

Minutes of the Sandymoor Parish Council held at Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane on 22nd June commencing at 7 p.m.

Present

Cllrs S Mahon (Chair), T Willett (Vice Chair), M Graves, S Hurst, A Irvine, B Schon, and P Wright,

Arthur Neil, Clerk Louise Irvine RFO

Five members of the public plus Borough Councillors Davidson and Ryan.

1/6/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr J Secker, Cllr J Bradshaw

2/6/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Irvine declared interest in matters relating to the RFO and the academy, Cllr Hurst declared an interest in matters relating to the academy.

3/6/23 Minutes of the meeting held 25th May

These were approved subject to Cllr Hurst declaring an interest in the academy.

4/6/23 PCSO Report

A substitute Police officer attended to report that the beat was currently understaffed, and that PC Crosbie would be absent for the next six weeks. Issues in the area remained as usual, occasional antisocial behaviour at the Co-op and some speeding. She would speak to colleagues see if a written report could regularly be sent to the council in advance of future meetings.

5/6/23 Community Engagement

The Clerk had received a number of questions from members of the public. The first had concerned careless dog walkers not ensuring that wildlife wasn't unnerved. The Clerk has ordered some signs to ask for co-operation.

The second was from Mr Ash who presented his question on CCTV and was given a detailed update on council's work on this, for which he thanked the council.

A resident of Hazlehurst wished to commend the council for its work and the interest it showed in the area.

6/6/23 Youth Engagement

As the students had now finished classes there were none present. Cllr Willett and Cllr Wright gave updates on ongoing work to explore the issues raised at an earlier meeting. Reference was made to extensive work undertaken by Holmes Chapel Parish Council and new projects at Stockton Heath.

Signed..........Chair 27 July 2023

7/6/23 Environment Working Group

Cllr Schön reported on this group. Cllr Schön agreed to contact Giles Parker from Sound Barrier Solutions, to arrange Zoom meeting. The council could consider purchasing a Speed Indicator Device which could be moved around the parish. Costs had been estimated for this, but it was decided initially to ask Halton Borough Council about Sandymoor bidding for the positioning of their SID in hotspots.

8/6/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented a written report and asked for decisions on the following.

1. To approve the purchase of a defibrillator at a cost of £1350 for installation outside Chatwin's. Should our funding application be successful a second location could be identified. The council approved the expenditure.
2. The council received costs for the printing of the leaflet agreed at the May meeting. It was agreed to fund the printing at a cost of £250. There would also be some design costs.
3. Strategy Development. It was agreed to hold another strategy development evening and also to consider appointing some members as Champions of specific ambitions for the parish.

9/6/23 Amendment to Financial Regulations

It was agreed to amend para 6.6 as follows: -

Payment shall not normally be presented for signature other than at a council or committee meeting. Any signatures obtained away from such meetings shall be reported to the council at the next convenient meeting.
Signed authority for a payment must include at least one elected member.

10/6/23 Borough Councillor Reports

Cllrs Davidson and Ryan gave reports on their activities and issues raised with them since the last meeting.

With regards to upcoming traffic issues concerns were raised that too much of the consultation and information work had been outsourced. The Clerk was asked to invite the contractor and Halton BC to a meeting before the closures began.

11/6/23 Investment Strategy

It was agreed to ask two suitably qualified individuals to give a view on whether the council could secure better return on investment. The Clerk reminded members that local authority investments needed to prioritise security, then liquidity and finally yield - in that order.

Signed.....*S.T. Mahon*.....Chair 27 July 2023

12/6/23 Finance Report

The Chair reported on the following balances in the council's accounts:

Previous Bank Balance (18/05/23):	£88,762.46
Total Bank Balance:	£141,495.73
Current Bank Balance (19/06/23):	£91,216.25
Savings Account (19/06/23):	£50,279.48
Expenditure (June):	£2,635.77
Income (June):	£5,089.56
POS Dowry:	£723,407.80
Dividend Received for Quarter (28/04/23):	£7,744.50
Sink Fund	£39,749.55
Dividend Received for Quarter (28/04/23):	£425.55

13/6/23 Accounts for payment.

