



PARISH COUNCIL OF SANDHURST, KENT

Please reply to Julie Horan, Parish Clerk, Old School, Back Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JS 01580-850273

Approved Minutes Parish Council Meeting 10 October 2023

In Attendance:

Clr M Phillipson (Chairwoman) (MP)	Mrs J Horan (Clerk & Proper Officer) (JH)
Clr Griggs (Vice Chairman) (MG)	Clr P Phillipson (PP)
Clr C Robinson (CR)	Clr G Bland
Clr A Kerry (AK)	Clr S Holden (Arrived 8.30pm)
Clr D Rogers (DR)	
Clr K O'Neil (KO)	Members of Public - 0

1.	Apologies
	None
2.	Declarations of Interest
	Councillors were reminded that they must inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. MG - Planning Application 23/02602/FULL DR - Planning Application 23/02500/FULL
3.	Approval of Minutes
	To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2023 are a true record of the meetings. The only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PP proposed; AK seconded - Agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
4.	Councillor Intervention
	Clr Godfrey Bland: Update on Arriva story, at the last Hawkhurst Parish Council meeting 2 members of the public wanted to complain about the behaviours of the Arriva Drivers not turning where they are supposed to be turning and leaving their engines running when standing. There is some discussion starting about the reinstatement or otherwise of the amenity lorry which was cancelled because of COVID. Two or three other villages are pushing for the reinstatement, if it is something that Sandhurst wants then that can be pursued.

	<p>Hawkhurst Dr Surgery redevelopment will be discussed at the November planning meeting.</p> <p>The potential reinstatement of the civic amenity lorry was discussed and the PC would like the reinstatement of the lorry pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP proposed - JH to write to Cllr Bland to request the reinstatement (if possible) of the facility. To request collections once a month from Back Road, Tanyard, Sandhurst Close and Playing Field ; KO Seconded - all present agreed <p>Cllr Sean Holden: Reference to Birmingham City Council having issued a s.114 notice (meaning that it is bankrupt and unable to meet its expenditure for coming year). KCC also has quite vigorous finance difficulties itself: there was an overspend of around £50 million on the previous budget which is being met by £25 million set aside for contingency and £25 million from reserves. KCC will therefore be looking to reduce its non-statutory/ discretionary services.</p> <p>One of the reasons KCC are in financial difficulty is the huge burden on the budget for Adult Social Care which keeps increasing in cost, and also the cost of special educational needs (SEN), particularly transport for pupils to and from SEN schools, in particular the use of taxis at £80 per day: KCC needs to get a grip on that. Another factor is the cost of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and refugees generally. It has taken some years for the government to accept that that is not just a Kent problem but a national problem, and the govt have actually returned £5 million to KCC after years of chasing funds. KCC needs the country and local authorities as a whole to share the burden. The govt has created a system for sharing and allocating refugees to other authorities, but that scheme is not compulsory and has had a limited uptake from other authorities, although they are looking at making it compulsory. KCC is now in the position where it is caring for more unaccompanied asylum-seeking children than native Kent children, which SH stated was a ridiculous situation to be in, and that there was continuing discussion with government.</p> <p>Another flavour of the moment is concrete in buildings (Raac), only two schools were affected in Kent. There was a public meeting in Cranbrook about the lack of non-selective schools, it was thought it was extremely unlikely that we would get another non-selective school as the numbers are just not there.</p> <p>On a positive note, Kent's Plan Bee, which SH founded 10 years ago, has just won a national award from Department of Agriculture as "Bees Knees Champion".</p> <p>SH stated that road closures have increased across the county from 4,000 to 12,000 in the last four years. There are 5,500 miles of road in the county and each mile of road is being closed twice a year on average, which SH called ridiculous. SH has asked the Environment and Transport Committee how these numbers can be brought down, as a result an Inspectorate has been created to look at this.</p>
5.	Matters Arising
	Website - JH to contact the web designer and arrange for her to come along to the next meeting.
6.	Finance & Accounts
	<u>Accounts</u> To approve accounts retrospectively for payment from 01 September 2023 to 30 September 2023.

