reported she and Cllr Ford had been continuing to work with officers who were still looking at options following a request to re-site the crossing to a new location.

She reported that for those concerned about the cost of living, support could be found on the CBC website:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support_with_the_cost_of_living

Grants are now available for any groups offering a warm space. CBC has already agreed for its libraries and leisure centres to be a warm space during the day. In Sandy these are located at Sandy Library and Sandy Sports Centre. Independent local groups wishing to offer a warm space can apply for grants of £500 to pay towards the costs.

CBC's budget consultation starts on 3rd January and ends on 24th January.

There was a brief update about Covid, people are still being affected by it but mostly within the 11-24 year old age group. Although the cases had only risen very slightly there was currently more prevalence with people being affected by flu in the area.

Cllrs Stock responded to a question from the Chairman and affirmed that once registration issues relating to Pleasant Place had been resolved CBC would be attending to historical drainage and structural problems and then resurfacing the road to bring it up to a safe and acceptable standard.

Cllr Maudlin stated that the planning application for Sandy Secondary School was up before the Development Management Committee on 21st December, and if plans were approved at that meeting, then it would see a widening of the roundabout on Endgayne Avenue and St Neots Road.

Cllr Pettitt thanked the Ward Councillors for their reports.

8 Legal Fees for the Jenkins Pavilion Lease (149-2022/2023)

Admin

Members received estimated costs for legal fees from Woodfines to undertake work on the Jenkins Pavilion lease at a cost of up to a maximum of £3,000 plus some nominal disbursements up to £50, with a view to instructing them to commence work on the project.

It was RESOLVED to note 10.3 Financial Regulations and agreed that as Woodfines had already recently been the successful tender in a process for the same legal administration requirements, e.g. the Beeston allotment lease, this enabled STC to again instruct Woodfines and waive the need to undertake a further competitive tendering process. Woodfines would be instructed to only work on a lease drafted by CBC's solicitors in the first instance and would not be creating a new lease for STC from scratch.

9 Local Cycling Route and Walking Infrastructure Plan (150-2022/2023)

Members received a report from CBC regarding plans to improve local cycling and walking routes. Members had already been encouraged to comment as individuals on the consultation.

It was RESOLVED that as Cllr Aldis had already submitted feedback on the routes with suggestions for improvements, including road surfacing to make the routes safer, the reinstatement of a path at Kingfisher Way, a footpath alongside the River Ivel to Biggleswade and the main route to Potton needing to be diverted over the railway bridge, that no further comment from the Town Council was required.

10 Action List (151-2022/2023)

East West Rail

Cllr Blaine commented that he felt there should have been a response to the Consultation that would allow the Town Council to speak towards that response but to date no response has been

Sandy Town Council

forthcoming.

A1 Local Issues

Cllr Pettitt reported that he and Cllr Hewitt had provisionally arranged a meeting with Mr. Richard Fuller MP late January 2023 to take discussions forward.

Sandye Place Academy

No further updates to report currently.

11 Proposed deregistration of common land/town or village green at: BEESTON VILLAGE GREEN VG14 (5) (152-2022/2023)

Members received an amendment to an application made to the Secretary of State to release land from Beeston Village Green, originally considered by the Town Council on 20th June 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendment.

The Chair moved items between 15, 16 and 17 forward to be transacted before Council went into private session.

12 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. **(153-2022/23)**

13 Beeston Allotment Lease (154-2022/23)

Members received the amended draft lease between STC and CBC for a parcel of land at Beeston to be used for allotments and a community orchard. The land is linked to the development of six affordable houses adjacent to the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to wait until Woodfines had received an amended version of the lease from CBC and advised Council on any amends before comment was passed. The lease will be presented at the next meeting of the Town Council.

14 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. **(155-2022/23)**

Clerk

15 Mayoral Engagements (156 -2022/2023)

Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor thanked all Members who had attended the Carols by Candlelight Service at St Swithun's Church on 17th December, he wanted to extend particular thanks to Cllr A Lock for his reading at the event and for the support of the Town Council's new Deputy Clerk Mr. Ian Reed for help with pulling the event together and supporting on the night.

16 News Releases (157 -2022-2023)

To welcome the plans to create a new woodland at Beeston with the potential to provide land for much needed allotments and a community orchard. To use this as an opportunity to ask residents interested in taking on an allotment to contact the Town Council before the end of January 2023.

17 Chairmans Items (158-2022/23)

The Chairman raised awareness of an amendment to planning application CB/19/04301/OUT Land North of Biggleswade SG18 0HB which had been received after the agenda had been published. Although the Planning Application was not still out for consultation the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer to state that the Town Council stood by its previous objections to the application and fully supported the objections outlined to planners by Mr. Richard Fuller MP in his letter to them dated 5th December 2022.

Town Clerk

18 Date of next meeting: 23rd January 2023 (159-2022/23)

Meeting closed at 21.12