

**Minutes of the meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council held Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>  
January 2024 at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane, Sandymoor**

**Present**

Cllrs S Mahon, Chair, T Willett, Vice Chair, M Graves, J Secker and P Wright  
Borough Councillors S Davidson and M Ryan, plus 13 members of the public.

**1/1/24 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hurst, Irvine and Schon

**2/1/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were none

**3/1/24 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December were approved as a correct record  
subject to the removal of Cllr Secker from the declarations of interest.

**4/1/24 PCSO Report**

The Chair welcomed PC James Tolley who was standing in for Sandymoor's PCSO  
who was not on duty.

PC Tolley gave some statistics about recent crimes in Sandymoor and Daresbury  
and stressed the importance of raising complaints directly with the Police rather than  
relying on social media.

He also urged members of the public to use the Cheshire Police website which  
enabled the public to provide and receive information according to their postcode.

Concern was raised about parking on pavements. PC Tolley said the approach was  
to speak to the owners first rather than immediately issuing a fixed penalty notice  
although this was an option which could and would be pursued with persistent  
offenders.

**5/1/24 Youth Engagement**

Steve Smith, the teacher leading the Youth Voice programme at the Academy, spoke  
to the council. The following were issues which the group were looking into:

Cost of living issues, litter, community engagement, and how to engage with those  
young people still not taking part in the programme.

A pre-loved uniform sale had recently been held and the group were considering  
raising funds for a defibrillator to be used at the playing fields.

**6/1/24 Community Engagement**

The Council considered the following issues which had been notified to the Clerk:



Flooding in the underpass. The Clerk to liaise with the Borough Council and Natural England.

Bloor Public Open Space. The Council were in discussion with Bloor and hoped to report progress soon.

SIDs. There was considerable discussion on this issue. The Clerk would seek clarification from the Borough Council. Councillors felt the preferred choices for locations would be Walsingham Drive and Pitts Heath Lane.

### **7/1/24 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's written report was received. It was noted that a third defibrillator had now been provide for location at the Academy.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the installation, estimated to cost approximately £250.

### **8/1/24 Policy Review**

1. In order to avoid confusion it was agreed that the Council should adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders, replacing paragraphs referring to finance to the financial regulations. The Clerk would present a revised document to the next meeting.
2. It was agreed that the Council confirm its approval of the Appraisal policy.
3. The GDPR Policy was renewed without amendment.

### **9/1/24 Borough Councillor Reports**

Cllr Ryan reported that a meeting had been held including the Clerk and Chair at Village Street and the road would remain closed to through traffic and the paths and rails to the sides would be enhanced.

Traffic issues at the Bovis site had been, to date, partially resolved.

Cllr Davidson said she would be holding a surgery on Saturday at the Red Lion in Moore.

### **10/1/24 Planning Applications**

Application Number: 24/00017/FUL. Proposal for a full house white render at 20 Walsingham Drive Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1XJ.

A member of the Council had expressed concern that this and potential similar changes to other houses could have a detrimental effect on the appearance of the area.

It was agreed that the Clerk would pass on this concern.

### **11/1/24 Accounts for payment.**

The following payments were approved.





Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	781.23		1738.88
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	396.32		396.32
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	597.49		597.49
A L Neil	Expenses			0.00
L A Irvine	Expenses	0.00		0.00
Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	20.60	4.12	24.72
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.90	0.98	5.88
The Tech Saver	HP EliteBook 840 G10 Laptop	940.45		940.45
JDH Business Services LTD	Interim Internal Audit Fees 2023/24	360.00	72.00	432.00
Halton BC	SID	4200.00		4200.00
CM Electrical Services	Installation of Defibrillator at Hazlehurst	226.49		226.49
<b>Total</b>		<b>8512.13</b>	<b>77.10</b>	<b>8589.23</b>

## 12/1/24 Finance Report

1. The RFO reported the following balances

Previous Bank Balance (18 Dec 2023): £90,386.59

Total Bank Balance: £133,864.30

Current Bank Balance (18 Dec 2023): £83,226.92

Savings Account (18 Jan 2024): £50,637.38

Expenditure (18 Dec 2023 – 18 Jan 2024): £8,159.67

Income (18 Dec 2023 – 18 Jan 2024): £1000

POS Dowry: £707,686.66

Dividend Received for Quarter (31 Oct 2023): £9,396.25

Sink Fund: £38,885.71

Dividend Received for Quarter (31 Oct 2023): £516.29

2. A quarterly update was also circulated.
3. It was noted that a very favourable internal audit report had been received and circulated to members of the Council, indicating ongoing improvement in the management and reporting of the council's finances.



**13/1/24 Part B.** It was agreed to conduct the rest of the meeting in Part B due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the discussions.

**14/1/24 Investment Strategy**

Cllr Graves reported on his investigations into this subject and it was agreed that the Council approach Arling Close and The Private Office for advice on the parish council's investments, each company possibly costing £5000-£6000.

**15/1/24 Deposit Accounts**

The RFO reported on this and on some of the restrictions for Parish Council opening bank accounts. She would continue to investigate opportunities.

**16/1/24 Public Outdoor Space**

The Chair reported that Barratt David Wilson home space was with solicitors and it was expected progress would be made with Bloor shortly.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

*CLH*

## **Clerk's Report to Council January 2024**

### **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)**

Halton BC have now suggested initial locations for SIDs

1. Newmoore Lane close to junction with Selby and facing traffic coming from Moore.
2. Wharford Lane close to roundabout facing traffic heading towards Pitts Heath

*As soon as the Parish Council agrees its preferred initial locations HBC will order and install the SIDs (one being relocated)*

### **Defibrillators**

Northwest Ambulance have provided us with a third defibrillator. At an on-site meeting it was felt that adjacent to the main entrance would be more prominent and accessible. The defibrillator will be accessible 24/7.

Although the defibrillator will cost the council nothing, the *Council are asked to approve expenditure of approximately £250* for installation.

### **Public Outdoor Space**

Barratt David Wilson have confirmed that the Stalbridge Drive area is being handled by both legal parties and that the Lea View area will follow shortly. Bloor have asked for details of our solicitor, but I have heard nothing further from them. There may be an opportunity to modify the specification for the Bloor work.

### **First Aid Course**

This is now fully booked.

### **Christmas tree lights**

I have approached the Co-op regarding the possibility of connecting to their external electrical sing so that, if members are happy with that location, we can use mains powered lights this year.

Arthur Neil

**Clerk to the Council**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**