

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman) and N Thompson
c.c. Cllrs S Baker, J Hewitt, M Pettitt and P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE on Monday 29th April 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
24th April 2024

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

Sandy Town Council

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community, Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 25th March 2024 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

5 Action List

To receive the Action List and any updates.

Appendix I

6 Recreation

a) Repairs to Bedford Road Football Pitch – soil has been ordered and the Outdoor Team will be working to fill the dip at Bedford Road on 1st May.

b) Pitch Improvements at Sunderland Road – to receive a report from the Deputy Clerk regarding works that have started under the Pitch Improvement Scheme and potential need for replacement equipment.

Appendix II

7 Land Fill Communities Fund

To receive a report from the Deputy Clerk regarding opportunities for funding under the Tarmac Communities Fund.

Appendix III

8 Play Provision/Strategy

To receive a report from the Deputy Clerk recommending a Play Strategy for the Town Council.

Appendix IV

9 Events Working Group

To receive the minutes of the Events Working Group held on 3rd April 2024.

Appendix V

10 Riddy & Pinnacle Working Group

a) To receive the Minutes on the meeting of the Working Group held on April 2024.

Appendix VI

b) To receive a report from Town Clerk

Appendix VII

11 Parking at Sunderland Road

To consider a request from Simon Ford Chair of Sandy Tigers FC to use the bottom end of Sunderland Road Recreation ground for parking during their tournament on 18th and 19th May 2024. The request has been deferred from Full Council on 15th April **(240-2023/2024)**. Members should note that the Cricket Club has raised no objections.

Sandy Town Council

12 Allotment Update

To receive the following update that outlines actions undertaken since the last meeting of CS&E and those that have been highlighted need to now take place.

- A positive meeting was held between CBC and STC officers re the potential for allotments in Beeston. In that meeting the constraints were set out such as possible archaeological features, highways and planning issues.
- Further work will be done to get a view from CBC departments responsible for these areas of constraint to set out exactly what issues and mitigation would be. This will also include some high-level work to better understand what can be done with minimal context and how a 3ha allotment site could be accommodated.
- This will be pulled together to form a proposal with constraints and mitigation set out, the required infrastructure necessary to deliver a secure site etc.
- CBC/STC will also work to identify costs to implement etc as funding will inevitably be a further hurdle to understand.
- Remediation costs/options for the land at Beeston Green are being sought.
- Both CBC and STC officers keen to explore what is possible but are realistic regarding possible hurdles that may need to be overcome.

13 Winter Maintenance - Review Report

Following a decision by Council to have the Outdoor Team undertake salting in the Market Square and Car Park over the winter period it was agreed that a review would take place in March prior to the next Winter season. Members are requested to note the following:

- The Outdoor Team undertook the task utilising appropriate equipment in the form of a push along spreading machine.
- The salting equipment worked well
- STC had a good supply of top quality salt from CBC that was delivered on a regular basis.
- 2023 was a mild winter and the team only had to conduct four complete routes
- The carpark was regularly salted
- Grit bins are located in carpark and town centre

Sandy Town Council

- The Town Council received no compliments nor complaints for the service.
- The work is covered by our insurers.

14 Tree Reports

To receive a report from the Clerk regarding the required actions highlighted in the recent Tree Reports.

Appendix
VIII

15 Chairmans' Items

16 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd June 2024

Agenda Item 5 - Community Services and Environment Committee - Action list For April 2024

