

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 5th June, 2023

Present: Cllrs N Áldis, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair).

Absent: Cllrs R Lacey and N Thompson

In attendance: Cllrs Hewitt, Pettitt and Sharman

		Action
1	Apologies for Absence (1-2023/24) Apologies were received from Cllrs R Lacey and N Thompson	Admin
2	Election of Community Services and Environment Committee Deputy Chairman for the Council year 2023/24 (2-2023/24) Cllr A Lock was proposed and seconded RESOLVED: to elect Cllr A Lock as Vice-Chairman for the council year 2023/24. No other nominations were received	Admin
3	Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (3-2023/24) i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None. ii) <i>Non-Pecuniary Interests</i> – Item 9: Cllr Osborne as President of the 22 nd Sandy ATC. Item 11: Cllr Osborne as President of a football club. iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.	
4	Minutes of previous Meeting (4-2023/24) RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 27 th March 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.	Deputy Clerk
5	Public Participation Session (5-2023/24) No members of the public were present.	

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6 **Action List (6 -2023/24)**

Members received and noted the action list.

The Chairman updated the Committee on the charging points planned for siting in the car park. The Deputy Town Clerk had been in touch with Mr Tom Price inviting him to revisit the car park regarding the positioning of charging points. The Chairman asked that Mr Price be invited to meet the Car Park Working Group as soon as possible.

Deputy
Clerk

7 **Request for Use of Council Vehicle and Equipment for Sandy Carnival (7 -2023/24)**

The Committee was advised of the request received from the Town Councils nominated representative on the Sandy Carnival, Cllr Sharman to use the Town Council's electric vehicle at the event. It would be part of the parade and would be on display during the afternoon. As a Member of the Town Council Cllr P Sharman would be covered by the Town Council's insurance for driving the vehicle.

Deputy
Clerk

It was RESOLVED:

that Cllr Sharman has use of the electric vehicle for the Sandy Carnival 2023. That the following conditions are followed:

- i) The vehicle is kept in a locked garage overnight;
- ii) The vehicle is locked while on display at the Carnival
- iii) The vehicle is only used for the following over the carnival weekend;
 - To transport gazebos and weights to and from the carnival venue, to be used as part of the vehicle parade.
 - Only Councillor Sharman can drive the vehicle. Members of the public are not allowed to climb inside or on top of the vehicle.

8 **Community Services and Environment Committee Action Plan 2023/24 (8-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a draft of the Community Services and Environment Committee's Action Plan for 2023/24. The Chairman took Members through the plan and various questions and queries were raised and answered. The Chairman advised the meeting that the draft plan would be updated as required and it would be a live and reactive document.

Deputy
Town
Clerk

The following amendments were made

Town Centre –Welcome Back funding

- i) Final version of map – to be completed September 2023
- ii) Locations for Maps identified – September 2023
- iii) Notice boards to be ordered via CBC – September 2023

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Town Centre – Town Centre Banners

Town Clerk

The banner changes this year had been for the Kings' Coronation – Union Flags, Summer banners from May and – Poppies from October for Remembrance Sunday

The first change of banners had cost £675 and each subsequent change cost £475 (excluding VAT). It was noted the cost of banner installation and removal needed to be included in the draft budget for 2024/25

- Town Centre – Welcome Signs – installation in September 2023
- Sport Leisure and Wellbeing
Participate in Great British Spring Clean Spring 2024
- Events (Via Events Working Group)
Budget for 2023 Christmas Lights Switch on Event to be confirmed by August 2023

Deputy Clerk

It was RESOLVED that:

The Action Plan be approved and reports be submitted to Monitor progress.

9 Permission for ATC to use Sunderland Road Recreation Ground and Sandhills (9-2023/24)

The Committee was advised that the ATC 22 (Sandy) was seeking permission to use Sunderland Road Recreation Ground and the area of the Sandhills managed by the town council.

Deputy Clerk

It was RESOLVED:

that approval be granted for a period of five years for ATC/ATF training in (a) the area of the Sandhills managed by this Council no structures to be constructed as part of training areas are to be left as found and the relevant risk assessment and health and safety precautions observed: and

(b) permission is confirmed for use of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground subject to the use not impacting on football games and other activities which take place at the recreation ground.

10 Events Working Group (10-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on the successful holding of the Coronation Big Lunch 2023 and the holding of future events.

