

**Minutes of the meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council
held 26th February 2026 at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane**

Part A

Present

Cllr S Mahon, Chair, T Willett, Vice-Chair, M Graves, C Lowe, B Schön, P Wright and J Secker.

Louise Irvine, RFO.

Borough Councillor N Connolly.

Four members of the public.

1/2/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Hurst, Arthur Neil, Clerk, and Borough Cllr Sian Davidson.

2/2/26 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lowe declared an interest in any matters relating to the Academy.

3/2/26 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025

These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4/2/26 Community Engagement.

A resident had written to the clerk to express concern over the traffic & double parking around the entrance to Glastonbury Close and Sherbourne Close, which would impede larger vehicles including emergency vehicles. Arthur has passed this information on to the police.

A resident has raised the issue of antisocial behaviour, including eggs and bricks thrown at doors plus doors being kicked, on Holford Moss which have been referred to the police. The area is being used as a short cut into other parts of the estate, as well as the local centre, which is exacerbating problem. The resident was questioning if some of the pedestrian entrances to the area could be closed off to stop it being a cut through, but Cllr Connolly pointed out that it may be a public right of way, which was why the entrances were built into the plans in the first place. This will need further investigation by the resident before trying to proceed in their plans. Cllr Connolly informed the resident that HBC have not adopted the roads/footpaths in that area yet, but steps were being taken for this to happen. The chair reminded residents to report any issues to the police via 101 or through their residents' voice website.

Signed.....Chair 26th March 2026

A resident reported to the council that the SID was back up and running as of the 20th February 2026 but asked if there was any data available from October 2025 onwards. Cllr Schön reminded the council that the SID still needs relocating to its next location on Pitts Heath Lane. Arthur was asked to chase both the data and the relocation with HBC.

A concern was raised that large lorries for the Sandymoor South building site are coming back down Walsingham Drive and not down the previously agreed route. Cllr Connolly stated there is an issue with the lorries not being able to make the turn from that entrance into the site and that there's also a dangerous adverse camber, so the lorries have had to come back down Walsingham Drive as there's no other option. This decision was questioned as it has been previously reported that the road was unfit for those lorries due to the thickness of the tarmac and underlying hardcore. The council have asked Arthur to source the original report about the suitability (or not) of the road/tarmac depth for HGVs to clarify the situation.

A resident commented that the building of the nursery has started at the local centre, between the current row of retail units and Sandymoor Hall. Cllr Connolly reported that this will eventually result in a redesign of the carpark lay out including spaces reserved for the nursery. Details will be shared when we have them.

5/2/26 PCSO Report.

No report provided and no PCSO was available to attend.

6/2/26 Clerk's Report.

The Council received the Clerk's report – attached.

7/2/26 Wooden Fencing Around Sandymoor

Cllr Mahon raised that the wooden fencing around Sandymoor is all looking very dilapidated and unkempt, with many of the planks rotted, broken and/or missing. None of the fencing on HBC land has been maintained and the council asked Cllr Connolly what can be done to get this all repaired or replaced as required. Photos have been taken and will be forwarded onto Cllr Connolly who will ask for a survey of the state of all the fencing around Sandymoor on HBC land.

Cllr Wright also raised that some of the wooden bridges around the area also need some attention before they completely fail also as well as raising that the brick street sign for Pitts Heath Lane at the Malmesbury Park/Walsingham Drive roundabout hasn't been fully repaired when all the other ones were. Cllr Connolly was asked to feed this back to the relevant department at HBC.

Signed.....Chair 26th March 2026

8/2/26 Revised Budget for 2026/2027

The council agreed the amended budget for 2026/2027.

9/2/26 Working Group updates

No Working Groups had met since the last meeting.

10/2/26 Borough Council Report including Highways Issues

One Borough Councillor was present.

Cllr Connolly reported the following:

The planning for Daresbury Hall has passed through first phase of planning. Cllr Connolly pleased to share that he is working to get some restoration apprenticeships ring fenced for this ward incorporated into the project. He is aiming for approximately 10 apprenticeships within the project and is working alongside Riverside College in this endeavour. It has been a stipulation of the planning consent that the restoration work on the hall must also be done alongside with new builds.

Cllr Connolly attended a youth engagement event with Vibe and had some good feedback to help combatting ASB.

He also mentioned that some developers are looking at older, larger properties within Sandymoor to convert from single 4-bedroom houses to 4 studio apartments. Some councillors raised concerns over this type of re-development, particularly in relation to additional parking and traffic issues.

Cllr Secker asked Cllr Connolly if he had a definite date of the permanent closure of Keckwick Lane as there have been temporary closures on and off but not the permanent closure. Cllr Connolly wasn't able to give a definite date as of yet but will inform the council as soon as he finds out.

11/2/26 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications within the Sandymoor area.

Signed.....Chair 26th March 2026

12/2/26 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved

Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1470.87	0.00	1470.87
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	371.75	0.00	371.75
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	150.15	0.00	150.15
A L Neil	Expenses	20.70	0.00	20.70
L A Irvine	Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Microsoft	Office 365 Package	24.99	5.00	29.99
Zurich	Insurance	643.92	0.00	643.92
Charity Bank	Transfer to POS Fund Savings Account	14281.33	0.00	14281.33
Totals		16963.71	5.00	16963.71

13/2/26 Finance Report

The RFO gave the following report on the financial position of the council:

Current Account:

Precept: £19,539.36

Excess POS Dividends (In Current A/C): £8,000.91

Sink Fund Dividends & Rent (In Current A/C): £1,439.63

Total: £28,979.96

Savings Accounts:

General Reserves in Co-op Savings Account: £37,190.40

POS Money in Charity Account: £69,813.59

Sink Fund Money in Cambridge Account: £45,823.98

Precept Money in Unity Account: £20,282.87

Precept Money in Hinkley & Rugby Account: £20,204.06

Current Account Income & Outgoings: (19th January 2026 – 23rd February 2026):

Expenditure: £2,320.75

Transfers from Current to Savings: £17,718.15

Income: £9,440.60

Transfers from Savings to Current: £15,000

Investments: POS Dowry¹ Latest Valuation: £709,979.32

Signed Chair 26th March 2026

Dividend Received for Quarter (31st Jan 2026) £8,000.97

Sink Fund² Latest Valuation: £38,991.21

Dividend Received for Quarter (31st Jan 2026) £439.63

¹POS Dowry is an investment with CCLA (Church Charities & Local Authorities) investment company from which a dividend is received on a quarterly basis.

²Sink fund is a separate investment with CCLA using monies from Sandymoor Parish Council and Sandymoor Ormiston Academy building up a fund to replace the playing field facilities when needed.

14/2/26 In accordance with the Local Government Act it was resolved to conduct the rest of the meeting in Part B

PART B


15/2/26 Public Open Space Report

The chair updated the council on the status of the POS contracts, with positive progress reported.

The council were asked to give delegated authority to Arthur to issue ITT's once the dowry money is received to avoid any delays in the process. The vote was passed by the council.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Thursday 26th March 2026

Signed.....Chair 26th March 2026