



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 14 January 2025

In Attendance:

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

Item:	
1.	Apologies for Absence
	Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings (TD)
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 – Plot holder
3.	Approval of Minutes
	To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 December 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; DR seconded and it was agreed by those present at the meeting that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.
4.	Councillor Intervention
	Borough Councillor Ellen Neville gave a report: Devolution: KCC is going to split into 3 or 4 authorities, we will sit in West Kent and have a population of about 500,000 people. There has been an expression of interest to go into the priority program. The KCC elections due to take place in May could be postponed to 2026. Buses: The petition for the Etchingham to Tenterden bus service closed on 10th January 2025: I have sent in 157 wet signatures. There were 219 online signatures. Once we have acknowledgement from KCC I will start the conversation with our officers to join up the dots (or villages in this case).

	<p>Solar Farm: The application for a solar farm in Water Lane has been called-in and will come before the Planning Committee in due course.</p> <p>Brook House, Cranbrook Rd: In December the Planning Committee resolved to send the developers away and try harder with their S106 offer of £36K. In January they came back with the offer of £120K which the committee accepted.</p> <p>The Sandhurst Climate Action Group has 9 members, there is an event coming up. EN requested to have a tab on the parish website for the Sandhurst Climate Action Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG proposed to have a dedicated page for the climate action group ; KO seconded – all present agreed
5.	Finance and accounts
	<p>Accounts:</p> <p>To approve accounts retrospectively for payments from 01 December 2024 to 31 December 2024</p> <p>To receive details of receipts from 01 December 2024 to 31 December 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR proposed to agree payments and receipts for December ; CR seconded - all present agreed. <p>To note the bank reconciliation at 31 December 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR confirmed that the reconciliation had been checked and signed. <p>Forecast: The forecast was circulated before the meeting. There were a few unexpected costs. The end of next year's position is just under 1k worse than it was, CR & JH will spend time next week reviewing the forecast.</p> <p>Internal Auditor: CR proposed to appoint Lionel Robbins as the Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 audit ; MG seconded – all present agreed</p> <p>April 2024 Payscales: MG proposed to accept the payscales for April 2024 circulated before the meeting ; JG seconded – all present agreed</p>
6.	OSH
	<p>Update: The floor is being repaired on 23rd January, the hall will be closed for 4 days to allow the lacquer to dry.</p> <p>Replacement of Locks: Retrospective approval is required for the replacement of the locks on all the external doors of the OSH which cost £195 for the locks and the fitting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR proposed to approve the payment ; CW seconded – all present agreed <p>Maintenance: There is a Buddleia bush along the sideway which needs cutting back, also a window at the back of the building needs attention as it has been reported as being in poor condition. CW/CR will cut the bush back. The location of the window that needs repairing needs to be determined.</p>
7.	Old Orchard Play Area/Adult Gym Equipment/Playing Field/Pavilion
	<p>Adult Gym Equipment: MG reached out to another PC who has adult gym equipment in their village to pick their brain as to what was included in their grant application and is waiting for a response.</p> <p>Dog Mess Signs: An additional quote from Iden Signs was received for an aluminium sign measuring 1500mmx1000mm. Iden Signs quoted £115 each plus VAT There was a discussion around the wording on the sign and it was agreed to replace the word poo with mess. One sign would be placed on the side of the pavilion and another mounted on two posts at the far end of the playing field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR proposed to order 2 signs with the amended wording to be mounted as specified ; AK seconded – all present agreed. <p>Dog Waste Bins: JH circulated various options and prices for freestanding dog waste bins to replace the two at the playing fields that were in very poor condition.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG proposed to purchase 2 Metal Fido 50 in red costing £268.09 each ; KO seconded – all present agreed <p>Grass Protection Matting: Carried forward to the next meeting</p> <p>Old Orchard Fencing: Part of the new fencing has been vandalised, CR will contact George Harding who originally installed the fence to ask that he make repairs. (Barbed Wires for the top of the fence was discussed – JH to look into the legalities).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR proposed to ask GH to repair ; KO seconded – DR Abstained, everyone else agreed <p>Pavilion Boiler: DR has been in contact with a consultant. A date needs to be set for a meeting. Carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>Gutters/Facia Cleaning – Pavilion: A quote was received from Bradley Shepherd to clean the facias, gutters, down pipes, window ledges and windows for £200.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR proposed to accept the quote of £200 ; JG seconded – all present agreed <p>Car Park Resurfacing: Harding's made a start on the 02 Jan on creating a defined edge with the excavator. They are due back on site Tuesday and Wednesday 14/15 Jan to finish preparation works edgings, grade and infill holes and will provide barriers around the disabled slab and create a pedestrian walkway. Once this is complete Harding's will be able to provide a surfacing date which currently has a window of 20-31 January.</p> <p>Toilet Block: There has been more vandalism at the toilet block, this time the ladies' external door and frame have been damaged. JH to get quotes to replace the door with a hardwood door and softwood frame and an additional quote for fitting a metal grill door in front of the wooden door in time for the next meeting.</p>
8.	Speed Watch
	<p>4 planned sessions since the last meeting, 3 of which were cancelled as it was too cold to be allowed to operate. The one session on Bodiam Road saw 64 vehicles pass with no offenders.</p> <p>Equipment: CR is currently looking at replacement equipment.</p>
9.	Allotments
	<p>Plot Clearance: One of the vacated allotment plots was left in a mess, 2 quotes were obtained to clear the plot and were circulated via email: Quote A - £1290.00 Quote B - £350 plus £400 to trim hedge bordering the allotment. After discussion quote b was the preferred quote; The allotment side of the hedge will be cut and the householder of Chapel House will take care of the top.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG proposed to accept quote b of £350 and to cut the allotment side of the hedge for £200 ; AK seconded – all present agreed <p>Outstanding Allotment Rent: The rent is outstanding on 1 plot, JH has contacted the plot holder requesting payment by 31st January 2025. If payment is not received by 31 January 2025 the tenancy will be terminated in line with the Tenancy Agreement.</p> <p>Allotment Checks: An email and template letter were circulated before the meeting regarding plots that are not being tended to and causing a problem to other plot holders, this was discussed at length. This will be passed to the Allotment Committee for comment at their next meeting on Monday 27th January, this meeting is open to all allotment holders should they wish to attend.</p>
10.	Planning
	<p>Application No: 24/03090/FULL Proposal: Construction of agricultural roadway</p>

	<p>Address: Williams Farm, Rye Road, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5HP Comments by: 2 January 2025, an extension has been requested. This application was discussed, but no comments were made. Application No: 24/03096/FULL Proposal: Proposed conversion and extension of existing barn to provide a single residential dwelling together with associated parking & amenity. Address: Boxhurst Farm, Boxhurst, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5PE Comments by: 16 January 2025 This application was discussed, but no comments were made.</p>
11.	Correspondence to Clerk
	<p>Email received about the reinstatement of the round bench on the Lower Green. <i>A replacement bench is being looked at subject to funds being available within the budget.</i> Email received from the Cricket Club regarding the grass cutting at the playing field. <i>JH to draft a response.</i></p>
12.	Public Intervention
	None.
13.	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>11 February 2025 11 March 2025</p>

Mark Griggs
Chairman, Sandhurst Parish Council

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