

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 4th September 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, T Cole, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, J Sparrow, S Sutton (Chair), N Thompson

Absent: Cllrs G Leach, M Scott and Cllr C Maudlin (CBC)

In Attendance: Mr C Robson (Clerk)

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (26-2017/18)**
Cllrs G Leach, M Scott and CBC Cllr C Maudlin
- 2 **Declarations of interest (27-2017/18)**
 - i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None
 - ii) Non-disclosable Interests – None
 - iii) Dispensations – None
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting (28-2017/18)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 17th July 2017 as a correct record of proceedings.
- 4 **Public Participation Session (29-2017/18)**
Members discussed a matter raised by a resident of Willow Rise, Sandy and ongoing issues around parking in the town. The resident questioned whether the Council would support controlled parking for the road and what support the Council could give. Several Councillors had already replied directly to the resident and passed on details for Central Bedfordshire Councillors, who would be in a better position to help. The Chair commented that CBC Cllr Maudlin was assisting the Clerk in getting the results of a parking survey carried out by CBC, which would provide more information and guidance for Members on the situation in Sandy.

The Clerk informed Members that he had received a question from a resident of Park Court, Sandy. The resident's garden backs on to the river Ivel and it was questioned whether the Town Council would be carrying out clearance work on the bank opposite the residential side. The Environmental Agency (EA) have stated they will only carry out work to prevent flooding and that the actual appearance is up to the owners of the river bank. Residents have

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cleared their side but are concerned about the opposite side of the bank.

A Member commented that this in part was due to the EA no longer carrying out bi-annual river clearance work. The office is contacting CBC Right of Way, who manage the path running along the river, to ask whether they will carry out any clearance work.

5 **Action list (30-2017/18)**

Engayne Avenue Estate (including Winchester & Dapifer Roads):

It was noted that matters had moved on from the original resolution and action was now led by CBC. The Clerk is to amend the action list to reflect the change.

Town Clerk

Bus Shelter in Fallowfield: The Clerk stated that the base for the shelter has been installed at the bus stop, however we are still awaiting a date for an installation of the shelter from CBC public transport. *CBC have confirmed that the shelter should be ready in 6-8 weeks from the date of this meeting. A problem with the manufacturer resulted in a delay.*

Beeston Green Orchard/Allotments: At this point the outcome of CBC's outline planning application for the affordable houses and associated community land is still awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask CBC Councillors to put more pressure on moving the project forward.

Town Clerk

Fingerpost Signs – Market Regeneration: The Clerk stated that the design and costings report for signage and other improvements should have been completed by Ringway Jacobs on 31st August. The Clerk is to liaise with CBC Highways on the results of the report and moving the Market Town Match Fund improvements forward.

Town clerk

Parking Restrictions: Following the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's quarterly meeting with CBC Councillors, Cllr C Maudlin chased up CBC Principle Transport Officer for the results of the parking survey carried out earlier in the year. As yet no response has been received and Cllr Maudlin will assist the Clerk in escalating the matter.

Town Clerk

Community Plan: The Clerk stated that a review meeting of the Working Group was to be arranged upon the return of the Group's Chairman.

6 **The Limes, Beeston (31-2017/18)**

Members received and discussed a report from the Town Clerk on a

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request received to purchase a piece of land owned by the Town Council. A Member of the public wished to purchase part of what is currently amenity land in The Limes, Beeston for the purpose of building a single dwelling. If the Council were to consider the sale, the purchaser would cover the costs of installing any access roads and would be willing to purchase a larger strip, up to the tree line, to avoid creating a poorly shaped amenity land if required.

A Member commented that he could recall three occasions when amenity land had been sold by the Council, but on each occasion, it was for a smaller area of land than what is proposed. It is difficult to take amenity land away from that designated use. CBC have previously rejected this area of land being used for allotments.

It was commented that the area put forward is in a flood plain and the Council should not look to sell it for housing given its position. The sale of this land could set a precedent for the loss of amenity land. Councils are encouraged to provide such spaces and as such should resist reducing recreational areas.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the committee does not wish to pursue the sale of part of the Council owned amenity land at The Limes at this time.

A member commented that the sale of the land would impair the Council's access to the ditch boundary with The Roddy. It was also stated that the creation of a new access road would compound existing parking problems, possibly resulting in more cars parking on the grassed recreation area leading off from an extended road.

RESOLVED that the committee does not wish to pursue the sale of part of the Council owned amenity land at The Limes at this time.

