

SANDHURST TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held in the Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Memorial Park on Thursday 22 May 2008 at 7.45 pm., ending at 10.05 p.m.

PRESENT: **Councillors N Allen (Chairman), Mrs J Bettison, Mrs C Cupper, B Piggin.**
Substitute Members: **Cllr G Ramsey for Mrs D Pidgeon**
 Cllr Simonds for N Bowers
 Cllr Haseeb for Mrs A Shephard

APOLOGIES: **Councillors N Bowers, Mrs D Pidgeon, Mrs A Shephard, N Skinner.**

1. Announcements. The Chairman announced that the order of business would be as stated in the procedures document.
2. Declarations of Interest. The Chairman reminded Members to declare interests in agenda items wherever relevant.
3. Urgent items not covered in Matters Arising.
 - (a) Sandhurst Silver Band (D)
 - (b) Public Toilet Management (D)
4. Suspension of Standing Order to allow a member of the public to speak.

A member of the public enquired whether the subject of the Methodist Church's request for two Town Council representatives to be appointed to an external Committee looking at developing a focal point for the Community, would be discussed. The matter had been referred to the Strategy & Policy Committee by Full Council.

The Chairman advised the resident that the matter had been raised at the Leisure Committee meeting held on 15th May where it had been suggested that the Park Strategy Review Group should allocate two people from its membership. The Strategy & Policy Committee endorsed this approach pointing out that there had been no discussion at the Leisure Committee on the subject matter. The resident was given the names of the members on the Review Group and informed that the two representatives would be appointed at the first meeting of the Review Group on 10th June 2008. **ACTION.**

Standing Orders were reinstated.

5. Minutes.

The Minutes of the Strategy & Policy Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to the amendment that Mrs Bettison was present at the meeting. **NOTED.**
6. Matters arising for information only.
 - (a) Minute 63(a) Vandalism.

The Executive Officer reported that the bottle banks had been replaced and the broken glass problem had abated although a correlation between the two was too early to conclude since other high visibility initiatives had been carried out by the Police. **NOTED.**

The problems of anti-social behaviour and vandalism during the period had been well reported and documented. The dispersal order options were being considered by the CDRP and Cllr Birch was monitoring progress. **NOTED.**

It was agreed that the CCTV report would be considered by a small working group. Cllrs Allen, Ramsey, Mrs Bettison and Haseeb would look at the details and make recommendations on the direction the Town Council should take on the CCTV system. It was agreed that the group would deal directly with the matter and report back as a matter of urgency. **ACTION.**

The Executive Officer referred to the CADIS annual report that was now available in the office for anyone interested in looking through the document. **NOTED.**

(b) Minute 63(b) Beyond Quality Status.

It had been suggested at the Communications Sub Committee meeting that the Sandhurst Pride umbrellas should be offered for sale at £20.00 each. Ten are to be retained in the office for casual use and could be borrowed for official occasions by Councillors who would use them, e.g. Green Flag judging. **NOTED.**

(c) Minute 63(d) Annual Town Meeting.

The "A Town Without Us" presentation had gone well. The Chairman thanked the Executive Officer for the exhibition provided on the night and commented that it was a pity more residents did not attend.

It was suggested that the Communication Sub Committee look at this specific problem and come up with ways to improve attendance. **ACTION.**

(d) Minute 63(f) Consort Chain.

The Chairman reported that the Consort Chain was on order with a delivery period expected to be 10 weeks. **NOTED.**

(e) Minute 63(i) Newsletter.

The newsletter will be delivered by Bracknell Forest Borough Council Electoral Services. This time a flyer will be included about the Sandhurst Arts Festival. Deadline for submission of articles would need to enable the final proof to be in place by 6th June. Thereafter to the printers by 12th June and delivery to start 19th June with a 4½ day delivery period. **ACTION.**

All Councillors were encouraged to submit articles. **ACTION.**

(f) Minute 63(j) Grants.

The Chairman suggested that following the request, received by Full Council from the Tug of War Association for sponsorship of one of the weight categories at the 50th Anniversary International Celebration of the TWA, to be held on the Memorial Park, the Town Council may wish to consider that they sponsor the 640kg weight class competition.