Subject	Action to be taken Action	Response /Status
CSE Committee 25/03/2024		
Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land) Min (103-23/24)		Progress and update on the original site 3 at Beeston still being investigated by CBC and the original proposed site at Beeston Green was being investigated for community use including planting of community orchard. This would require hard surfaces removed from the site.
CSE Meeting 23/08/2021		
Min (33-21/22) EV Charging Points	RESOLVED that the Clerk submits a list of STC owned sites for consideration as part of CBC’s EV Charge Point Scheme	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. Tom Price, Senior Sustainable Transport Officer for CBC attended March meeting to give update, including reapplying for grant for Sandy to be included in 2023 plans. A Working Group was set up to consider siting of EV points and impact on capacity of car park. CS&E Recommendations for option 1 agreed at Full Council on 7 th August 2023. However, Option 1 now includes 3 rapid charging points <i>OPTION 1</i> <i>3 x 50kW rapid charge points over 6 bays (wholly BP Pulse funded)</i> <i>4 x 7kW standard charge points over 8 bays (50% grant funding/50% BP Pulse, with some revenue share to Sandy TC)</i> Minute of Council meeting no works carried out on feasibility of introducing carpark charges for 6 months in order for the following works to take place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To take the barrier out ii. To have the EV charging points installed iii. To monitor the car parking situation and assess the need

AGENDA ITEM 5

APPENDIX I

		for parking charges (<i>see item 14</i>).
CSE Meeting 21/03/2022		
Min (118-2021/22) Queen's Jubilee	RESOLVED: that S106 and CBC councillor grant monies be used to supply an additional mosaic for the town.	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. Three artist bids were being considered. To receive a report from Events Working Group on the selection of an artist.
CSE Meeting 25/03/2024		
Min (102-2023/24) Land at Scout HQ/Cadet HQ	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.	The Committee received a report on the decision by Full Council on 4th March 2024 (Minute 227-2023/2024). It was noted that Taylor Wimpey had not yet responded to STC's request. Action: STC has requested the piece of land from Taylor Wimpey.

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	29th April 2024
Title:	Pitch Improvements
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To consider a report on pitch improvement issues.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers the various proposals below;

- a) Agree to purchase a slitter circa £7,000 in principle but for a recommendation to come from Officers after they and Members have had a chance to view a demonstration of different equipment.
- b) Also to support a pitch improvement scheme for Bedford Road as requested by Sandy FC.

Background

Turf condition equipment

3.0 Initial works on the pitch improvement scheme were delayed due to a member of the outdoor team being off work due to an injury. However, work on pitch tests commenced on 18th April.

3.1 The Council has a Verti-Tine that aerates the ground. The Outdoor Team Leader reported a failure in the machinery after one of the team noticed that a part was missing from the mechanical arms that drive the tines and causing a lot of metal filings to accumulate. A mechanic was called and he advised that the machinery needed lots of parts replacing as they were grinding. Due to the model now being obsolete it was estimated that the work and parts to repair the Verti-Tine would cost in the region of £14,000.

3.2 As the costs for repair are prohibitive the Deputy Clerk has been investigating alternative equipment that can undertake the work of the Verti-Tine as a replacement is likely to cost in the region of £30,000 plus. Below are the alternatives that the Deputy Clerk has been able to find.

3.3 Scott at RT Machinery have suggested the following options, please note these prices below are provisional costs for information only:

Tractor Packages

- i. Typically, the 25hp tractor package which includes an Iseki TM3267HST, Sisis Quadraplay 1.8M multi tool system and a Wessex CRX 180 roller mower would cost around **£28,000 + VAT.**
- ii. The 40hp package, which includes the Iseki TLE3410HST, Sisis Quadraplay 2.4M multi tool system and a Wessex CRX 240 roller mower would cost around **£35,000 +VAT.**

However, you could consider running the 1.8M machines on the back of the TLE3410HST 40hp larger tractor to bring some of the costs down.

Multi Tool attachments

- iii. Sisis Quadraplay with the four independently adjustable turf maintenance implements being slitter, grooming roller, and brush, this is available in both 1.8M and 2.4M working width. **From £6,950 +VAT.**
- iv. GKB Combi Tool groomer **£6,250 +VAT.**
- v. RTM Turf Groomer, this is also 1.8M **£2,450 +VAT.**

Finishing Mowers

- vi. The finishing mower we promote is Wessex. Their CRX range again in 1.8M or 2.4M are great. Front castors, rear rollers, easy adjust from 10mm - 110mm height of cut, fastest blade speed on the market, very serviceable and cost effective to maintain. **£2,365 +VAT.**
- vii. Sisis Maxislit 1.8M is a good tool **£6,350 + VAT** or RTM Eco Slit 1.8M **£3,950 +VAT.** Both machines slit as deep as 9" in the correct conditions.

