

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 9th March 2020 commencing at 7.30pm

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

Absent: Cllrs Osborne, Scott and Thompson

In Attendance: Mr C Robson (Town Clerk)

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence (109-2019/20)**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Osborne and Scott. Admin
- 2 **Declarations of Interest (110-2019/20)**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (111-2019/20)**
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 27th January 2020 as a correct record of proceedings. Admin
- 4 **Public Participation Session (112-2019/20)**
There were no members of the public present.
- 5 **Action List (113-2019/20)**
Members received the action list and the Clerk informed the committee that he had received through final Heads of Terms from CBC and the basis of a lease agreement. CBC would now be instructing solicitors to deal with the actual lease. No timescales were in place as yet. It was agreed that a site meeting be requested with CBC and BRCC so parties could look at boundary issues and potential layout of the site. Town Clerk
- 6 **Outdoor Gym Equipment (114-2019/20)**
Members received and considered a report on the possibility of installing outdoor gym equipment in one or more of the parks in Sandy. Members all spoke in support of the outdoor gym equipment but felt that given the size of the investment, it should be trialed in one location first, monitored and then possibly expanded to other locations if it proved well used and received positive feedback. Funding for the initial items can be applied for from Section 106. Members felt that Sunderland Road was a good area to place

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equipment as it was a heavily used sports area with bootcamps and other activities already taking place. Members with knowledge of outdoor gym equipment elsewhere stated that it has always been well used. Members felt that to get best use from the equipment, there would need to be a sufficient number of items.

RESOLVED to obtain three quotations to be considered by the Policy, Finance and Resources committee for an 8-item outdoor gym to be installed at Sunderland Road recreation ground.

7 **Demise of Chalk Streams (115-2019/20)**

Members considered a report on a survey by the EA looking at water sources, including the demise of chalk streams. Cllr Hill spoke on the report and explained the threats facing chalk streams and the impact this had on a section of the Ivel from its source to Radwell. There is now an active campaign on saving chalk streams and the Council should be aware of the situation and efforts being carried out locally. Members may want to consider responding to the EA survey.

RESOLVED to note the information and support the campaign to save chalk streams in principle, including the River Ivel.

8 **Community Garden (116-2019/20)**

Members considered communication from BRCC on establishing a community garden in Sandy. Members were not aware of any existing projects looking at community gardens and considered locations which may be appropriate. Members agreed that the idea was a good initiative and should be supported, however it was difficult to identify any appropriate land in Sandy immediately available. In the future it might be able to be included with the Beeston Community Orchard.

A Member suggested that an area in Bedford Road, near the Twinning Garden might be appropriate for a new community garden. The area has water and toilets. If successful it could be expanded elsewhere. Other Members suggested The Limes and Fallowfield may lend themselves to hosting a community garden. The Limes is enclosed which may be beneficial. A Member suggested use of unused verges or Grand Union land within housing areas, although water and space for a shed would be needed. Finally, land behind the Health Centre was suggested as it was unused and perfectly located. However, this land is in private ownership.

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It was agreed that the Council welcome the idea that Clerk and Cllr Doyle meet with the officer from BRCC to discuss the matter further and look at the suggestions put forward.

9 Youth Engagement (117-2019/20)

- i) The Clerk informed Members that the first meeting of the Sandy Youth Central group had taken place. The group would be using the Council Chamber free of charge and the Council would take the opportunity to engage with young people. Members considered the dates of the meetings and volunteered to take turns in locking up the chamber after the meetings and speaking with the group. The following rota was agreed;

12th March - Cllr Aldis
26th March - Cllr Gibson
9th April - Cllr Hill
23rd April - Cllr Pettitt
21st May - Cllr Sutton

- ii) Members received and noted a report from the Youth Engagement Working Group on steps to be taken to improve the Council's youth engagement. Members expressed support for the proposed actions.