The Committee noted the newly published Town Councils' Summer Newsletter which covered in detail the Coronation Big Lunch. Also attached to the report was the budget for the Big Lunch.

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The opportunity to celebrate the Coronation and enjoy a community picnic event was very popular. The Council was invited to consider making this an annual event and include it as an opportunity to consult communities on Council plans and consultations and the Neighbourhood Plan. The Events Working Group had asked the Committee to hold a Big Lunch in 2024 as part of the national Big Lunch event.

Other issues discussed included:

Autumn Market - 1st October. Four stall holder applications had already been received

Remembrance Sunday November 2023 The Events Working Group would be advising the Council on the format of the Remembrance Sunday Parade

Sandy Christmas Light Switch on Event 2023 – a recommendation to Council was required if the Christmas light switch on was to be carried out by the Council this year.

D Day celebrations 2024 - There was an expectation that local councils will commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the D Day landings (6 June) and it was anticipated there would be a national programme of beacon lighting.

Deputy Clerk

Town Clerk

Deputy Clerk

It was RESOLVED:

i) That at the appropriate time in the budget setting timetable the Committee considers recommending to the Council that adequate funding is made available to fund events in the financial year 2024/25

ii) That the Council welcomes the opportunity to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the D Day landings

iii) That the Council is asked to consider taking on the responsibility to stage the Christmas Lights Switch-on event subject to the former Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights be invited to join the Working Group

11 Sunderland Road Recreation Ground – Pitch Condition (11-2023/24)

The Committee considered a report on action required to improve the quality of the pitches at the Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. It was noted that at the meeting of the Town Council on 17th April 2023 the Council received representations from a youth football coach about the waterlogged condition of the pitches at the recreation ground. It was reported there had been ten weeks of cancelled games. The Mayor asked that a report be submitted to this Committee on the condition of the Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, in particular, but by no means the only concerns were the

Deputy Town Clerk

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number of weekends this winter and spring where the pitches were not suitable for play due to waterlogging.

The Committee was reminded that Sunderland Road was created as a recreation ground and not a sports ground. It was based on clay and any drainage system put in place had not been upgraded since the creation of the recreation ground.

As a general recreation ground, as well as being used for football and cricket, the site was used for football tournaments, general ball games, informal games, informal football matches unauthorized football matches, school cross country and cricket, use by cadet forces, band marching practice, dog walking and cycling. It was a venue for the fair and informal car parking for events.

The Committee considered the football assessment report for Sunderland Recreation Ground. This was a detailed report that does offer a way forward for pitch development and improvement. The Committee is advised the spiking and surface grooming is already being done to the recommended standard – verti tine and harrow. To proceed with training and overseeding the Council would be looking to add approximately £4,000 to grounds maintenance costs. Also appended to the report was an article from the Summer 2023 edition of Grounds Management. It illustrated a football clubs’ improvements via the Football Associations’ pitch improvement programme. The Committee noted that CBC Cllr Simon Ford, as an official of Sandy Colts FC had been involved in a successful application for £100,000 Football Foundation funding for Sandy Secondary School pitches.

It was RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Committee welcomes the proposals in the report to commence pitch improvements at Sunderland Road
- 2) That it agrees to set up meetings with PitchPower on the recommendations in its report about Sunderland Road Recreation Ground to progress prescribed improvements
- 3) That the Council seeks Football Foundation Funding to carry out the recommendations in its report

12 Beeston off the Green Allotment Site (12-2023/24)

That due to comments made by legal representatives of Central Bedfordshire Council at another meeting that day involving Sandy Town Councillors it was determined by the Committee that no further discussion of reports relating to this site be allowed until certain statements had been clarified and their intentions understood.

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13 Community Safety (13-2023/24)

The Committee considered an invitation to sign the Community Safety Charter. Councillor J Hewitt updated the Committee on a number of issues following a recent meeting of CBC Community Officers

RECOMMENDED; that adoption of the Community Safety Charter be adopted at the Full Council Meeting on 26 June 2023

14 Chairman's Items (14-2023/24)

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Council would be represented at the forthcoming Carnival event on Saturday 10th June with an information stand. Volunteers to help were requested. Cllrs A and R Lock, and Cllr Aldis volunteered to assist Cllr Sutton.

15 Date of Next Meeting (15-2023/24)

Monday 17 July 2023.