Verti drains and deep time aerators

- viii. Of the GKB range of DTA (deep time aerators) we supply, 1.6M is the most popular and to give you an idea this is currently retailing at just over **£30,300 + VAT.** It's a very expensive bit of kit, very niche but deep vertical aeration is desired and required for sports turf.

All of these machines should be on display and some in action at our show in June, but we can always arrange some demonstrations and supply full prices in advance if they are needed to apply for the football foundation funding.

Members can view more here: <https://rtmachinery.co.uk/special-offer-turf-machinery-attachments/>

3.4 On a recommendation from Cllr Scott, the Deputy Clerk was also looking into machinery from a company called Erth. No information has been provided at this stage but the company brochure has been circulated to Members separately for information.

<https://www.erthengineering.co.uk/>

3.5 The Outdoor Team Leader has stated his preference for a slitter as he believes this will do a better job and be more robust than a Verti Tine machine. In his latest turf sampling, he reported evidence of stones and brick rubble that have been broken up over the years present in the soil but that the root system seems quite healthy and deep. He suspects that the debris found on site could be the reason for the current condition of the Verti Tine. The samples were taken from the middle adult pitch.

3.6 On 22nd April, the Outdoor Team Leader also met with a representative from Ernest Doe who condemned the current Verti Tine as it is dangerous to use in its current condition.

Request to submit Bedford Road in a Turf Improvement Scheme

4.0 Sandy FC have expressed their interest in carrying out pitch improvements. Please see attached reports and quotations. The Council is committed to undertake the 'Pitchpower' project at Sunderland Road – this is a seven year project. The Committee is asked to consider the bid from Sandy FC and if it wishes to financially support a pitch improvement scheme at Bedford Road.

4.1 Analysis of the pitch at Bedford Road and a report from Cut Crew has been circulated to Members separately along with quotes for works of £11,510 for Gold Service, £6,650 for Silver Service or £2,640 for Bronze Service. Quotes circulated to Members separately.

Works already undertaken

5.0 The ditch at Sunderland Road has been cleared and the Council has received positive feedback.

5.1 The pitches at Sunderland Road receive a feed every year. It is suggested the original proposal was that there were 2 feeds a year.

Financial Implications

6.0 The budget for Vehicle Maintenance/Equipment for 2024/25 under Admin Works is £4,000 (403 4042) and £5,000 is provisioned for under Play Areas/Open Spaces for Equipment/Vehicle Maintenance (500 4042).

Legal Powers

7.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.



Pitch Analysis Report

CLUB	SANDY FC	PITCH No.	1 SIZE	11V11
GRASS COVERAGE	Fair	UNDULATION	Deviations across	
DRAINAGE	Good	COMPACTION	Fair	
TECHNICAL AREAS	Need Repairs	GRASS LENGTH/HEALTH	20 - 38mm	

GRASS COVERAGE COMMENTS

GRASS COVERAGE LACKS THROUGHOUT, AREAS OF SPARSENESS. THIS WILL CAUSE WORM CASTS, DRAINAGE AND WEED ISSUES IF LEFT UNRESOLVED

SEED REQUIRED? YES

DRAINAGE COMMENTS

DRAINAGE IS OVERALL OKAY, TOP LAYERS OF CORE ARE SATURATE. FIRST ADVICE WOULD BE TO VERTI DRAIN / AERATE MIN X2 A YEAR. IDEALLY X4.

DRAINAGE REQUIRED? VERTI DRAINING

TECHNICAL AREA COMMENTS

TECH AREAS OKAY, GOAL MOUTHS ARE UNDULATED AND NEED REPAIR TO BE MADE SAFE. ESTIMATE 1 TONNE ROOT ZONE AND SEED.