Admin

7 **Market Town Regeneration Fund (32-2017/18)**

A Member asked for clarification on where the stand was to be located. The Clerk confirmed that it would be on the area of paving in front of the post and would include new benches and cycle racks. A Member commented that he was not aware of the intention to install a community stand and that if it is to be installed it should be ensured that it will be properly used or it risked becoming a 'White Elephant'. While such stands have been popular, they are usually placed in parks rather than high streets. The Chair commented that the stand had come forward from Councillors' suggestions for the Market Match Fund and concentrates on improvements to the High Street area. A report was previously received by the committee on 13th March 2017, which included details of the stand and a map

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showing its location.

A Member queried the height of the stand as it seemed high. The Clerk commented that options were limited as it was a case of buying a piece of street furniture and installing it, rather than carrying out a bespoke design. Central Bedfordshire Council's Highway Department will advise on the positioning of the stand to ensure that it is far enough away from the shop canopy to prevent anyone climbing up. A Member commented that the pitch of the roof would need to be the height detailed for rain water drainage. The stand should be a reasonable size so it can be used by as many people as possible.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that a planning agent is engaged to assist in submitting a planning application to CBC for the installation of a covered community stand as part of the Market Town Match Fund regeneration works. That the Clerk get an exact cost for approval by Council.

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8 **Community Emergency Plan (33-2017/18)**

Members reviewed the plan and noted that it was a sizeable piece of work. The Chair thanked the office for their work on it.

Members commented that it had already been agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be included in the Emergency Plan Team. The Clerk advised that the team did not need to be restricted to the Council and volunteers from the public could be included.

The Clerk would remove the comment about schools not being available during school holidays, as site managers/agents would be available to contact in the case of an emergency.

A Member asked who the contact numbers would be available to. The Clerk informed the committee that they would only be available to members of the Emergency Plan Team and Central Bedfordshire Council's Emergency Plan Officers.

Following the amendment of some names and additional contact details for three organisations, the Clerk would submit the plan to CBC. It was agreed that the plan would need to be reviewed on an annual basis.

A Member asked what publicity would be given to the completed plan. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with CBC to see what publicity they were giving plans completed by parishes. An abbreviated version of the plan can go on the Town Council's

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website.

9 **Event PA System (34-2017/18)**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on the purchase of a battery powered PA system for use at events. The recent War Memorial re-dedication event had highlighted the need for a system to ensure people can hear what is happening and feel a part of events.

Members agreed that a PA System was needed and this could be let out to other groups within the town in the same way the Council's gazebos are.

A Member asked about the range of the system and if a better system was available that could be used for larger events. If the Council is to invest in a PA system it should ensure it is getting a system that can be used for as many occasions as possible.

A Member asked to what extent a needs survey had been carried out. If the Council are to spend public money on a system we should be clear what we want to use it for and ensure we are getting the right system that fits the job.

Members of the committee agreed that in principle they did wish to purchase a PA system for use at events, but that further information and options were required on the type of system, its specifications and where/when it could be used. The Committee requested that the Clerk bring back a further report for consideration on the matter.

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10 **Police and Crime Commissioner (35-2017/18)**

The Chair thanked all those who had forwarded questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner and presented a summary of those questions.

The Chair asked that an additional question be added;

- What is Bedfordshire Police's clear up rate on burglaries and how does this compare to the national average?

A Member commented that there were too many questions and some could be combined or re-worded to reduce the number of questions to a maximum of 10.

It was agreed that the Clerk make the following amendments to the questions;

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- Include comparison with national statistics on clear up rates in question 1.2
- Remove question 1.3 and combine with 3.1 – Drug Use
- Emphasise the allocation of resources in Sandy particularly in question 2.1
- Combine questions 2.2,2.3 a

A Member commented that question 2.7 was wasted as the Police would simply confirm that they did work with community based groups. The question should refer to how much liaison should there be with community groups and how much liaison is happening.

A Member spoke on and defined the original question. Many areas have schemes in place such as Street Angels or Street Watch and the PCC should be asked what experience and successes the Police have had working with such groups and whether there is scope to start any schemes in Sandy.

It was agreed that the following question would be included;

What is Bedfordshire Police's experience with Street Watch and can it be transplanted to Sandy?

The Clerk will put through the suggested amendments and the questions will be sent to the PCC.

**Town
Clerk**

11 Playground Improvements (36-2017/18)

Members noted that the Working Group would be reviewing tenders received for improvements to the play parks and that a report would come back to Council summarising the results of the review.

12 Date of Next Meeting (37-2017/18)

Monday 16th October 2017