The following payments were approved:

Payee	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1009.77		1009.77
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	150.24		150.24
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	358.80		385.80
A L Neil	Expenses	43.39	2.94	46.33
L A Irvine	Expenses	18.25		18.25
Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	18.80	3.76	22.56
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.50	0.90	5.40
JDH Business Services Ltd	Internal Auditor	320.00	64.00	384.00
Shires Accountants	Payroll Service	499.00	99.80	598.80
Knutsford Town Council	Social Media Training	60.00	12.00	72.00
ChALC	Induction for Councillors	25.00		25.00
CCA	Annual Membership Fee	50.00		50.00
	Totals	2557.75	183.40	2741.15

Signed.....*S.T. Maher*.....Chair 27 July 2023

14/6/23 Part B

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 it was agreed to conduct the remainder of the meeting in part B.

15/6/23 Public Outdoor Space

The Chair reported that proposals for Lea View with Barratt David Wilson Homes were now being drawn up by solicitors.

A revised offer had been made to Bloor which was to be presented to their Board.

No progress was made with Morris Homes.

Agreed to receive the report.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....*S.T. Malin.*.....Chair 27 July 2023

Clerk's Report/ Update on Strategy Proposals

Part 1 2022-2023 Strategy

Traffic Issues

The working group are due to meet before the meeting on 22nd June and hopefully will have some proposals for the use of a SID. Funding is likely to be required from the precept if one is to be acquired.

Community Engagement

We continue to interact positively with the local community and to engage with the appropriate agencies to deal with problems. The youth engagement, as anticipated, is a slow burner but we have members committed to making it work and the students are attending our June meeting. A work in progress.

Litter Reduction

We are working with HBC and the local litter group to develop awareness. Some signs were provided before the opening of the Jubilee Forest, and we are asking for more. The provision of additional bins has been agreed but not yet the funding or the exact locations.

Defibrillator

I have again chased the ambulance service regarding funding. If we have not heard positively by the time of our meeting, I would recommend we fund from the precept. I am seeking up to date quotes from numerous providers and hope to have a recommendation for 22nd June.

CCTV

We still await costings from Halton BC regarding a stand-alone system which would meet the standards they expect. We also have a price from a local supplier. We are still, however, unclear as to why HBC are unwilling to extend their existing system to Sandymoor. I am hoping to speak to the officer concerned before our meeting so we can come to some conclusions.

Halton Borough Council

I have been quite pleased with how relationships with the Borough Council have developed. I continue to find new contacts who are making it easier to progress some of our goals.

Public Outdoor Space SLA

The tendering operation went well for the SLA we already had in place and expired in March 2023. I have now produced a longer list of potential providers for future tendering exercises. The Chair and I have been making contact with developers to explore the potential for more POS to come under the Parish Council.

Other proposals in the strategy included:

Public Artwork

One suggestion had been well signed walks around the parish. Last meeting agreed in principle the production of an information leaflet. I hope to have a price for the meeting on 22nd. The artist is prepared to amend the map if members have any suggestions.

Outdoor Gym

One supplier has been in touch offering details of potential funders.

In both these cases the Council will need to agree schemes so we can establish costs etc.

Part 2 Looking Ahead 2023-2024

The Chair and I have discussed options for the coming year with the following as suggested priorities.

Delivery of the art project for which HBC still holds £120,000 funding. We need to have some clear proposals with estimated costings.

Sandymoor South. In advance of the development the council needs to have proposals to put to the developers regarding community needs. Evidence suggests that the sooner we make some advances the more likely we are to achieve success for example on play facilities.

Public Outdoor Space secure responsibility for as much as possible with enough funding to ensure the work can be maintained to a high standard.

Ongoing

Complete work on Speed Indicator Device, CCTV, Defibrillator

Continue to develop youth strategy.

Strategy Development

Last year the council held a strategy discussion meeting, and it is recommended that we do so again. To supplement the existing working group structure the Council may wish to appoint 'Champions' for given areas to take work forward.

Arthur Neil

Clerk to the Council

19th June 2023