

Minutes of the meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council

Held 24th July 2025

At Hazlehurst, Acton's Wood Lane

Present

Cllr S Mahon, Chair, T Willett, Vice Chair, M Graves, S Hurst, C Lowe, J Secker and P Wright
Louise Irvine, RFO

Borough Councillor N Connolly
3 members of the public

1/7/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Arthur Neil, Clerk, Cllr B Schön, Cllr P Wright

2/7/25 Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received from Cllrs Hurst and Lowe re any items relating to the Sandymoor Academy

3/7/25 Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2025

These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

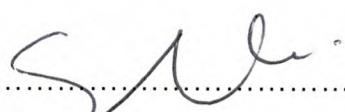
4/7/25 Community Engagement.

To discuss questions raised by the public. These should have been notified to the Clerk by noon on 22nd July.

A resident asked a question relating to moving of the SID from lamppost 9 to 6 at end of May, which didn't occur. The clerk has reached out to HBC and been reassured that this will happen as soon as possible.

There has been a problem with the bin on Swans Reach not being emptied by the contracted party. This was chased by the clerk and eventually emptied but is almost full again. The council, by way of the clerk, have complained to the contractor about the lack of service and are currently disputing invoices. The clerk will contact HBC on his return to request they take over the emptying of this bin, otherwise the clerk will source another waste removal company to potentially take over the contract.

Issues have been raised about the safety of the carpark and roads in and around the local centre. The newly laid tarmac is not level and a Hazlehurst resident reported that they tripped and fell, damaging their leg. Traffic is also an issue, with crossing being difficult for the older residents due to speed and lack of care by drivers. There also seems to be some confusion from some drivers relating to the entrance and exit to Pitts Heath Lane, caused by lack of road markings and unclear signage. During his borough councillor report, this issue was put to Cllr Connelly who was asked by Cllr Secker to take it back to HBC for review.

Signed:  Chair (25th Sept 2025)

5/7/25 Clerk's Report (inc. report on Strategy discussion)

The Clerk's Report was received, and the recommendations were discussed.

The proposed planter in the Manor Farm area was agreed by the council in principle, subject to final costings (including the cost of installation of a base), agreement from the landowner and volunteers to help maintain it.

6/7/25 Borough Council Report including Highways issues

Cllr Connolly reported on the following issues:

Cllr Connolly passed on apologies on behalf of HBC around the poor traffic management during the recent road works on Pitts Heath Lane.

Whilst getting the works in place for better access to the steam fair, the slightly delayed roadworks were caught up. For the two weeks around the Creamfields event the 'Creamfields Embargo' will be in effect. This will mean all the roadworks will be removed from the A56, opening all carriageways, for the 2 weeks around Creamfields. After this time, the works will be returned and are back on target to be completed by October.

The chair asked if something could be done to stop Keckwick Lane being used as an unofficial taxi rank during the Creamfields event as previous years were very disruptive throughout the whole weekend, day & night. Neil agreed to highlight the issue and raise it with HBC.

Neil also passed on a thank you from the Mayor for Sandymoor Fair, reporting that they thoroughly enjoyed the event. The parish council will pass this on to the organisers at SOA. Cllr Secker asked Neil to feedback to HBC about the roads around the local centre, including the entrance/exit from Pitts Heath Lane and asked if someone from traffic management could have a look at the road markings and signage to make it safer and clearer for both road users and pedestrians around the area.

7/7/25 Planning Applications

There were no applications to consider.

8/7/25 Quarter 1 Budget Review

The RFO presented the first quarter budget review which showed that the spending by the council is on track and within the agreed budget for the year.

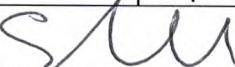
This was received and approved.

9/7/25 Accounts for payment

The Council approved July payments and gave advance approval of those due in August. The payments were approved with the *business waste invoices being approved subject to the current dispute being settled.

