

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council
Held 16th February 2023
7 p.m. at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane

AGENDA

Present

Cllrs S Mahon (Chair), T Willett (Vice Chair) B Schon, and P Wright
Arthur Neil, Clerk Louise Irvine RFO

Five members of the public including Borough Councillors Bradshaw. Apologies had been received from Cllr S Davidson

1/2/23 Apologies for Absence –

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hurst, Irvine and Secker

2/2/23 Declarations of Members' Interest of a Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Nature.

Cllr Hurst declared an interest in any matters connected to the Academy or the playing fields

3/2/23 Sandymoor Police Report (PCSO)

There was no representative of the Police present and it was agreed the Clerk should contact Inspector Haddock to see if a more predictable arrangement could be arranged.

4/2/23 Minutes.

The minutes of the 19th January meeting were approved as a correct record subject to the following clarification -minute 9/1/23 indicates the Council believed there was still time for the developers to use the updated version of SUDS.

5/2/23 Guest Speaker – Stephen Young, Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council

The Chair welcomed Stephen Young, Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council. Mr Young gave some information on his background in local government in the North West and of his specialism in Economic Regeneration. The Borough Council, like others, was facing significant issues with its budgets due to cuts in grant, increases in prices and the high costs of some services such as adult social care and taking children into care. The Council was in the process of seeking to save £25million and was looking at ways of re-imagining services.

He then took questions from councillors and members of the public. With specific reference to a new school, he said that this was in the hands of the Department of Education nationally. If they believed there was spare capacity in the Borough or nearby they would not authorise a new school.

Signed..........Chair 16th March 2023

6/2/23 Community Engagement and Public questions:

The Clerk had received one question from a non-resident regarding a planning issue which had already been discussed by the Council. The comments had been passed to Mr Young as requested.

7/2/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's written report was received. He added the following:-

An indicative price of £3-4,000 had been given for the installation of CCTV with ongoing costs of £30 per month for a router if needed. It was agreed that further discussions take place with Halton BC re the types of cameras and a more detailed scheme be prepared. The Clerk had passed on some concern about disabled access on the sunflower path and Haton BC were to effect changes within the next few weeks. Discussions with the Cheshire Lieutenancy were taking place re an official opening for the Jubilee Forest. Mr Mee, the Senior Deputy had been arranged for this event.

8/2/23 Co-option

Two residents had sent in applications by the closing date. It was agreed that Mr Malcolm Graves and Ms Erin McCloskey be invited for interview at the next meeting.

7/2/23 Working Group Reports and recommendations

1. Chair/Convenor for the Expressway Noise Group. It was agreed to merge this group with the traffic working group and to draft some terms of reference.
2. Community Engagement. Cllr Wright reported that representatives of the Academy's Youth Voice would attend the March meeting and that he and the clerk were planning to visit the Academy to prepare
3. Public Outdoor Space. The Chair reported that discussions had taken place with Bloor and David Wilson Homes. A further meeting was due with Vistry. Some progress was being made with David Wilson and it was hoped some accommodation could be reached with the others.

8/2/23 Borough Councillor reports

Cllr J Bradshaw welcomed Mr Young. He reminded members that he served on the Health Committee, Cllr M Bradshaw served on Children and Young People and Cllr Davidson on the Environment Committee.

9/2/23 Policy Updates

The following policy was agreed as updated

The following new policies were agreed subject to two changes:

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy should say that reserves 'would not support revenue spending by more than 10% of total spending that year.'

Signed..........Chair 16th March 2023

The prices attributed to subsistence be replaced with – 'shall be paid at the prevailing NJC rates.

General Privacy Statement

Expenses Policy

Finance Working Group Terms of Reference

Medium Term Financial Strategy

10/2/23 Planning applications - Application Number: 23/00036/HBCFUL

Proposed new 150mm foul water connection from an existing septic tank to an existing foul main sewer at Warrington Road Transit Site Warrington Road Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1DQ. The Council did not wish to make any comments on this application.

11/2/23 Accounts for Payment and any income received- the following payments were approved

		Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	491.40		1032.07
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	135.00		135.00
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	347.04		347.04
A L Neil	Expenses	36.00		36.00
L A Irvine	Expenses	0.00		0.00
Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	18.80	3.76	22.56
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.50	0.90	5.40
Cheshire Pensions	Backdated Payments for A. Neil	2192.56		2192.56
Cheshire Pensions	Backdated Payments for L. Irvine	1458.55		1458.55
ChALC	Invoice 2021/465 (outstanding invoice)	25.00		25.00
ChALC	Invoice 2022/083 (outstanding invoice)	25.00		25.00
	Totals	4733.85	4.66	4738.51

12/2/23 Parish Council Finance Report

The Chair reported the following amounts in the report and also that a bank reconciliation had been prepared by the RFO which was available for inspection.

Previous Bank Balance (30/12/2022):	£44,238.20
Total Bank Balance (Current & Savings):	£103,152.68
Current Bank Balance (31/01/2023):	£53,152.68
Savings Account (17/05/2022):	£50,000.00
Expenditure (January):	£2,963.30
Income (January):	£11,875.78
POS Dowry	£737,661.65
Dividend Received for Quarter (date):	£7,744.25
Sink Fund	£40,532.77

Signed..........Chair 16th March 2023

Dividend Received for Quarter (date): £425.53

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

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.

13/2/23 Public Outdoor Space SLA 2023-25/6.

Three tenders had been received. It was agreed to accept Tender no. 2 subject to adequate assurances on waste removal, health and safety and public liability insurance. The successful tender was from Corporate Landscape Management of Widnes who had planted the Jubilee Forest.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and the RFO for their work on developing the Invitation to Tender.

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

PART B

14/2/23 Staff Pensions.

The Council had agreed to staff joining the Cheshire Pension scheme and that the payments should be backdated. Some options were considered and it was agreed the RFO discuss these with the Pension managers.

The meeting closed at 8.40

Signed..........Chair 16th March 2023