

# Sandy Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chair) and N Thompson

**Absent:** Cllr A Effiong

**In attendance:** Cllr M Pettitt and Ian Reed Deputy Town Clerk

	<b>Action</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence (43-2023/24)</b> None received.	Admin
<b>2 Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (44-2023/24)</b> i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None. ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Cllr Aldis declared a non – pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as the former Chairman of the disbanded Sandy Enhancement Group iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.	Admin
<b>3 Minutes of previous meeting (45-2023/24)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.	Deputy Clerk
<b>4 Public Participation Session (46-2023/24)</b> No members of the public were present.	
<b>5 Action List (47-2023/24)</b> Members received and noted the action list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allotment and Community Orchard at Beeston The Committee noted that the issues would be discussed at agenda item 8.</li><li>• Re the EV charging points further to the last meeting of the Committee an update was provided as follows: The project is having final design review internally at BP Pulse before it is handed over to their Implementation Team to start project planning and programming in dates for works, permits, approval of Traffic Regulation Orders for parking</li></ul>	Deputy Clerk

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enforcement arrangements etc. Expecting this part to start in the next 2-3 weeks. Installation hoped for before the end of 2023.

For the separate project to deliver the 4 rapid charge points, this was with BP Pulse's contractor and final designs and site surveys were being finished. Once all parties have agreed the details the installation expected mid-2024.

- Queen's Jubilee – The Committee was advised the mosaic scheme would hopefully resume once the mosaic artist was available and the theme would now commemorate the life of the late Queen Elizabeth.
- Beeston Green Drainage  
A meeting between the Beeston Green Working Group and the Internal Drainage Board would now take place in October.

## 6 Former Sandy Enhancement Group (SEG) - Update (48-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on the Sandy Enhancement Group that had been active during the early 2000s. Its demise had led to a number of garden schemes being left without support and in most cases these were now in a neglected state. One project by the rail station had been partially destroyed when a vehicle crashed in to it and now requires the upright sleepers to be reinstalled. The Committee considered a proposal to pick up the schemes using the resources of the Town Council and volunteers. It was noted that the Council was recruiting volunteers this Autumn.

Deputy Clerk

### **It was RECOMMENDED:**

That the Council be asked to consider creating a budget line of £2,500 for the maintenance and improvements of areas originally created by SEG for the financial year 2024/25.

Deputy Clerk

## 7 Playground Equipment Repairs Report (49-2023/24)

The Committee discussed a report which summarised the annual safety review of play equipment proposals that had been suggested to address repairs as follows;

Deputy Town Clerk

- Cable runway - works required
- Resurfacing of play areas under 3 bay swings Sunderland Road at a cost of £3,378 – budget available was £1,000
- Resurfacing below swings Fallowfield Park – Fallowfield budget would cover the costs of £4,437
- Cover skatepark with soft pour type surfacing – the Committee at this point was reluctant to support soft pour type surfacing of the bunds of the skatepark at a cost of over £19,000 and welcomed the work of the Outdoor team to lay soil and grass seed the areas. A full proposal should be

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submitted to the 2024/25 budget as funding would need to come from capital.

A discussion also took place on the adult exercise equipment at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground by Jenkins Pavilion. The Committee noted that one piece of equipment was loose in its foundations.

**It was RECOMMENDED:** That £1,000 be approved to be added to the costs of surfacing under three bay swings at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground

**It was RESOLVED:**

(1) That the resurfacing of the surface below the swings at Fallowfield to replace grass matrix tiles be funded from the current years Fallowfield budget

(2) That the Deputy Clerk be asked to contact the company that installed the adult exercise equipment at Sunderland Road to repair the equipment including securing a piece of equipment that is loose in its foundations.

## 8 **Proposed Soil Testing at Site of Potential Allotment, Beeston (50-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a report about the Council gaining access to the proposed site to take soil samples. It was noted that the taking of soil samples was a first step in checking the suitability of the site for the growing of allotment produce. It was essential that the Council could show potential allotment tenants that the soil was safe.

Deputy  
Clerk

The Council had received quotes for soil testing. Contractor A had quoted for ten or six samples to be taken. Once the Council had the results it could then decide whether it was worthwhile to continue with the site. The Committee was advised that a local soil expert was very keen to work with the Town Council on the design and potential development of the site. In conjunction with advice from the National Allotment Association he would work with the Council on allotment design and soil preparation.

The Committee also discussed the integrity of the site as it was known there were remains of an agricultural building or residence was in situ. Members considered that it was very important that the site was surveyed and the remains of the agricultural building investigated.

**It was RECOMMENDED::**

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That Company A be selected to carry out six soil tests at the site for the sum of £1,563 and further consideration be given to secure a map and survey of the site.

## 9 **Tree Issues (51-2023/24)**

### **(a) Tree Survey**

Further to the last meeting of the Committee Members were asked to allow a tree survey be undertaken by Steve Dear Tree Services rather than seeking additional quotations. This would avoid a delay in preparing the documentation to seek additional quotations. It was noted that before Covid the Council received regular reports from Steve Dear Tree Services. As the service had come to an end in 2020 the Deputy Clerk had seen the service as an important one to reinstate as soon as possible. The tree surveys quoted for were: Beeston Green, Willow Island, Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Sandy Town Council Cemetery, and the closed churchyard at St Swithun's Church. It was suggested that when re-tendering that the areas are submitted separately to encourage more companies to quote.

### **It was RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Council recognises the importance of retaining a tree inspection service and welcomes the action of the Deputy Clerk to secure a service.
- (2) That Steve Dear Tree Services be commissioned to undertake tree surveys at a cost of £1,750 excluding VAT with funding to come from budget line 403 as soon as possible this Autumn

### **(b) Tree Planting Scheme - Central Bedfordshire Council**

The Committee was advised that CBC was continuing its role in promoting sustainability and tree planting projects. It continued to offer community tree planting, and hedgerow grants as well as Tiny Forests and the Tree giveaways.

### **It was RESOLVED:**

That the Committee is asked to consider adopting the Tiny Forest scheme as well as applying for free trees. Also funding is sought from the budget review 2024/25 to fully support any tree schemes including aftercare to ensure planting schemes are successful.

## 10 **Chairman's Items (52-2023/24)**

None.

## 11 **Date of Next Meeting (53-2023/24)**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

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The meeting closed at 8.44 pm