The following payments were approved for July:

Payee	Reason	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1418.68		1418.68
HMRC	Tax & NI Payments	358.75		358.75
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	469.19		469.19
A L Neil	Expenses	39.25		39.25

Signed:  Chair (25th Sept 2025)

Microsoft	Office 365 Standard	20.60	4.12	24.72
Microsoft	Office 365 Basic	4.90	0.98	5.88
*Business Waste.co.uk	Bin Emptying Invoice: P1749275	114.40	22.88	*137.28
ChALC	Annual Invoice	1212.90		1212.90
Viking	Printer Inks	99.99	20.00	119.99
Microsoft	Office 365 Package (New Subscription)	24.99	5.00	29.99
PKF Littlejohn	Annual External Audit	420.00	84.00	504.00
	Totals	4183.65	136.98	4320.63

The following payments were pre-approved for payment in August:

Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	1418.68		1418.68
HMRC	Tax & NI Payments	358.95		358.95
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	469.19		469.19
Microsoft	Office 365	24.99	5.00	29.99
*Business Waste.co.uk	Bin Emptying Invoice: P1749275	114.40	22.88	*137.28
	Totals	2386.21	27.88	2414.09

10/7/25 Finance Report

The RFO gave the following report on the Council's finances:

Current Account:

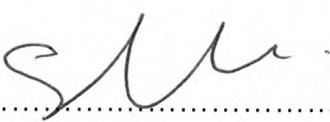
Precept:	£50,372.91
Excess POS Dividends (In Current A/C):	£9,835.23
Sink Fund Dividends & Rent (In Current A/C):	£6,927.76
Total:	£67,135.90

Savings Accounts:

General Reserves in Co-op Savings Account:	£51,849.25
POS Money in Charity Account:	£35,006.84
Sink Fund Money in Cambridge Account:	£31,530.00
Precept Money in Unity Account:	£20,057.95
Precept Money in Hinckley & Rugby Account:	£20,000.00

Current Account Income and Outgoings (26th June 2025 – 21st July 2025):

Expenditure:	£6,939.54
Transfers from Current to Savings:	£0.00
Income:	£0.00
Transfers from Savings to Current:	£0.00

Signed:  Chair (25th Sept 2025)

Investments:

POS Dowry ¹ Latest Valuation:	£708,251.04
Dividend Received for Quarter (30 th Apr 2025):	£8,221.31
Sink Fund ² Latest Valuation:	£38,916.72
Dividend Received for Quarter (30 th Apr 2025):	£451.73

¹POS Dowry is an investment with CCLA (Church Charities & Local Authorities) investment company from which a dividend is received on a quarterly basis.

²Sink 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.

The RFO also reported that the External Audit had been completed and there were no matters arising to report. The audit reports will be published on the council's website.

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

PART B

12/7/25 Public Open Space Report

The Clerk's confidential report was received, reporting that progress is still being made.

The council agreed that the VAT reclaimed from the POS maintenance will be reassigned from the current account and moved into the POS savings account.

The council agreed that any future POS dowry monies received can be invested as previously agreed without having to return to council for another vote.