	<p>To receive details of receipts in from 01 September 2023 to 30 September 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR Proposed ; MG Seconded and those present approved the payments & Receipts from 01 September 2023 to 30 September 2023 - all present agreed. <p>To note the bank reconciliation at 31st July 2023, 31 August and 30 September 2023 - MG Confirmed that the bank reconciliations for July, August and September 2023 have been checked.</p> <p>Forecast: The forecast circulated prior to the meeting. Costs for the rest of the year were reviewed and there is currently a surplus of £8652. Quotes are required for works that are included on the 5 year plan.</p> <p>Nest: JH looked into this and found that the Parish Council already had a Nest Account set up. JH has been enrolled into this scheme to meet current statutory requirements. CR has suggested to catch any arrears up, JH to contact Nest to make enquiries.</p> <p>External Audit – Mazars LLP</p> <p>The external audit report was presented to members and on the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the following comment was made:</p> <p>The council has not fully implemented recommendations made in 2021/22 internal and / or external audit reports. The council answered yes to the relevant assertion in the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement (assertion 7), claiming it has taken appropriate action in respect of audit reports. In future, the council should ensure that appropriate action in response to audit recommendations is taken within a reasonable time.</p> <p>Following discussion, a proposal of acceptance was made by DR, seconded by KO - all present agreed.</p> <p>There were a number of items that were identified for inclusion in setting next year's budget.</p>
7.	Allotments
	Tenancy Agreement review will be carried forward to the next meeting.
8.	Old Orchard Play Area
	Quotations/plans were circulated prior to the last meeting for the Old Orchard Play area. Everything apart from the junior swings need to be replaced. It was agreed that the current quote circulated is too expensive, CR will draw up a new proposal for discussion at the next meeting. KO will consult children to find out views on play area.
9.	Christmas Tree
	There was a discussion regarding the purchase of a Christmas Tree for the Upper Green, the supplier had been contacted and the cost for the tree is being held at the same price as last year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG Proposed to purchase tree from the same supplier ; KO Seconded - all present agreed.
10.	Old School Hall
	The water heater had been checked over and is now beyond repair. MG has spoken to Jeremy regarding the reworking of the Old School hall space and will hopefully meet early October to discuss. MG has also been in touch with Academy floors, they reported that most of the floor in the hall was in reasonably good condition. There was however a portion of the floor that was in very poor condition, where the boards are cupped.

	<p>Academy floor came back with two prices one for 71sq mtrs (where the floor is in reasonable condition) to lightly sand and apply 2 coats of lacquer £1,065. The other price is for the part of the floor that is in poor condition, to replace with new oak boards, supply, fit, colour match and reintegrate in to the main floor would cost £2,520. MG to get another quote.</p> <p>The PC noticeboard is in need of some tlc, needs sanding and painting, DR to obtain quote for painting.</p>
11.	Toilet Block
	<p>After a query from the cleaner about the toilet roll holders in the toilet block. JH contacted Initial as the toilet rolls supplied do not fit the dispensers. Initial admitted the wrong dispensers were sent. New dispensers have been provided and now need to be fitted. DR to contact Richard to fit.</p>
12.	Planning Applications
	<p>Application: 23/02500/FULL Address: 8 Millers Meadow Marsh Quarter Lane Sandhurst Kent Proposal: Variation of Condition 10 of Planning Permission 21/00825/OUT - Alterations to landscaping to the garden of plot 8 The Parish Council object to this application as it is overbearing on the neighbouring bungalow.</p> <p>APPEAL REFERENCE: PROPOSAL: Appeal against Enforcement Notice PF/T016506 - Without planning permission the material change of use of land from a mixed use of agricultural and private equestrianism to a mixed use of agriculture and private equestrianism and the stationing of a mobile home for residential use. SEE REFERENCE 21/02714/FULL ON THE TWBC WEBSITE FOR ALL APPEAL DOCUMENTS. ADDRESS: Part OS Plot 3771 Standen Street Benenden The Parish Council have no further input on this application.</p> <p>Application: 23/02602/FULL Address: Cowbeach Bodiam Road Sandhurst Cranbrook Kent Proposal: Three bay car port and store (Revisions to approved scheme 19/00517/FULL) The Parish Council have no comments to make on this application.</p>
13.	Correspondence to Clerk
	<p>Email from Sandhurst Football Club with various points - The Urn is broken and shower tap in the home shower keeps getting stuck on plus a couple flood lights not working and a request to train in front of Pavilion on a Wednesday evening.</p> <p>These points were discussed, the flood lights are the responsibility of the football club and should therefore be maintained by the football club.</p> <p>The football club have also requested to train on a weekday evening, request to train on a Wednesday night in front of the Pavilion has been refused as drainage on the field is poor. If the football club wanted to train on a Wednesday evening they would have to train over by the green container, if flood lights were required it would be up to Sandhurst Football club to provide them.</p> <p>JH to write to Football Club to inform of decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AK Proposed to refuse training in front of pavilion, to purchase new urn and get the issue with the shower investigated ; DR Seconded - all present agreed <p>Email regarding the state of footpaths - JH to respond with PROW details.</p>

	Email regarding A Strategic Plan received from Cllr Ellen Neville - KO to respond Cheeseman's have been in touch regarding the annual boiler service which costs £114.
19.	Public Intervention
	No members of the public attended the meeting.
16.	Date of Next Meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 November 2023 • 05 December 2023 - Precept Meeting • 12 December 2023

Julie Horan

Clerk to Sandhurst Parish Council

CC: For Information

County Cllr Seán Holden
Borough Cllr Godfrey Bland
Borough Cllr Ellen Neville