



# PARISH COUNCIL OF SANDHURST, KENT

Please reply to Julie Horan, Parish Clerk, Old School, Back Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JS 01580-850295

## Approved Minutes Parish Council Meeting 11 October 2022

### In Attendance:

Cllr C Robinson (Chairman) (CR)	Cllr L Erwood (LE)
Cllr Griggs (Vice Chairman) (MG)	Mrs J Horan (Clerk & Proper Officer) (JH)
Cllr M Phillipson (MP)	Borough Cllr G Bland
Cllr D Rogers (DR)	Borough Cllr E Neville
Cllr K O'Neil (KO)	

Item:	
1.	<b>Apologies</b>
	Apologies were received from Cllr A Kerry (AK), Cllr P Phillipson (PP), Cllr J Roper (JR)
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	Councillors were reminded that they must inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. There were two declarations of interest concerning an item on the agenda: DR & LE as Allotment Holders
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>
	To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2022 are a true record of the meeting. Members were reminded the only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DR proposed; LE seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.</li> </ul> To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2022 are a true record of the meeting. Members were reminded the only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DR proposed; MP seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.</li> </ul>

4.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>
	<p><b>Allotment Gate Update</b> – It has been noted that there is a gap under the gate, which small dogs can get under. It has been suggested a skirt on the gate will prevent this happening. It has also been noted that the lock on the pedestrian gate is ineffective. MG will go and inspect to see if can be remedied easily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KO proposed if not an easy fix, get George Harding to fix; MP Seconded – All present agreed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Memorial Bollards Update</b> - AK let CR know that Mr Barrett promised that the bollards will be in place before Remembrance Sunday.</p>
5.	<p><b>Councillor Intervention</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr Bland:</b> The planning application for the farm shop has been refused and the farm shop is unfortunately due to close this Saturday. Cllr Bland spoke to the Officer who handled the application, who said all the general planning issues had been dealt with by the applicant and many changes had been made to respond to the criticisms. The only obstacle was Kent Highways, who believe as it was such a dangerous junction that it had to be turned down. Were it not for that, the application could very well have been accepted. He also pointed out that 3 or 4 times in the last 18 months, objections from Kent Highways have been overruled on appeal. It was down to the applicant to decide whether to appeal.</p> <p>Boundary Commission; The Council held an Extraordinary full meeting to discuss moving away from election by thirds to all out elections. It was passed by 33 votes to 9 with 10 abstentions. Because we elect in thirds the Boundaries Commission decided that meant that every ward had to have 3 members, and as they are reducing the number of councillors from 48 to 39 that means the ward which included Sandhurst would also include Benenden, Hawkhurst and Kilndown, making it probably the worst of the wards. The general feeling was that electing in thirds was ok, if it didn't have any serious negative implications, but when it produced ludicrous wards that don't respect natural affiliations, is was not acceptable. The Council (TW) will approach the Boundaries Commission to request a stay of execution while the Council carry out a consultation with the public and other interested parties on whether we should move to all out elections. It is hoped that it will produce a sensible reaction.</p> <p><b>Cllr Neville</b> added a point, if it is decided we go to all out elections, it doesn't mean it will automatically change the boundaries. There was an overwhelming feeling that having this Ward 14 miles wide wasn't terribly democratic or reasonable; you cannot get effective representation with that. Residents of Kilndown also do not want to be separated from Goudhurst.</p> <p>A planning proposal has come up for a 2 storey Medical Centre in Hawkhurst, just through the new development at Birchfield. The proposed medical Centre would be accompanied by quite a large development of up to 70 residential homes. Cllr Neville requested that people get their comments in, expressing their views and feelings.</p>
6.	<p><b>Finance and Accounts</b></p>
	<p>To approve accounts retrospectively for payment from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.  To receive details of receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.  To note the bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.</p> <p>To approve accounts retrospectively for payment from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.  To receive details of receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.  To note the bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.</p>