REPAIR NEEDED? YES

UNDULATION COMMENTS

PITCH IS OVERALL OKAY, DUE TO GRASS SPARSENESS THERE ARE LOTS OF LOW POINTS. TOP DRESSING RECOMMENDED.

TOP DRESSING REQUIRED? 24 TONNES

COMPACTION COMMENTS

TOP LAYER OF CORE SAMPLE IS COMPACTED, AFFECTING ROOT GROWTH AND DENSITY.

DECOMPACTION NEEDED? VERTI DRAIN

GRASS LENGTH / HEALTH COMMENTS

GRASS LENGTH EXCELLENT, GRASS HEALTH: LACKS ROOT STRUCTURE WOULD RECOMMEND X2 FERTILISER TREATMENTS AND A BIOSTIMULANT TO AID WORM CASTS AND COVERAGE.

MAINTENANCE IN PLACE? YES
STIMULANTS NEEDED? FERT & BIO

CARRIED OUT BY JACK CHURCHMAN (CUTCREW)
DATE 26/1/24

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	29th April 2024
Title:	Land Fill Communities Fund
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To highlight to Members that the Council qualifies to apply for funding schemes under the Landfill Communities Fund - Tarmac Communities Fund.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers potential schemes that could be funded from these sources.

Background

3.0 The Council can apply for funds because we fall in the required proximity to a Tarmac quarrying site.

3.1 The eligible project categories relevant to the Town Council are;

Public Amenity - play areas, village halls, tree planting, public footpaths etc. The project must focus on 'direct project works.'

Biodiversity – enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its habitat.

Historic Buildings – my interpretation is that closed churchyards would qualify for funding as closed churchyards are for the whole community and could become a nature reserve.

Deadline for applications is 21st June 2024 for a decision in September or alternatively the next submission deadline is 6th September 2024, presumably with a decision in December.

Financial Implications

4.0 The financial implications are negligible at the moment. The Council may be able to attract 100% funding or the Council may choose to joint fund

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	29th April 2024
Title:	Play Provision/ Strategy
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 The Council has six play areas that all need repair. However, it does not have a strategy to develop its existing play areas or plans to replace/improve the offer of play including strategies to improve/develop play that is inclusive of the needs of all children including those with physical and mental challenges.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers the potential funding source, preparation of a strategy and develop plans to create /replace play equipment and playgrounds that are inclusive and reflect the needs of children with physical and mental challenges.

2.1 That the Committee considers the creation of a Working Group to develop a strategy for play/provision of playgrounds and equipment with the membership including representatives from Scope and Bedfordshire Autism.

Background

3.0 The Council is asked to note that its playgrounds are aging (most are 15/20 years old) and the Council does not have a strategy to support play and creation/replacement of playgrounds.

3.1 The Deputy Clerk and the temporary Administration Officer searched for funding organisations. The Council qualifies for Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund. One of the categories is Public Amenity which includes projects such as children's play areas, village and community halls, tree planting etc. The project must focus on 'direct project works.'

3.3 It is suggested that a Working Group is set up to look at a new playground/ replacement of existing playground equipment. The recommendation is for the Council to look at Bedford Road to replace it with a 'Roman-themed' playground that would contain equipment that would be inclusive. There would be ramps and equipment that would take wheelchair users etc. Depending on the funding this could become a 'destination' project.

3.4 Initial research into equipment by Eibe has been conducted by the Deputy Clerk, however the Working Group would be free to look at all options available. The Working Group would be able to make recommendations to CS&E if it were to make a financial application to fund the whole project or go for joint funding. If the Working Group worked through the Summer it could make budget recommendations for the Council year 2025/26.