Meeting ended at 8:15

Clerk's Report July 2025

Polytunnel

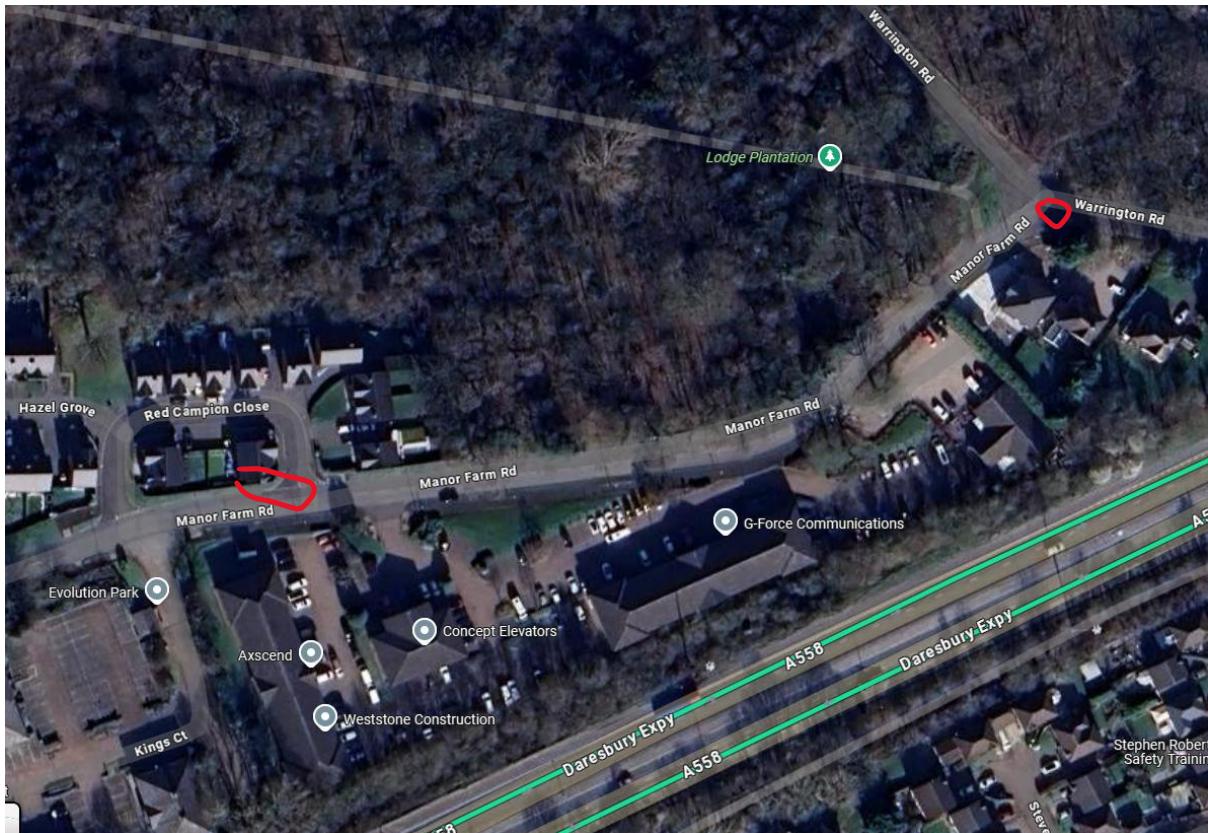
We understand that Halton Housing have secured funding for a pathway in the polytunnel. As soon as we have this confirmed I will place the order.

Various Residents' Issues

I have been passing these on to HBC or local Borough Councillors as appropriate.

Planter in Manor Farm Area

The Chair and I have identified a couple of locations both of which would require permission for placing from Halton BC. Location plan attached below.



A planter like the existing would cost £630 plus £45 printing of name plus delivery.

The decision of the council is requested

Waste Collection – Swan's Reach

In the last couple of months, we have been having some issues with the company emptying the bin at Swan's Reach culminating in a recent failure to empty and the subsequent overflowing of the bin with bags on the ground too. I have told the firm that their failure is unacceptable and that we will be looking elsewhere for a service. I have also asked HBC if they would be willing to take it on.

I am currently in discussion with another potential provider.

The Council are asked to endorse the action taken

Strategy

An informal meeting of councillors took place on 9th July to discuss future plans.

Present

Cllrs Steve Mahon, Tom Willett, Malcolm Graves

Arthur Neil, Clerk

Overall Approaches

1. As each piece of land transfers to SPC we should review any enabling works needed and taking one estate at a time select an appropriate project e.g. the bridleway on Bloor. Extend this approach as each new area comes into SPC ownership.
2. Engage with public over naming of different parts of the parish and consider attractive signage e.g. Beamish, Hatter's Chase, Lea View, Swan's Reach
3. Youth Engagement. Suggested this be led by Cllrs Wright, Willett and if willing C Lowe, supported by the Clerk. Overall approach to be reviewed when Clerk and Rachel Prime from Halton BC had spoken with StuVo at the Academy.
4. Consider provision and location of a youth shelter. Clerk to review experiences in other areas through Clerks Forum
5. Health and Safety. To work on securing at least one pedestrian crossing. Cllr Connolly was seeking an on- site meeting with Tim Gibbs and representatives of SPC.

The Council are asked to support these recommendations

Arthur Neil

Clerk

14th July 2025