

# Sandy Town Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee of Sandy Town Council which was held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1 February 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, A M Hill, W Jackson, G Leach, M Pettitt, M Scott (Chairman) and P Sharman.

**Absent:** Cllrs Osborne and D Sharman.

**In attendance:** Cllrs Cole and Sparrow, Mr C Robson (Town Clerk), Ms M Bracey (Minutes Clerk) and one member of the public.

|   | <i>Actions</i> |
|---|----------------|
| <p><b>1 Apologies for absence (56-2015/16)</b><br/>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Osborne and D Sharman.</p>  | Admin          |
| <p><b>2 Declarations of interest (57-2015/16)</b><br/>i) Declarable pecuniary interests – None<br/>ii) Non pecuniary interests –None</p>  |                |
| <p><b>3 Minutes of previous meeting (58-2015/16)</b><br/><b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 7 December 2015 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>  | Admin          |
| <p><b>4 Public Participation Session (59-2015/16)</b><br/>The member of the public present was asked if he wished to speak at the item on the agenda now. He decided to speak now.<br/>He said he was very disappointed at the increase on the precept and felt it was unreasonable when there were people in Sandy having to use food banks. He questioned three figures within the accounts;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Overspend in electricity budget 402 4014, which is £2,694 over budget.</li><li>2. £12,000 has been budgeted for grass cutting yet no spend has been incurred.</li><li>3. Over budget Miscellaneous staffing costs £20,645.</li></ol> <p>The Town Clerk responded to the questions. The high electricity charge is due to an undercharge by the supplier for the previous two years electricity, the cost of which fell in this financial year. This figure does not represent a year's electricity cost to the Council.</p> <p>The grass cutting is because CBC do not invoice the Town Council until</p> | Admin          |

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the end of the financial year in February/March 2016.

The member of the public is to meet with the Town Clerk where he will be advised of the different codes and what they represent and any questions he has can be talked through.

## 5 Financial Reports (60-2015/16)

- i) A balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for year to November 2015 had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

- ii) A balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for year to December 2015 had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Town Clerk informed members that the VAT and the Scout loan had been received and that the CCTV camera amount of £833 had been received from Aragon Housing.

The Town Clerk was asked about the over spend on the budget for play areas and open spaces and the breakdown of the £15,000 transfer from Fallowfield. He will look into these items.

A member asked about the item under cost centre 502, Nature Reserves, and whether this covered a management fee for the Riddy. The Town Clerk informed the member that this was the case and he had received two invoices which would come from this budget code. One of these invoices for 2015/16 and the other was from 2014/15.

The Town Clerk was asked whether unspent budget for bus shelters could be carried forward to next year. The Town Clerk informed Members that unspent budget would not be rolled over into individual 2016/17 budget codes. Unspent budgets would be carried forward into the Councils general reserves.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

- iii) An overview of the budget was presented by the Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

- iv) A schedule of payments made since previous meeting.

**RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

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v) Bank reconciliations and statements.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Scott scrutinise the bank reconciliations and statements and sign these as approved at the end of the meeting.

## **6 Action List (61-2015/16)**

The Town Clerk presented the Action List which identifies Actions from previous meetings and their status.

**RESOLVED** to note the Action list.

## **7 Section 106 Funding (62-2015/16)**

The Town Clerk had gone through the list available on the CBC website showing Section 106 funds generated by development in Sandy between 2000 and 2015. The Town Clerk had also gone through it with CBC and had received updated accurate figures.

A member asked about Sandy Green Wheel and its current position as Sandy Town Council had paid some money towards this. It was agreed that the Council invite representatives of Sandy Green Wheel to come to the Council and give an update.

The Town Clerk advised members that there were no urgent 'spend by dates' except for Public Art of £2,274.09 which has to be spent by 2018.

A member said he felt enlightened and had a sense of relief, as this is the first time he had seen a definitive breakdown of Section 106 monies. He thanked the Clerk for all his work on this. He considered there must be an opportunity at the next meeting or the one after to work through the list and identify possible projects that could be met. He mentioned the proposal to have gym equipment on Bedford Road Recreation ground which could come from outdoor sport. It was noted that the Village Hall requires a new roof and they will be contacting the Town Clerk about this.

A member asked whether the money available for public art could be spent on the proposed mosaics project, or perhaps finger posts and plaques mentioned previously.

There were a number of projects that could use the money available under the specific headings. It was requested that members identify projects and clarification is required as to what Indoor Sports and Leisure can be used for.

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The members were hugely grateful to the Town Clerk for producing this report.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk bring back a further report detailing 'spend by' dates of sc106 funds for Members consideration.

**RESOLVED** to invite representatives of Sandy Green Wheel to a meeting of the Council to update them on the progress.

**RESOLVED** to establish whether the Public Art money could be used for the proposed Mosaics project.

Town  
Clerk

## 8 Jenkins Pavilion (63-2015/16)

The Town Clerk presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to agree the replacement of the sewage pumps with the delegated authority of the Mayor, Chair and Town Clerk making the decision re the quotes, if a decision needs to be taken before the 2 March, 2016.

## 9 Cemetery Chapel (64-2015/16)

The Town Clerk presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation that the Council engage the pest controller to remove the birds and secure the tower to prevent further damage to the chapel. That the required costs come from the Cemetery/Churchyard 'Property Maintenance' budget.

Admin

## 10 Street Lighting (65-15/16)

The Town Clerk informed members that the column needs replacing.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation for the replacement work to be carried out before the end of the financial year and that the required costs come from the budget 'Capital Projects Street Light Replacement'.

Town  
Clerk

## 11 Calendar of Meetings (66-2016/17)

**RESOLVED** to agree the calendar of meetings for 2016/17.

## 12 CCTV coverage in Sandy (67-2016/17)

The Town Clerk presented the report and informed Members that CBC had confirmed the costs of taking over the camera would be £5,000 per year. There is another camera that covers the car park and Greene King has been asked to cut back trees which may obscure the cameras view.

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**RESOLVED** that Sandy Town Council will not take on the costs of the CCTV camera.

## **13 Chairman's Items**

The Chair wished to thank the Town Clerk who has worked hard in putting together figures for the Council.

## **14 Date of Next Meeting – 14 March 2016**