



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 09 July 2024

In Attendance:

Cllr Mark Griggs (Chairman) (MG)	Cllr Adam Kerry (AK)
Cllr Christopher Robinson (Vice-Chairman) (CR)	Ms Caroline Wood (CW)
Cllr David Rogers (DR)	Julie Horan (Clerk) (JH)
Cllr Katherine O'Neil (KO)	Borough Cllr Ellen Neville (EN)
Cllr Julie Griggs (JG)	Members of Public - 1
Cllr Denis O'Neil (DO)	

Item:	
1.	Apologies for Absence
	Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings (TD), Borough Cllr Beverley Palmer (BP)
2.	Declarations of Interest
	Councillors were reminded that they must inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR Allotments
3.	Co-option of a Parish Councillor
	Ms Caroline Wood met with MG, CR and JH on 04 July 2024 regarding becoming a Parish Councillor, and all agreed Ms Wood is a good candidate and met the criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG proposed to Co-opt Caroline Wood as a Parish Councillor ; CR seconded – all present agreed
4.	Approval of Minutes
	To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2024 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"> • CR proposed; MG seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meetings. To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 June 2024 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"> • Carried to the next meeting

5.	Councillor Intervention
	<p>Cllr Ellen Neville: An update on activities since the new government administration took over, the policy on re-assessing the Green Belt, actually that evaluation happens with every emerging local plan. It is not as scary as it seems, it will be happening nationwide and not just with every emerging local plan.</p> <p>EN said developers of Brook House in Hawkhurst claimed poverty and didn't want to deliver on their obligations on social housing. The planning team will take this on a case-by-case basis and potentially the large ones will go back to the planning committee, so far, the planning committee has instructed the developers to go away and try harder.</p>
6.	Finance and accounts
	<p><u>Accounts</u></p> <p>To approve accounts retrospectively for payment from 01 June 2024 to 30 June 2024. To receive details of receipts 01 June 2024 to 30 June 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR proposed to agree payments and receipts for March; MG seconded - all present agreed. <p>To note the bank reconciliation at 30 June 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR confirmed that the reconciliation had been checked and signed <p>To review the forecast: There are no surprises and things are where they are expected to be. 50% of monies have been paid for the Old Orchard Play Area. We need to allocate about 2k for bow top fencing around the play area once the new equipment is installed. CR to obtain 3 quotes for the fencing. Allotment rent: Will increase by the figure agreed last year.</p>
7.	Website
	<p>The website has been revised/updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR proposed to accept the updates and for the website to be published ; JG seconded – all present agreed
8.	Pavilion/OSH/Car Park/Toilet Block
	<p>Painting OSH – MG spoke to the conservation officer regarding the colours to double-check there were no constraints.</p> <p>Barrier, pavilion car park – has now been installed, a padlock is required to secure the gate.</p> <p>Legionella checks – have been started, the controls have been removed from the water tanks. A small alteration is needed to the pavilion loft to make sampling the water in the tanks easier, the quote was circulated before the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR proposed that the alteration be made by the current contractor working at the pavilion ; MG seconded – all present agreed <p>SIM Card for CCTV – cost £8-£10 with Tesco who provide the clerk's mobile phone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR proposed to use Tesco for Data SIM ; AK seconded – all present agreed <p>PAT Testing has been booked for 12th July 2024 with MDL.</p> <p>Toilet Block; The Replacement door is out of stock at present, but expected back in stock at the end of August.</p>
9.	Old Orchard Play Area/Adult Gym Equipment
	<p>Refurbishment of the play area is due to commence on 5th August 2024, the play area will be closed for approx. 3 weeks.</p>