	<p>To approve accounts retrospectively for payment from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. To receive details of receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.</p> <p>To note the bank reconciliation at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.</p> <p>DR had a query regarding April/May payments which has been resolved and payments for this period now need to be approved.</p> <p>To note the bank reconciliation as 30 June 2022 Cllr Griggs has checked and signed the bank reconciliations for July, August &amp; September 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DR Proposed ; MG Seconded and those present approved the payments from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 plus the April/May payments.</li> </ul> <p>Forecast: CR circulated the financial forecast prior to the meeting. Because of the uncertain circumstances generally, things like utilities are very difficult to forecast at present. There is a reduced forecast of playground expenditure because of the unexpected need to spend extra money on the defibrillators, which need to go into heated boxes. The fencing for the playground was also double the cost allowed for in the budget. CR is going to explore options for ordering the playground equipment to get the best possible discounts with phased delivery. CR stated that a first draft of next year's budget will be discussed at the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November and he asked members to come to that meeting with their ideas for any projects they wish to be considered.</p>
7.	<b>Defibrillator Storage</b>
	<p>Leaflet drop Tanyard for a training course on how to use a defibrillator in an emergency: JH to contact Ken at Hopkins to get options on running another course and some provisional dates.</p> <p>Update on Defibrillator storage: heated boxes need to be ordered – JH CR has agreement from the leaseholder of the Swan to use power supply, agreement to be sought from the freeholder of the building – CR. Agreement has been given by the Baptist Church to use their supply. Assurance has been given that Sandhurst Parish Council will enter into an agreement with both so future councillors know what has been agreed. JH to contact local solicitors to get fee quotes to have an agreement drawn up. The defibrillator located in Marsh Quarter Lane will be relocated to the Pavilion to use the power supply there. DR is trying to contact EDF to sort power supply at Tanyard, Back Road and Downton Cottages. If unable to contact by phone DR will write.</p>
8.	<b>OSH</b>
	<p>Update on refurbishment work: work is due to commence the latter part of this week/early next week. Access to the hall will be via the side door. Revised fire escape plan to be drawn up – DR.</p> <p>Pavilion/Toilet Block – Minor works to be done. Toilet doors have been ordered. Report was received from Sandhurst Football Club about some cracks in the walls of the Pavilion. DR circulated his report on the extent of the problem. Most concerning was the drop in the floor of the referees changing room. JH to locate paperwork relating to the Pavilion.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MP Proposed to get estimates for remedial works; LE Seconded – All present agreed.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Playing Field Car Park</b>
	Installation of barrier to restrict access to larger vehicles and caravans. A contractor has come back with a price of just under £600 to install. Proposed to defer in the short term, as car park being used by the contractors working on Marsh Quarter Lane. DR to approach the contractors regarding the possible resurfacing of the car park when Marsh Quarter Lane is resurfaced.
10.	<b>Committees</b>
	OSH Committee have a meeting scheduled for 25 <sup>th</sup> October
11.	<b>Allotments</b>
	KO identified 3 plots that were not very well maintained, but those concerned had good reason for not maintaining them. KO made a suggestion that might help plot holders if the plots were split in half so not so much to manage. JH to contact plot holders to see if that is something that they might consider. There was a suggestion that an Allotment Sub Committee be established to handle allotment business, with KO Chair plus another councillor, other members made up of allotment holders.
15.	<b>Planning Applications</b>
	<p><b>Appeal A Ref: APP/M2270/C/20/3246942</b>  <b>Appeal B Ref: APP/M2270/C/20/3246943</b>  Land south of Oakland's Farm, Bodiam Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5LE  Decision Notice Date: 04 March 2022 – 6 Months to comply (04 September 2022).  Review at next meeting in September 2022  JH to contact Planning Enforcement Officer to point out that the ruling has not been complied with and what are they planning on doing regarding this.</p> <p><b>Application: 22/02601/FULL</b>  Retrospective application for the retention of an authorised dormer on detached outbuilding and use as self contained annex.  Apple Barn , Back Road, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, TN18 5JS  No further comments to be made.</p> <p><b>Application: 22/02706/FULL</b>  Proposal: Single storey rear extension  Address: Ridsen Oast Barn , Ridsen Lane, Sandhurst, Kent, TN18 5DU  No further comments to be made.</p> <p><b>Application: 22/02768/FULL</b>  Proposal: Amendment to approved application 21/03699/FULL (Alterations to hedging, alteration to materials and addition of solar panels to approved replacement outbuilding)  Address: Cherry Tree Cottage , Bodiam Road, Sandhurst, Kent, TN18 5LR  Surprised no Listed Building Consent required, aside from that no further comments</p>
16.	<b>Correspondence to the Clerk</b>

	<p>Email from Mrs M Hiscock regarding allotment gate – which was addressed under Matters Arising.</p> <p>Request from Mr Johnson to put memorial bench on Lower Green; JH to find out location, subject to the location being agreed, Parish Council are happy to have a bench on the lower green.</p> <p>Letters from Mr Hiscock – 2 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act, which is being dealt with. The third letter was read out and queries regarding allotment charge increase, overgrown hedges, termination of tenancy, and condition of plots on termination of tenancy and the costs incurred, reinstatement of side gate, the clause 3.3 wording about the notice of rent increases. All queries were answered.</p> <p><b>Letter from Mr Breckon</b> – A number of issues to raise: wants the actual amount to be known for rent increases 12 months prior to the increase happening as stated in clause 3.3. MP suggested that this particular clause be re written for clarity to remove ambiguity. Mr Breckon would like to see financial records on the website - JH will action. The side gate – which was covered earlier. Would like the Allotment Subcommittee started, with 2 Parish Councillors plus some allotment holders. JH to write to allotment holders to see who would like to sit on the committee. CR to write Terms of Reference.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan:</b> Plans set for 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Fliers are printed, post boxes at various locations around the village for suggestions, volunteers to distribute the fliers.</p> <p><b>Christmas Tree:</b> Christmas tree to be ordered from same supplier. CR wanted to ensure that we pay a competitive rate. Conversation should be had with supplier to make sure fair cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DR proposed AK order Christmas Tree; LE Seconded – All present agreed.</li> </ul>
18.	<p><b>Public Intervention</b></p>
	<p>A member of the public wanted to say she was one of the first allotment holders and has had no issues with the Parish Council. There have been 23 different tenancies changing over the years and she has spoken with 7 of them, roughly 30%, and some people have stopped being allotment holders because of the atmosphere. People's lives ebb and flow, sometimes you have lots of time to spend on your plot sometimes life takes over. Just because you don't want to share your business with other allotment holders to say why you are not dealing with your allotment doesn't mean to say you don't want your allotment it just means at that time you have other priorities. I just wanted to say thank you to the Parish Council for all you have done over the years, and not all of us have a confrontational attitude.</p>
19.	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 08 November 2022</li> <li>• 06 December 2022 – Precept meeting</li> <li>• 13 December 2022</li> </ul>

**Julie Horan**  
Clerk to Sandhurst Parish Council

**CC: For Information**  
County Cllr Seán Holden  
Borough Cllr Godfrey Bland  
Borough Cllr Ellen Neville  
PCSO Simon Fuller