

**Minutes of the Meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council Held 21st April 2022 at
Sandymoor Ormiston Academy 7.00 p.m.**

2022/4/1 Present

Cllrs T Willett in the Chair, S Hurst, A Irvine, B Schon, J Secker

Arthur Neil, Clerk Louise Irvine, RFO

Four members of the public

2022/4/2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mahon who was isolating with Covid.

2022/4/3 Declarations of Interest

S Hurst declared interest in the school and playing fields.

A Irvine declared interest in the school and L Irvine.

2022/4/4 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 17th March were approved as a correct record.

2022/4/5 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's written report was received and two additional items were raised by him.

1. Jubilee Forest. This is a small forest, for public use, that is proposed to be planted on Sandymoor Parish Council land to the south of Stalbridge Drive. Two mechanisms had been identified by which the forest's long- term availability for public use could be protected. The first was to ask Halton Borough to include in the local plan as a special local green space. The Borough Council were sympathetic but as the plan had just been agreed the timing of any change couldn't be guaranteed. The second was to use the charity Fields in Trust who would arrange a deed to cover the site at a cost of £85 for the land registry and any possible legal fees the Council wished to incur. It was agreed to pursue both courses of action.
2. ♦SIDs. These are roadside devices which shows drivers their speed. The Parish Council are investigating the purchase of an SID for use on Sandymoor roads to dissuade drivers from speeding. The Clerk had approached the Police and Crime Commissioner and it was unlikely any funding would be forthcoming but the local Police unit may offer some assistance. It was agreed to pursue the potential to share a SID with other Parish Councils in the area.

2022/4/6 Land at Bisham Park

Two members of the public were invited to speak on this issue regarding a piece of land due to be auctioned on behalf of the Receivers. Residents were anxious that the site be prevented from being used for anything undesirable.

Signed..........S Mahon Chair

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not bid for the land but that if the two residents were to purchase it the Council would consider purchasing from them and would raise this as an item in a future Parish Council meeting if the residents were successful with their purchase.

2022/4/7 Co-options

1. The Council confirmed that Cllr B Schon had been co-opted at the November meeting, as the decision had not been recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
2. It was agreed that the Clerk draft a more formal procedure for future co-options which would be presented to the May meeting before residents were invited to put their names forward.

2022/4/8 Planning Applications

There were no comments on any recent planning applications.

2022/4/9 Bloor Site POS Maintenance

The Council is in discussion with Bloor Homes, with a view to taking ownership of the public open space (POS) on Bloor's Sandymoor development (Beamish Place) if the monies offered by Bloor are deemed by the Council to be sufficient to allow the land to continue to be maintained to a suitable standard.

It was agreed that the revised figures from The Environment Partnership be put to Bloor and that other estimates be sought.

It was agreed that the Council should adopt a policy of reinvesting the surplus of any dividends paid on our POS monies, to better protect the funds that the Council has available for POS maintenance from future price increases.

It was agreed that, at the next Council meeting, the Council would discuss whether to continue a policy of seeking to adopt public land in Sandymoor.

2022/4/10 Finance Report

The RFO's written report was received with the following information

Previous Bank Balance (18/03/22):	£ 62,360.93
Current Bank Balance (18/04/22):	£111,779.93
Expenditure:	£1121.84
2022/23 Precept Received (01/04/22):	£ 41,220
Donation Halton Housing Association:	£ 5,000
POS Dowry:	£812,000
Sink Fund:	£ 48,000

The following payments were approved

ChALC	affiliation fee	£1003.68
BHIB	Insurance	£ 910.80
SOA	Room hire	£ 150.00
SOA	Room hire	£ 75.00

Signed..........S Mahon Chair

Xeno	Website	£ 75.00
Salaries	April salaries	£ 991.43
A Neil	Refund for printer	£ 161.79
HGC	Grounds maintenance	£3400.50

2022/4/11 Any other business

A member of the public raised concerns about the amount of chewing gum discarded around parts of the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Academy to raise concerns about littering (including chewing gum) and to ask Halton Borough Council if they had any suggestions regarding how to reduce littering. The Clerk would also enquire about the Litter Lottery.

Part B – the Council resolved to discuss remaining agenda items in Part B.

Members of the public were thanked for their interest and attendance.

2022/4/12 Grant – the Council agreed a grant of £1250 to Sandymoor Community Association for the hire of a marquee for the Jubilee weekend. The Clerk would ask if purchase had been considered

2022/4/13 Website- There was nothing to report on the new website at this stage. Cllr Irvine provided an update on emails. It was agreed to subscribe to Microsoft at a cost of £28 pcm. Only the Chair, Clerk and RFO would have sandymoorparishcouncil.gov.uk emails and there would be a short window of opportunity to migrate current Council emails to personal addresses.

2022/4/14 Legal action. The Council had been contacted by its legal advisers and it was agreed to review the Council's response. Cllr Secker would produce a draft by Monday 25th and the Personnel group would review before sending it back.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Acronyms and abbreviations used in this document:

BHIB – BHIB Insurance Brokers
ChALC – Cheshire Association of Local Councils
Cllr / Cllrs – Councillor / councillors
HGC – Hazeldine Ground Care Ltd. (Forestry support service)
POS – Public Open Space
RFO – Responsible financial officer
SID – Speed Indicator Device
SOA – Sandymoor Ormiston Academy
The Council – Sandymoor Parish Council
Xeno – Xeno Solutions (IT services)

Signed..........S Mahon Chair