

Minutes of the meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council held 25th June 2026 at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane.

Present

Cllr S Mahon, Chair, M Graves, S Hurst, C Lowe, J Secker and T Willett
Arthur Neil, Clerk, Louise Irvine, RFO

Borough Councillors Connolly, Eaton and Scott
Four members of the public

6/6/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Schon and P Wright

7/6/26 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lowe declared an interest in any issues relating to the Academy

8/6/26 Minutes of the meetings held on 28th May 2026

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9/6/26 Community Engagement.

No advance notice had been received of any questions. Representatives of the Academy were present to discuss the gardening project.

The following issues were discussed:

The bollard at Otterburn was to be replaced by Legat Owen;

Markings were needed at the 'roundabout' at Otterburn as it causes confusion;

The Clerk would ask if the Tagmaster could be repositioned at Newmoore Lane.

Joan Hughes from the Academy reported on the successful launch of the gardening project at Hazlehurst. Most of the students involved had additional needs or were pupil premium students and had thoroughly enjoyed the work. The Chair of the Hazlehurst Gardeners group spoke highly of the student and their work.

10/6/26 Roundabout at Newmoore and Wharford

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Cllr Hurst.

The poor quality of driving at this roundabout was noted. It was agreed to ask HBC about an earlier plan to re-model it to make it safer

Signed..........Chair 23rd July 2026

11/6/26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's written report was received.

It was agreed that if the council could not secure a claim from Zurich for the Otterburn notice board that the Clerk seek three quotes and replace the notice board and the Perspex in the Swan's Reach board.

It was noted and approved that the Council's liability insurance had been increased to cover the sum of £250,000.

12/6/26 Staff Mileage

A report from the Clerk had been submitted. It was noted that staff contracts committed the council to JNC travel rates.

The Council resolved that, with effect from 1 April 2026, mileage claims for authorised council business shall be reimbursed at the nationally recognised mileage rate, as amended from time to time, subject to claims being properly authorised and supported by appropriate records.

13/6/26 Borough Council Report including Highways issues

The Chair welcomed Cllrs Eaton and Scott to their first meeting of the Parish Council. It was agreed that an informal meeting be held to get to know them.

Cllr Connolly reported that

There were now deer on Moore Nature reserve and signs were being planned to improve road (and deer) safety;

United Utilities were investing £24m in water services in the area;

There had been some vandalism at the Village Green;

Halton BC were working toward accreditation as an Age Friendly Community;

there was a possibility of funding from the Liverpool City Region for the Village Green and the Art Trail.

Cllr Connolly submitted a funding application on behalf of the Mya's Angels Morris Dancing Group.

After discussion it was agreed that the council would meet the cost of £800 towards dresses on receipt of an invoice from the suppliers.

14/6/26 Planning Applications

Application Number: 26/00232/FUL

Replacement of existing flat roof to outbuilding including increase in height to 2.59m and erection of a single storey extension linking outbuilding to the existing conservatory (

Retrospective) at 20 Bisham Park Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1XH

The Council had no comment on this application

Signed..........Chair 23rd July 2026

15/6/26 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved

Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1470.87	0.00	1470.87
L A Irvine	RFO Salary	525.46	0.00	525.46
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	371.75	0.00	371.75
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	144.59	0.00	144.59
A L Neil	Expenses	83.37	1.17	84.54
L A Irvine	Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Microsoft	Office 365 Package	24.99	5.00	29.99
FOMPS	Grant (agreed at May 2026 meeting)	500.00	0.00	500.00
Charity Bank	Transfer of excess POS money	12098.32	0.00	12098.32
CLM Ltd	POS Maintenance Quarterly Invoice: 242329	2795.00	559.00	3354.00
Cambridge BS	Transfer of Sink Fund money	5917.84	0.00	5917.84
Walton Turf	Supplies for Hazlehurst Garden Project	148.50	0.00	148.50
Chai & Moor Ltd	Refreshments for Meeting	21.90	0.00	21.90
Rymans	A3 Poster Printing	1.43	0.29	1.72
	Totals	23578.56	565.46	24144.02

16/6/26 Finance Report, including external audit

The RFO presented the following report

Current Account:

Precept:£61,550.67

Excess POS Dividends (In Current A/C):£3,354.00

Sink Fund Dividends & Rent (In Current A/C):£5,917.84

Total:£70,822.51

Savings Accounts:

General Reserves in Co-op Savings Account:£37,459.01

POS Money in Charity Account:£82,760.69

Sink Fund Money in Cambridge Account:£45,823.98

Precept Money in Unity Account:£20,387.48

Signed..........Chair 23rd July 2026

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

Current Account Income & Outgoings

Expenditure:£3,860.32

Transfers from Current to Savings:£12,098.32

Income:£1,000.00

Transfers from Savings to Current:£0.00

Investments:

POS Dowry1 Latest Valuation:£705,511.19

Dividend Received for Quarter (30th Apr 2026)£8,703.13

Sink Fund2 Latest Valuation:£38,766.17

Dividend Received for quarter (30th April 2026):£478.21

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

2 Sink 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.

17/6/26 In accordance with the Local Government Act it was resolved to conduct the rest of the meeting in Part B

PART B

18/6/26 Public Open Space Report – a confidential report from Taylor Rose had been circulated.

This was approved

19/6/26 The execution of the deeds with Bloor Homes and Morris Homes was approved

The meeting closed at 8.40

Signed..........Chair 23rd July 2026

Clerk's Report June 2026

Polytunnel/gardening project

This is now going extremely well and we had had some excellent photos of students at work and the finished product.

ASB

PC Lines has been in touch several times to keep me up to date on the work he has been doing – 80+% of his time in Sandymoor recently. There were issues around a gate between the Coop and Chatwins and we have liaised with Ashall's to get it locked.

One youth has been arrested and others warned of serious consequences for ongoing bad behaviour.

Notice Board

I am continuing to pursue Zurich about a possible claim for the damaged notice board on Otterburn Street. We have had quotes for two possible alternatives which might be more resistant to the attentions of the vandals. **If the insurance claim is rejected the council are asked to approve the purchase of a replacement**

Jubilee Forest

On the evening of 15th June someone felt the urge to snap a tree at the forest. This has been reported to the Police and residents have been asked to let us know if they have any information. CLM (Tony Gerrard) have been asked to handle it.

Sandymoor in Bloom

This initiative appears to have been well received on social media. I have asked for entries to be received by 10th July.

Otterburn Street

I have asked Legat Owen – acting for Ashall's- to look at possible remediation work on the Coop side of the roundabout which has been badly damaged by vehicle parking.

Insurance

The internal auditor asked us to revise the amount covered by our liability insurance to cover all funds. I have now instructed Zurich to do this. **The council are asked to note and approve the action taken.**

Arthur Neil, Clerk

20th June 2026