10 Circus Request (118-2019/20)

Members considered a request to hold a circus on Sunderland Road recreation ground in May 2021. Members expressed a wish to support the circus coming to Sandy and offer residents the opportunity to experience such events. Members discussed charging for use of Council land and noted that a flat rate would be difficult to apply due to the differing size of events that may request use.

RESOLVED to approve use of the Berwick Way end of Sunderland Road recreation ground in May 2021 and that the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee consider the charge to be applied as part of an agreed scale of charge covering similar requests.

11 Sandy 10 Road Race (119-2019/20)

Members received communication from the Race Director of the Sandy 10. It was noted that the race was taking place on Sunday 5th April. Members expressed their encouragement for this successful event and asked that the Clerk arrange to have a letter issued wishing the organisers the best with the event.

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12 **Sandy Carnival Stall (120-2019/20)**

Members noted that the Council had agreed to have a stall at the Sandy Carnival on 6th June 2020. It was agreed that the stall concentrate on engagement with the public and promotion of the Green Wheel, Streetwatch and Speedwatch, forthcoming events and examples of Council work. Members would need to be on hand to set up the gazebo and displays, and engage with the public. A rota would be set up nearer to the day of the event.

13 **Great British Spring Clean (121-2019/20)**

Members received and noted a report on participation in the Great British Spring Clean. It was noted that there was a lot of community motivation to get involved in litter picking. STC previously facilitated litter picks and should do so again this year. Community groups will come forward to use STC provided equipment. A Member suggested having a banner that could be displayed in the town to promote the Great British Spring Clean. Members discussed larger waste items and asking CBC to support cleaning areas by supplying skips for a waste amnesty

RESOLVED that the Council advertise its participation in the Great British Spring Clean and that STC can provide litter picks, bags and arrange collection of waste.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED that subject to costs, the Clerk look to get a banner made advertising the Council's support for the Great British Spring Clean. That dates on the banner are changeable.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Central Bedfordshire Council and enquire if they would support the Spring Clean by providing skips or a refuse lorry for larger waste items during the Great British Spring Clean timeframe.

Town Clerk

14 **Sandy Green Wheel (122-2019/20)**

- i) Members noted that the Friends of Sandy Green Wheel would be holding a litter pick on 4th and 5th April 2020. All Members would be welcome to join the community in the litter picks.
- ii) Members considered the creation of a Friends of Sandy Green Wheel Facebook page hosted by the Council. Councillor Gibson, the Council's representative on the Green Wheel, offered to act as a moderator on the page. Having the Council host the page ensured that it would be covered by the Council's social media policy and that it would continue to be operated no matter if representatives on the group should

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change. Should the FOSGW become a larger self-sustained group, they could take over hosting of the page themselves.

RESOLVED that the Council host a Friends of Sandy Green Wheel Facebook page and that the Policy, Finance and Resources committee review and amend the Council's social media policy accordingly.

15 Events Working Group (123-2019/20)

Members received and noted a report from the Events Working Group on preparations for the VE Day street party on 8th May 2020. It was noted that there was still one musical act required and should anyone know of any artists who might be able to perform, they were requested to let the office know. It was hoped that Councillors would volunteer to be present on the day and help to run the event and engage with the public. Additional volunteers to help organising stage acts on the day would be welcome.

16 Councillor Surgery Report (124-2019/20)

Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hill on matters raised at the last Councillor surgery. One particular matter remained outstanding in regard to a tree at the back of a resident's property. There was some confusion over the responsibility of the tree and the resident had not heard back from the Council. The Clerk was requested to look into this and ensure someone got back to the resident.

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17 Chairman's Items (125-2019/20)

The Chairman informed Members that Cllrs Sutton and Doyle would be attending the next meeting of the Horticultural Association committee to discuss the work involved in organising the show and what its future might be.

A number of Councillors will be attending the East West Rail engagement event on 13th March 2020 to carry out an exit survey.

18 Date of next meeting (126-2019/20)

The date of the next Committee meeting is 20 April 2020. This will be the last committee meeting of this Council year.