Financial Implications

4.0 The financial implications are negligible at the moment. The Council may be able to attract 100% funding or the Council may choose to joint fund

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING 3rd April 2024

Present: Cllr J. Hewitt (Chair), Cllr Paul Sharman, Cllr Susan Sutton, Lynne Darlow, Cllr Nigel Aldis, Nicola Sewell (Clerk), Mami Amuah (Community Engagement Officer)

Apologies: Cllr Susannah Baker

Minutes:

	Item	Action
1	Minutes of previous meeting - approved	
2	Calendar of events for 2024. Dates noted as per agenda. There was a request from St Swithun's to change the date of the Christmas Lights event to the following week. It was decided not to amend our event as it would mean one less week with the lights on in the town.	
3	Publicity: Promotion of Community events were discussed, and it was agreed that any we were aware of would be added to the website and facebook page. It was noted that the website had been improved and facebook promotion of events was taking place. It was further noted that there were 3 different areas on the website that events and activities were listed.	MA: to investigate tracking of website pages to assess usage. MA: to assess the website and make improvements and ensure continuity of listings.
4	Gazebos: House of Flags had been to the office and demonstrated their products. 2 3x3m had been chosen and ordered under delegated powers. Discussion took place on further purchases next f/y	
5	Civic Service: Order of service had been printed and refreshments ordered. Cllr Sutton providing cakes. 22 nd Sandy Air Cadets forming guard of honour and parading their standard, together with Fire Cadets. Awaiting response from RBL. Cllr Sutton volunteered as reserve reader if needed.	JH: to contact Roger Sparkes regarding RBL standard.
6	Spring Market: 20 vendors were booked in and informed of stall position and arrival times. Volunteers were still required to assist during the day to take turns on manning barriers. Cllrs were also needed to take turns on Council Stand to speak to members of the public. It was still hoped to persuade Buskers to use the community stand on the day. It may be possible to play music via the STC speaker kit.	JH: to email Cllrs regarding volunteering on the day. MA: to test system before the day.

	<p>Facebook publicity had started featuring stall holders and more would be done in the run-up and on the day. Press release also prepared and sent to local press including Villager Magazine.</p> <p>It was agreed that a survey of visitors would be undertaken at the Council stand.</p> <p>STC branded bunting to be put up around the Community Stand. The two 'Market Here Today' flag banners to be located.</p> <p>Market banner with changeable date feature to be purchased.</p>	<p>MA: to check the availability of the STC phone to use on the day. NS/MA: to post on facebook during the day.</p> <p>MA: to use previous surveys as template.</p> <p>Outdoor Team</p> <p>JH: to contact Lion Press.</p>
7	<p>DDay 6th June:</p> <p>Library had been booked for the week for the Historical Research Group to use for a D Day display.</p> <p>We will join the National programme of Events:</p> <p>9am Raising of the D-Day 80 Flag of Peace</p> <p>6pm National Bell Ringing - Ring out for Peace Followed by service of dedication led by Jane Godley</p> <p>9.15pm National Beacon Lighting and The International Tribute read by the Mayor - Church Yard</p> <p>Arrangements for a church based event to take place between the bell ringing and beacon lighting were discussed. Cllr Sutton outlined a plan of documentary films and music. Appropriate films had been located on the British Film Institute and Imperial War Museum websites.</p> <p>Once permission has been secured for the films a draft programme would be produced.</p> <p>Shops will be encouraged to make DDay displays.</p>	<p>LD</p> <p>MA: to secure permission from BLI and IWM to broadcast. SS: to check with church regarding broadcasting licence and technician to assist on the night. SS: to produce draft programme / costs to be agreed</p>
8	AOB Nothing was raised.	
9	Date of next meeting: 3.00pm 1 st May 2024.	

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Riddy and Pinnacle Working Group meeting held on Monday 8th April 2024 at 16.00 in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy.

PRESENT

A Matthews – Senior Reserves Manager (The Wildlife Trust) and R Lawrence - Ecologist (BRCC), Cllrs N Aldis (Chair), R Gilbert, J Hewitt M Scott, N Sewell – Town Clerk, and Fraser Hayden (Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling Association Ltd).