	<p>Trees in the play area need cutting back before refurbishment starts AK, MG & KO to get quotes.</p> <p>Adult Gym Equipment: CW will contact the equipment suppliers to seek their advice on location.</p>
10.	John Fowle Trust Charity
	<p>The John Fowle Trust was started in 1632 by Sir John Fowle. The charity was functioning up until Covid, unfortunately, the Chairman and long-time Secretary passed away last year, he had been on the committee since 1947. Everything was then passed to Maureen Relf. Maureen is hoping to get the charity back up and running and requested that a councillor sit on the committee. Cllr Denis O'Neil volunteered to sit on the John Fowle Trust committee as a representative of the parish council.</p>
11.	Speed Watch
	<p>Since the last meeting, there have been 5 sessions where there were 152 offenders out of 1522 passing vehicles (around 10%), one outing in the evening was very productive.</p> <p>The annual speed watch conference has also taken place, one item to come out of the conference is the approval to use a body cam, it helps to confirm what is seen and more importantly the security of the person conducting the speed watch. The recommended and approved body cam is a Transcend DrivePro Body 10, the cost of which is £130.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR proposed to purchase a Transcend DrivePro Body 10 ; JG seconded – all present agreed
12.	Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>There were two non-designated heritage assets owned by the parish in the Neighbourhood Plan; the OSH and the Telephone Box. KO asked did the PC have any objections to them being non-designated? No objections were raised.</p>
13.	Defibrillators
	<p>Ken from Hopkins+ has said the batteries for the defibrillators at Baptist Church, Downton Cottages, The Old School Hall and the Swan Inn will need replacing in October/November 2024 the cost will be approx £239 each.</p> <p>All the devices in the parish were manufactured in 2017 and the warranty expires in 2025, we will need to consider replacing all the defibrillators at some point after that.</p>
14.	Hedges
	<p>There have been several complaints about hedges being overgrown and obstructing the footpaths. AK has said he would deliver a letter through the offending front doors requesting the residents cut back their hedges within 14 days.</p>
15.	Allotment
	<p>To help prevent unauthorised access to the allotments, the PC will look at defensive planting once the fence has been repaired.</p>
16.	Planning
	<p>Application: 24/01490/FULL</p> <p>Proposal: Erection of deer fencing & security gate (Retrospective)</p> <p>Address: Lords Wood, Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5NR.</p>

	The PC would like to object to this application on behalf of the residents, who have raised concerns about the visual intrusion into the rural lane setting, in which these gates and fencing have been erected. To reduce this visual intrusion, we would like to see a hedge planted along Spondon Lane in front of the fence and request that the new gates be painted in a dark green colour.
17.	Village Archive
	There are a couple of ideas for displaying the part of the village archive, one of which is as a montage/wallpaper on one of the walls of the village hall. Fireproof storage options were discussed, MG will investigate options and prices.
18.	Litter Pick
	An extra date was suggested; Saturday 7th September 2024 at 9am
19.	Noticeboard – Sandhurst Cross
	CW will get a price for a clear acrylic panel for the noticeboard.
20.	Correspondence to the clerk
	<p>An email regarding dog mess around the village; <i>JH will put a notice on Facebook requesting dog owners clear up after their dogs.</i></p> <p>An email regarding rubbish at the Playing Field; <i>JH has contacted the offending club and asked them to take their rubbish home rather than leaving in the bins outside the pavilion for the wildlife to scatter around the field.</i></p> <p>An email regarding the Sandhurst Farm Shop; I had an idea about the Sandhurst Farm shop that is now up for sale and looking so sad and dilapidated. I wonder if Sandhurst would have the appetite for a community cafe like Benenden has, and maybe a community vegetable and cut flower patch. That sounds like a lot of work, and someone would need to organise it, but we could get the playbook for the shop, at least, from our friends at Benenden. <i>JH to contact the resident to say that one of the things featured in the Neighbourhood Plan was the desire to have a village hub in the village and are looking for people to take this on board.</i></p> <p>Email response from Nigel Rowe to the comments submitted by the PC in response to the comments made regarding the HIP Plan; Thank you for your message and comments made by the parish council. I have just returned from leave this week so have only just passed this back to the engineers for comment. As soon as I hear back, I will let you know.</p>
21.	Public intervention
	<p>One allotment holder said that children were gaining access to the allotments, and raised the following points:</p> <p>a) Safeguarding of the children concerned and what the PC will do over the school holidays.</p> <p>b) Children running around the allotment site barefoot.</p> <p>c) Concern regarding the water troughs and general sharps left around the allotment.</p> <p>d) Looking ahead: i. Contingency budget for replacement gates, ii. Defensible planting to the side of the access gate and iii. 2nd fence on our side of the Housing Association Boundary fence.</p> <p><i>There is a fence panel that has been removed, which allows the children access. The housing association has been notified as the fence is their responsibility. The PC will</i></p>

	<i>look at defensive planting once the fence has been repaired to help prevent unauthorised access to the allotments.</i>
22.	Date of Next Meeting
	No meeting in August 10 September 2024 08 October 2024

Mark Griggs
Chair, Sandhurst Parish Council

CC: For Information
County Cllr Seán Holden
Borough Cllr Ellen Neville
Borough Cllr Beverley Palmer
Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings