

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council 24th October 2024
Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane 7 p.m.

Present

Cllr S Mahon, Chair M Graves, C Lowe, J Secker, B Schon, S Hurst
Arthur Neil, Clerk,

Three members of the public.

1/10/24 Apologies for absence

Cllrs T Willett, Vice Chair, and P Wright . Louise Irvine RFO
Borough Councillors Connelly, Davidson and Ryan

2/10/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hurst declared an interest in any items relating to the Academy

3/10/24 Minutes of the September meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

4/10/24 Youth Engagement

The Council welcomed Steve Smith from Sandymoor Ormiston Academy to talk about youth engagement with the parish council and the wider community. Steve raised a number of items the Youth Voice group were involved with in the community including shoe boxes of gifts for Christmas. It was agreed the council would mention this on its Facebook page and website and ask for goods to be dropped off at the school.

The school's Christmas fair would be held on 7th December.

Some of the fundraising efforts were supporting a trip by students to Kenya.

Steve was keen for students to engage with elderly residents on the greenhouse/gardening scheme and this would be discussed after half term.

5/10/24 Community Engagement – questions raised by the public.

Items discussed included the SID which indicated approx. 9% of vehicles were driving over the speed limit;

The Ride – Clerk to arrange meeting with builders and Borough Councillors;

Signed S Mahon, Chair.....28th November 2024

6/10/24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk submitted a written report.

It was agreed to support the following recommendations in the report

1. Approve the purchase of a Christmas tree and associated infrastructure. Only the tree and its installation would be recurring costs.
2. Benches. HBC had requested the use of a specific model of bench which would cost £1000 just for the bench. It was agreed the Clerk would contact HBC and offer to pay 50% of the costs for a new bench at the bus stop.
3. POS extension. It was agreed to extend the contract for the current POS contractor for a third year.
4. Swan's Reach Pond. It was agreed to accept the tender of £2388 for clearing the pond at Swan's Reach.
5. It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending the November meeting and the Chief Executive of Halton BC had been invited to the February 2025 meeting. Mike Amesbury MP had been invited to the AGM in May.

7/10/24 Borough Councillors' Report

There were no Borough Councillors present

8/10/24 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved

Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1154.26		1154.26
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	169.90		169.90
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	375.36		375.36
Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	20.60	4.12	24.72
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.90	0.98	5.88
ThenMedia	Website Hosting Annual Invoice	480.00	96.00	576.00
BusinessWaste.co.uk	Bin Emptying Invoice: P1504226	104.00	20.80	124.80
Totals		2309.02	121.90	2430.92

9/10/24 Finance Report

The Clerk gave the following Finance Report. The format had been tweaked to make it easier to understand.

A 2nd Quarter report was also submitted and received.

Current position.

Signed S Mahon, Chair..........28th November 2024

Current Account Bank Balance*: £129,721.99

Reserves in Savings Account: £51,463.58

Total Bank Balance: £180,185.57

Of which: The following are income from long term funds or dowries to fund Public Open Space Maintenance for 20 years or more

Excess POS Dividends (Held in Bank): £35,317.98

Sink Fund Dividends & Rent (Held in Bank): £28,056.44

Funds Generated by the Annual Precept/Council Tax

General Reserves (Held in Savings): £51,463.58

Precept: £65,347.57

Expenditure (19th Sept – 14th Oct 2024):

£6,729.91

Income (19th Sept – 14th Oct 2024):

£1000

Dowries held for long term maintenance of Public Open Space

POS Dowry1: £692,436.30

Dividend Received for Quarter (31 July 2024): £9383.44

Sink Fund 2: £38,047.74

Dividend Received for Quarter (31 July 2024): £515.60

*Current Account

1POS 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

It was noted that the Clerk had experienced some abuse on social media when trying to clarify the Council's finances.

It was agreed that this was unacceptable and that complaints would be made to the Facebook administrators and to the Police.

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

9/10/24 Update on Public Outdoor Space transfers

Agreement had been reached with Homes England re the Morris Homes development and it would soon be possible to seek a contractor.

Barratt David Wilson Homes were working on issues at Swan's Reach which should enable the transfer of that site followed shortly after by Lea View

Signed S Mahon, Chair..........28th November 2024