1. Apologies - Cllr R Lock

2. Minutes of last meeting

3. Fishing Rights at the Riddy

Mr Hayden of the Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling Association Ltd addressed the working group, highlighting a number of issues with unlicensed fishing on the Riddy and what he felt was a lack of proper provision for policing the area. He reported issues with people fishing without the required licences or permits, antisocial and criminal activity and aggressive/violent behaviour by people when questioned on their rights to fish there.

He described the area as a 'free for all' and admitted he had been put off visiting the area as he felt the issues there were out of control. He told the group that the Environment Agency had recently prosecuted two people for fishing in the mill pond/. Most of the problems stem from people not observing the rules.

He asked a number of questions regarding how Sandy Town Council offers permits to residents and was told that anyone applying for a permit must show both proof of address and a current valid rod licence.

He added that policing the waterways had become such a dangerous process that Environment Agency staff were now equipped with pepper spray and stab vests. The only way to get on top of the situation was to resource it properly and deal with the issues as they crop up. He said that Sandy Town Council needed to get on top of the situation.

Richard Lawrence of BRCC commented that he did walk the area once a week to see what was happening. He checked for permits and licences when on site but didn't really see that many people. He added that he had been aggressively approached including being pushed by someone he confronted.

Aidan Matthews also said he regularly checked the area, although not as often Richard Lawrence, and he also checked for valid licences if people were there.

Mr Hayden suggested that increasing the frequency of people checking the area would help the Town Council better understand the size of the problem there. He added that poaching was more likely to take place over the weekend, in the evening and on Bank Holidays.

He suggested that more prominent signage in the area would help with the Environment Agency (EA) number clearly shown so people would know how to report issues. He said in his experience if illegal fishing was taking place and a witness called to report it at the time and were able to give a location to the EA, they would do all they could to attend as they wanted to make an example of people breaking the law. Further advice was to include the EA number on permits given out by the Town Council to encourage everyone to police the area when fishing.

The advice was to include the EA's reporting number – 0800 80 70 60 on letters to permit holders and encourage them to help police the area when fishing the site.

It was highlighted that from March 15th – June 15th inclusive it was closed season, so nobody should be fishing at this time at all.

In summing up Mr Hayden asked: "How does the money the Angling Association pay to the Town Council every year differentiate them from everyone else that either legally or illegally fishes the area? If there is no differentiation, what can we get for our money?"

He closed by saying that the club would like the licence to give their Members sole fishing rights at the site. If this were the case then Members of the Angling Association would effectively take on the responsibility to police the area themselves, but currently they would be reluctant to do so.

Cllrs Aldis, Hewitt, and Scott agreed that the matter would be taken to Full Council to consider.

4. Draft Grazing Agreement

A draft grazing agreement had been circulated by Aidan Matthews to members before the meeting and he confirmed there were no changes from last year.

An agreement for the bull to also be allowed to graze on the Riddy would need to be resolved at Full Council as in previous years.

It was also suggested that a 'Meet the Cows' event be organised between STC and Mr Kiddy again at the start of the grazing season.

5. Riddy Agreement

There has been a rolling agreement between STC, the Wildlife Trust and BRCC regarding management of the Riddy for some years. Aidan Matthews reported that by the end of 2024/25 the Wildlife Trust will have completed their management works and as such will be looking to step away from the agreement and pass everything back to BRCC.

It was agreed that STC and BRCC would need to meet to discuss how this will work moving forwards.

Following this change all the signage in the area would need to be replaced/updated as much of it referred to the Wildlife Trust.

The Working Group was advised that following works by the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to clear ditches an area by the Girtford Bridge Layby (about 15m) still needed clearing. The area had become an eyesore and was causing pollution to the ditch. BRCC volunteers were not able to undertake the works, and as such STC were advised to get contractors in to look at clearing the area. The caveat to this was that it remained unclear who owned the land. The area was not accessible for a digger, which may have been the reason the IDB did not do it.