It was RESOLVED that £300 sponsorship should be allocated for the Event. The Mayor will present the trophy to the winners. **ACTION.**

(g) Minute 63(k) Beacon Status/Quality Status.

The Beacon Status application had now reached its second draft with Cllrs Allen, Bettison and Mrs Cupper reviewing the content and text. The next step was to seek some opinion from Marianne Abley from the IDeA to act as a critical friend. **ACTION.**

The Chairman congratulated the Executive Officer on the progress so far stating that the document was coming together really well.

A wider critique from Councillors will be called upon before submission takes place by the deadline of 11th July 2008. **ACTION.**

(h) Minute 64(a) Nepali Community Support Worker.

It was noted that as reported at Full Council the funding of the Support Worker is being referred back to the PCT for reconsideration. The Committee asked that Cllr Mrs Cupper keep the Town Council informed of any developments on the initiative. **ACTION.**

7. Urgent items not covered in Matters Arising.

(a) Sandhurst Silver Band (D)

The Executive Officer informed Members that the Sandhurst Silver Band were looking for financial assistance from the Town Council towards their Centenary Event at the Hexagon in Reading on Saturday 5th July 2008.

A meeting had taken place between the Silver Band Representatives and the Executive Officer and it was apparent that more advertising was necessary to promote the concert.

Members discussed the request and were mindful of the significant landmark in the history of the Band. The Band has been one of the central pins in SANDHURST PRIDE representing the Community at National Competitions.

It was agreed that bearing in mind that, the Event proposed for the Memorial Park was no longer being pursued by the Band, then the support previously offered was still available, albeit not with the local area.

It was RESOLVED that £1,000.00 be allocated out of the previously agreed funding package. It was very clear that the money should go towards making the Hexagon event successful and was offered on the basis that the money be used appropriately to ensure that it was a success.

The Executive Officer was asked to inform the Silver Band of the conditions. **ACTION.**

(b) Public Toilet Management (D)

At the Leisure Committee meeting the matter of keeping the outside public toilets open for seven days a week was discussed and it had decided to seek a quotation for outsourcing the service.

The Executive Officer had received a quotation from a service provider and the hourly charge was used to calculate that the initiative would cost circa £3,500 per annum plus materials. A full specification of the service had been provided and agreed.

It was RESOLVED that the Executive Officer places a contract with the service provider with sufficient monitoring clauses in the contract to ensure that the standards are being maintained.

8. Health & Safety.

The Executive Officer stated that there was nothing to report in the period. **NOTED.**

9. Correspondence for Committee's Attention.

(a) Standards Committee (D)

A letter had been received from the Borough Solicitor referring to significant changes to the Standards regime, which is applicable to both Borough and Parish/Town Councillors. The letter was considered by the Committee. It was agreed that the current representative Cllr Mrs Pidgeon should comment on behalf of the Town Council if considered necessary to do so. **ACTION.**

(b) Section 106 Funding.

A letter had been received from Bracknell Forest Borough Council regarding proposed changes to the way in which Section 106 monies will be allocated in future. The Committee **NOTED** the content.

10. Councillors Reports.

(a) Sandhurst Forum for the Future.

Cllr Haseeb, as Chairman of Sandhurst Forum for the Future, tabled an interim report and spoke about the progress and content.

He said that he was determined that the progress should be communicated to the Community as soon as possible. He thanked all previous administrations for their work towards the initiative going back as far as Sandhurst 2000 and Sandhurst 2020. He also expressed thanks to those who had contributed from the Community.

The review and work still to be undertaken is proving time consuming, however, the results will confirm that the initiative is of significant importance and should be continued.

Cllr Haseeb put forwards the viewpoint that there may be some merit in carrying out another consultation soon. The Committee agreed with the idea but asked Cllr Haseeb to think about the questions that could be included in the exercise. **ACTION.**

Reference was made to the report issued by Bracknell Forest Borough Council outlining a partial Character Area Assessment for Sandhurst. This could be assessed by the Sandhurst Forum for the Future team. **ACTION.**

11. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 26th July 2008 at 7.45pm in the Kitty Dancy Room.

12. In Committee Exclusion of Public and Press

It was RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of items, which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of the Act.

- (a) Information relating to employees of the Council (D)
- (b) Personnel Working Group (D)