

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong (left the meeting at 8.30pm), R Lacey, M Scott and S Sutton (Chair)

**Absent:** Cllrs A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne and N Thompson

**In attendance:** Cllrs J Hewitt, M Pettitt, P Sharman, Nicola Sewell, Town Clerk and Ian Reed, Deputy Town Clerk

- |          |   | <b>Action</b> |
|----------|---|---------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence (66-2023/24)</b><br>Apologies received from Cllrs A Lock, R Lock and C Osborne   | Admin         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Declaration of Interest and requests for dispensations (67-2023/24)</b><br>The Deputy Clerk advised Members that they had the opportunity at the meeting to disclose any new items that needed to be disclosed<br>i) <i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i> – None.<br>ii) <i>pecuniary interests</i> - None<br>iii) <i>Dispensations</i> – None.  |               |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Minutes of previous meeting (68-2023/24)</b><br><b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Community Services & Environment Committee held on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings subject to the addition of Councillor A Effiong’s name to be added to the list of apologies (he did not attend as he could not gain access to the Council Chamber). | Deputy Clerk  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Public Participation Session (69-2023/24)</b><br>No members of the public were present   |               |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Action List (70-2023/24)</b><br>Members received and noted the action list.<br>1. Allotment and Community Orchard at Beeston<br>The Committee noted that the issues were discussed at the Council meeting on 11th December 2023. The Town Council was expecting Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to respond to the request for the site to be cleared of hard standings,                                       | Deputy Clerk  |

# Sandy Town Council

heavy wire, and rubble otherwise the site would be rejected as an allotment site

2. Re the EV charging points see item 10.

3. Beeston Green Drainage

Cllr M Scott updated his report as follows;

- At the northern end of Beeston Green, we inspected the watercourse that runs along Brook End Lane, past the Grange, along past Grange Gardens and out to the A1. It was very clear that many obstacles were in and around this watercourse obstructing its flow, including the Willows in front of Grange Gardens, the bridge into Grange Gardens and the pipework alongside the bridge and then into a very choked area around Willow Island.
- 4. The IDB representative agreed that these obstructions were detrimental in keeping these properties clear of flooding and the area could be offered some relief from flood risk as IDB were doing some work in a nearby area.
- 5. Discussions took place regarding the new development of six houses beside The Green.

He reported with regret that no further action had been undertaken by the IDB. The Deputy Clerk was asked to take the matter up with the IDB.

## 6 **Bedford Road Recreation Ground - Pavilion (71-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a report on the need for the Town Council as landlord to fund investigations into the drains at the pavilion that would also affect the public toilets. It was a matter of urgency that the work was undertaken and the quote for the works in the sum of £410 excluding VAT had been accepted by the Town Clerk. The investigative work would be undertaken on 3rd January 2024.

**RESOLVED** That the action taken to secure drain investigation work at the pavilion be supported and the Deputy Town Clerk to seek clarification on the works/repairs to be undertaken

Deputy  
Clerk

# Sandy Town Council

## 7 **Riddy and Pinnacle Working Group (72-2023/24)**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **It was RESOLVED:**

1. That the Minutes be received
2. That the request of the Working Group for the Council to include the Pinnacle in the Town Council's tree inspections be supported subject to clarification on the area subject to inspection.

Deputy  
Clerk

## 8 **No Mow May (73-2023/24)**

The Committee considered a report on the possible adoption of a No Mow May policy. A discussion took place on the No Mow May policy adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members wished to see a detailed report on how an effective No Mow May policy could be introduced by the Town Council. It was suggested that the Green at Beeston could be segmented into areas that would benefit from the policy. It was envisaged this would be a Community effectiveness campaign with residents being involved in the local schemes. In the discussion the Committee was advised it should be guided by its environmental policies.

### **It was RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Council considers a report on how a No Mow May campaign could be implemented and its effects on other policies of the Council.
- (2) That the report should include the introduction of wildflower meadows and the treatment of sensitive ecological areas.

Deputy  
Clerk

## 9 **Proposed Allotment Site - Beeston (74-2023/24)**

It was noted with some disappointment that the Committee was still waiting for an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council. It was hoped the next meeting would have more information on the Beeston site and potentially discuss alternative sites.

**It was RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

Deputy  
Clerk

## 10 **Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Carpark (75-2023/24)**

The Committee had been given a report on the proposed installation of EV charging points in Sandy for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Committee was advised that Mr. Tom Price from

# Sandy Town Council

Central Bedfordshire Council had not been able to attend the meeting, but he had promised to attend the next meeting of the Committee in February 2024.

A general discussion took place as a more detailed discussion would take place at the next meeting. The issues discussed included:

- There would be one installation of the charging points rather than two as originally planned
- The removal of the barriers
- The installation of the charging points
- Refunds for car park pass users – The Committee members were not in support to issue refunds to carpark pass holders
- New applicants for passes be advised that the barriers would be raised in Spring/Summer

**It was RESOLVED:** that further discussion of the issues identified be undertaken at the next meeting of the Committee.

Deputy  
Town  
Clerk

## **11 Funding for Football Pitches (76 – 2023/24)**

Further to the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the Committee received a report on the application processes the Council would have to go through to secure funding from the Football Foundation.

**It was RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes the processes involved in making a funding application to the Football Foundation including the need for match funding and the services of a consultant, and also notes that Members will be invited to observe the Outdoor Staff taking grass root and soil samples as a part of the Pitchpower assessment.

Deputy  
Clerk

## **12 Chairman's Items (77-2023/24)**

No report

## **13 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The closed at 9.00pm