During works on the Riddy the IDB have created a ford from Lime paddock across to Sandy Side of Riddy, they were supposed to install gates to ensure cattle couldn't access the ford, these were not put in place and as such there is currently no way of stopping the cattle crossing (compromising any livestock management). An onsite meeting with Phil Lovesey of IDB would be important to ensure the required measures were installed before cattle come onto the area.

Other areas where the IDB's work had caused damage was also reported and it was agreed that the Town Council, as landowner, needed to ensure the IDB made good the damage they had caused. It was suggested that an onsite meeting with the IDB, STC, Aidan and Richard take place to ensure works needed to secure the site were undertaken before the 15th May, when cattle would be returning to the area.

6.0 Works and Maintenance Schedule:

The following works have been identified as needing to be carried out:

- Knee rail at the Riddy needs replacing. This was installed for wheelchair users, to prevent anyone rolling down the bank into the river. However, before any work is undertaken it would be advisable to understand if this facility was still required? It was originally installed by Central Bedfordshire Council along with an easy access fishing platform and easy access kissing gate. The works here are likely to be costly so it was important to understand the need before contracting the works to be completed.
- Fence repairs are required before cattle come onto site, 50 posts will need replacing and some of the gaps in the fence are too large so need extra barbed wire – these works are all additional to what was installed last year. The cost for this is likely to be circa £500.
- Aidan reported that he might be able to repurpose some posts for this work from other works Highways England were carrying out to protect hedging along the A1. Potentially Highways England Finance might also cover the cost of the repairs to the drink if IDB are not amenable.
- The bridge over the Riddy stream at the Baulk comes under CBC's responsibility, but the repair works there still remained incomplete. Plastic barriers put in place as a temporary measure had been vandalised with some being thrown into the stream. The Working Group asked the Clerk to follow up with Ward Cllr Pashby to chase for action on this matter.

7.0 Wardens Report – The Riddy

Richard Lawrence reported that the following works had been completed:

- Hedge planting about 80m from A1 funded by Highways England to create additional habitat where fence kept getting cut down. The hedging was part of mitigation works for habitat damage caused by A1.
- Brash bundling had been placed under the A1 bridge to improve the habitat there and since fish had been seen thriving there.
- Some hedge planting had taken place by Girtford Bridge to infill gaps where the hedge had been destroyed.
- 3 trees would need pollarding in the Autumn (cost circa £1,000) which STC would need to pay for as the work did not come under the stewardship agreement. 2 of the Willows have been pollarded in the past, but they all now need to be undertaken this year.

- The installation of a post and wire fence at the walkway under A1, to close a gap and stop cattle falling in the river.
- 15 trees from the new Community Forest were to be replaced in the Autumn.

8.0 Wardens Report – The Pinnacle

Works that needed completing included:

- A number of diseased Birches needed to be look at as they were becoming unstable. the suggestion was for a tree report to identify the work needed.
- Oaks that had some previous works undertaken may need further work and again a tree report was required to understand what needed to be completed here.

At the Pinnacle the following works had been undertaken:

- Clearance of intrusive brambles and replacement repairs of steps. Most of the latter work had been done using recycled wood so there was no cost for this, but Richard Lawrence pointed out that he may need to ask for STC to purchase wood for further works.
- The gate had been replaced and the rolling programme of works was being completed.
- People had been making new paths down the side of the hill, which Richard Lawrence was trying to stop by placing branches and brambles on the routes.
- Further steps would be needed to stop erosion in certain areas of the site.

9.0 The date of the next meeting

9th September at 16.00.

The meeting closed at 17.00

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	29th April 2024
Title:	Riddy & Pinnacle Report
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To receive a report from the Town Clerk following a meeting of the Riddy & Pinnacle working group and subsequent actions undertaken following a meeting of Full Council on 15th April.

Recommendation

2.0 To consider a request by the Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling Association for sole fishing rights at the Riddy and place additional signage in the area to signpost visitors to the Environment Agency and encourage them to report illegal fishing practices.

