

Minutes of the meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council held Thursday 27th April 2023 at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane.

Present

Cllrs S Mahon (Chair), T Willett (Vice Chair), M Graves, S Hurst, A Irvine, B Schon, J Secker,
Arthur Neil, Clerk, Louise Irvine, RFO
One member of the public plus the three Borough Councillors.

1/4/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wright

2/4/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hurst declared an interest in the Academy and Cllr Irvine in the Academy and matters affecting the RFO.

3/4/23 PCSO Report

The Chair welcomed PC Peter Crosbie. PC Crosbie explained that he still had no PCSOs for the area but fortunately there was little activity either criminal or anti-social behaviour other than some speeding and some activity around the shops. He also circulated a copy of the most recent quarter's area newsletter.

Reference was made to the issues the council had had at the village green last year and it was hoped that measures could be put in place to mitigate or eliminate this in 2023. He also mentioned a pending speed awareness initiative but couldn't give details.

4/3/23 Minutes of the 16th March Meeting

These were approved subject to correcting the numbering of the minutes and inclusion of a minute to say that the February minutes had been approved.

5/4/23 Community Engagement

There had been no questions submitted to the Clerk.

6/4/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had made so far unsuccessful enquiries re the provision of cinema activity for local youths. He was awaiting a response from the school as to the desirability of using the Academy. The Community Hall was not available normally on weekday evenings but might be available for various activities at the weekends. **We asked for the evening weekday activities to be clarified**

Cllr Willett had made some enquiries about possible venues for open mic, other music and a drama club.

Signed  S Mahon, Chair 25th May 2023

The Clerk suggested enquiring via social media if there were residents interested in leading any activities for young people.

Arrangements were in hand for the formal opening of the Jubilee Forest on 5th June with the senior Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire, Robert Mee.

There had still been no notification of funding for the defibrillator, and it was agreed that the council be patient about this.

The Clerk and Chair were still trying to make progress on CCTV at the Village Green area with the Clerk enquiring from Halton BC on the types of cameras which could be used.

The report was received.

7/4/23 Borough Councillor Reports

Elections were to be held on 4th May. The Clerk asked if enquiries could be made regarding the local area fund due to part fund the new litter bins.

8/4/23 Planning applications

Reserved matters approval of spine road through parcels A2/A3 of the approved phasing plan as part of outline application 20/00337/OUTEIA Land at Daresbury Park Red Brow Lane Warrington WA4 4BB

Application Number: 22/00543/OUTEIA

Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved (except means of access) for residential development comprising up to 250 dwellings, electricity sub stations, along with recreational open space, landscape and other related infrastructure at Sandymoor South Phase 2 Windmill Hill Avenue East Runcorn Cheshire.

The Council agreed to re state its original comments on Sandymoor South and Wharford Farm applications.

9/4/23 Approved spending.

The following payments were approved.

		Ex Vat	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1009.57		1009.57
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	150.44		150.44
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	365.3		365.3
A L Neil	Expenses	416.77	73.17	489.94
L A Irvine	Expenses	0		0
Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	18.8	3.76	22.56
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.5	0.9	5.4
ChALC	Subscription Fee	1031.56		1031.56

Signed.....S Mahon, Chair 25th May 2023

Corporate Landscape Management Ltd	Invoice 1273 - Bases for benches x2 (swans reach)	780	156	936
Corporate Landscape Management Ltd	Invoice 1320 - Base for bench & install path (swans reach)	1500	300	1800
Corporate Landscape Management Ltd	Invoice 1315 - Base for bench (village green)	390	78	468
Zurich	Insurance	551.55		551.55
Totals		6218.49	611.83	6830.32

10/4/23 Financial Report

The following report was received

Finance Report

Previous Bank Balance (28/02/23):	£52,524.61
Total Bank Balance:	£136,511.19
Current Bank Balance (27/04/23):	£86,231.71
Savings Account inc. interest accrued (27/04/22):	£50,279.48
Expenditure (March & Apr up to 27/04/23):	£10,241.90
Income (March & Apr up to 27/04/23):	£44,949
POS Dowry ¹ :	£737,661.65
Dividend Received for Quarter (31/01/23):	£7,744.25
Sink Fund ² :	£40,532.77
Dividend Received for Quarter (31/01/23):	£425.53

11/4/23 Quarterly Finance Update

The RFO submitted a written report on the finances of the council over the previous three months which showed that income and expenditure were in line with the budget and raised no concerns.

Later in the year, some initially unbudgeted expenses/projects were added on to the budget spreadsheet but unfortunately some of those projects haven't progressed as quickly as planned in the 2022-2023 financial year, as was hoped when the 2023-2024 budget was signed off, and therefore these costs will need to carry forward into next year's budget. These include CCTV provision and new litter bins. Although these costs had not been accounted for when the precept was calculated, the council had built up enough reserve funds over the previous years to cover these capital costs without cutting the funding for the other planned projects.

12/4/23 Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with the Local Government Act, it was agreed to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting.

Signed..........S Mahon, Chair 25th May 2023


13/4/23 Watering Planters

Several quotes had been received which suggested watering by companies would cost around £2000 per annum. Before making any commitment to this course of action it was agreed that a further appeal would be made to the public and place the item on the May agenda.

14/4/23 Public Outdoor Space

The Chair updated members on the current arrangements with different developers. It was agreed that further meetings be sought and that a meeting of the POS working group be convened soon to take the issue further.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed..........S Mahon, Chair 25th May 2023

Clerk's Report to Council April 2023

Youth Engagement

Following the last meeting I did follow up on a number of ideas. Unfortunately the Community Hall has no vacancies on weekday evenings. The local cinema group who operate out of Brindley do not have any spare capacity. It would therefore be easiest to operate a cinema at the school for the teacher working with the pupils does not think that would be a popular venue. Other venues would be smaller, out of the area and require us to purchase the necessary equipment.

For other activities it may be an idea to use social media to see what any local people could offer and go from there.

I am trying to arrange for Jo from the litter group to go into the school to talk about litter etc. She is still waiting to hear from Litter Lotto and I am still chasing Halton BC re signs

Jubilee Forest

I'm sure anyone who has passed the forest recently will have been struck by how remarkable it looks. I am currently liaising with the Cheshire Lieutenancy re opening arrangements on 5th June and have ordered some plaques to put at entrances. Deputy Lieutenant Mee is happy with our proposals.

CCTV

This continues to create issues. One provider had a viable option using Chinese Hikvision cameras which we were advised Halton HBC would not allow us to use.

Another provider had some excellent equipment at a cost of £5000 per camera plus annual subscriptions.

As we do not now expect to link our system into Halton BC's I have again asked if the Hikvision would be acceptable but have yet to receive a response.

Public Artwork

The Chair and I had a very productive meeting with Tim Gibb from the Borough Council. It was agreed that if we could work up a reasonably detailed proposal the S106 funding would be released.

Defibrillator

I am still awaiting the outcome of our application for funding and am a little reluctant to chase again. I will leave until next week as it will then be two weeks since consideration of applications began.

Arthur Neil

Clerk to the Council

26th April 2023