2.1 Agree to supply a skip for the Internal Draining Board (IDB) to finish works to a ditch by the A1 Girtford Layby at a cost circa £400-600.

2.2 Agree to circa £1,000 for the pollarding of three Willows at the Riddy.

2.3 Consider a tree report from the Pinnacle, when available, to be able to prioritise and budget for tree works there.

Background

3.0 Fishing Rights - A letter was sent to Sandy Town Council from the Biggleswade and Hitchin Angling Association Ltd in January outlining concerns around illegal and cruel fishing practices at the Riddy and the lack of policing thereof. These concerns were reiterated when a member of the Association attended the Riddy & Pinnacle working group meeting on 8th April. A lease could be drawn up between the Association and Town Council which could be undertaken for a season or longer period.

3.1 The Riddy - Following works by the IDB to clear ditches and undertake further works around the Riddy, the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust (BWT) had highlighted areas where these works had caused damage what would compromise the ability to manage livestock grazing the area. On Friday 19th April the Town Clerk met with Phil Lovesey of the IDB, Aidan Matthews of BWT and Richard Lawrence of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) to discuss these issues.

3.2 It was agreed that the IDB would undertake the remedial works recommended by the BWT including making the drink safe so that cattle could not enter the watercourse. In addition, while his team are on site and they had the machinery there IDB would be putting in some new posts by the A1 to prevent cattle being able to access the road.

3.3 Clearance of the ditch by the Girtford Layby had taken place and the IDB had filled two skips, for which the IDB had covered the cost. Further work was needed there and Mr Lovesey said that if the Town Council could supply a skip for the works his team would be able to undertake the

rubbish clearance while in the area completing other works. It was also agreed that the IDB would supply some hedging for BRCC to plant and infill gaps in the current hedge to cut down the amount of rubbish getting through and polluting the waterway.

Financial Implications

4.0 We have a £2,000 budget for the Nature Reserve – Grounds maintenance budget line 4037. £500 of this has already been earmarked for works to replace fencing at the Riddy. If it is agreed to pay for a skip that would leave £1,000 in the pot, which would cover the estimated cost for pollarding of the Willows on the Riddy.

4.1 It is hard to estimate the costs for the necessary tree works needed at the Pinnacle until the tree reports are received. See item 13 for further reference. The budget for arboriculture (4045) is £4,000.

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	29th April 2024
Title:	Tree Reports
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To help the Council prioritise tree works, according to recent tree reports conducted by Steve Dear Tree Services Ltd., and ensure all essential works are carried out in the necessary period.

Recommendation

2.0 To prioritise works that fall under priorities 1-3 in the report and ensure they are undertaken in the necessary time frame. The total costs for these works are circa £950.00 (according to the report) but officers are researching further quotes in line with our Financial Regulations.

2.1 Agree other works for schedule under priorities 4-5 and where necessary ensure works are budgeted for 2025/26.

Background

3.0 The following table sets out a summary of the tree works by priority as identified in Steve Dear's tree reports.

3.1 No trees were identified as urgent, priorities 1 or 2 (i.e. needing immediate work to make them safe).

Priority	No of trees/location	Timeframe	Estimated total cost for works
3	3/Cemetery	Work required in 90 days	£950
4	23/Beeston	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance	£2,480.00
4	8/Cemetery	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance	£2,747.50
4	3/St Swithuns	Works required as part of scheduled maintenance	£523.00
5	3/Beeston	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows	£135.00
5	16/Cemetery	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows	£1,543
5	5/St Swithuns	Works required are of the lowest priority and may be done if the budget allows	£1,140
		Total	£9,518

3.2 Tree Reports for Willow Island and Bedford Road will be received by the end of the week, and an updated report will be circulated to members and include all new information.

Financial Implications

4.0 The budget has allowed for £4,000 under arboriculture works, plus £350 for tree, planting, and horticulture specifically at the cemetery. £1,000 has already been identified as required for works to pollard the willows at the Riddy but this could be taken from the budget line for Nature Reserves.

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.