

Minutes of the Meeting of Sandymoor Parish Council Held at Hazlehurst on 25th September 2025

Present

Cllr S Mahon, Chair, T Willett, Vice Chair, C Lowe, J Secker and P Wright
Arthur Neil, Clerk, Louise Irvine, RFO

Borough Councillor N Connolly
10 members of the public

1/9/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Graves, S Hurst, and B Schön.

2/9/25 Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received from Cllr Lowe re any items relating to the Sandymoor Academy

3/9/25 Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2025

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

4/9/25 Community Engagement

The Chair and Clerk had had a short meeting with Rachel Prime from Halton BC and would be reporting back to the Council when a short to medium term strategy and had been agreed with the Academy.

Other issues raised by members of the public

Issues around Wisbech Close – the Clerk and Cllr Connolly would raise these with Barratt David Wilson Homes who were still responsible for the area;

Safety of path at Otterburn's – Cllr Connolly to pursue;

Bus service – Cllr Connolly and the Clerk to take up with the bus company;

Ponds including Godstow, poor maintenance – Clerk to take up with relevant bodies;
Street lights and pavements opposite Hazlehurst – Cllr Connolly to raise with Linden Homes.

A resident had written to the Clerk to express concern about the image of Sandymoor created by a post from one of the Borough Councillors on social media. The resident felt that the image had been unjustifiably negative. The response from the councillor is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

The Clerk had also been asking the Police if there had been any serious concerns regarding the safety of women and children following comments made on social media.

It was agreed to use the Council's website and Facebook page to remind residents of the best way to report issues to the Police

5/9/25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's written report was received and the following decisions were taken in response to specific items

Signed..........Chair 23rd October 2025

December meeting date – agreed for 18th December

Fishing at Swan’s Reach- no action

2025 Christmas Tree – Clerk to seek additional quotes and to ask re proposed picket fencing. If he was unable to secure better quotes the Clerk authorised to agree with existing offer

6/9/25 Transfer of POS to the Parish Council.

There remained some minor outstanding issue regarding accuracy of the plans provided by developers which were being resolved. Progress seemed to be imminent with the Bloor sites and it was noted that the Clerk had delegated authority to progress when appropriate.

The Clerk reported that Barrats had now agreed to meet the council’s costs and progress would now be made on an agreement.

7/9/25 Borough Council Report including Highways issues

The Chair began by thanking Cllr Connolly for his hard work supporting the local community before and during the recent Creamfields event.

Roadworks-A56/A558 was to have a new contraflow with work completed by end of November;

Keckwick Lane, no vehicles permitted under the bridge;

Vermin at the Park and Village Green – all accesses had been lifted and baited and would be again.

8/9/25 Planning Applications and Decisions

The council noted the approval of care home at Dereham Way. Cllr Connolly said that he had secured a condition that three be the maximum number of resident children.

The application for Manor Farm Road 25/00399/FUL had previously been refused twice. The council would enquire what had changed

9/9/25 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved

Name	Description	Ex VAT	VAT	Total
Staff	Salaries	893.42	0.00	1418.88
HMRC	Employer Tax & NI Payments	358.75	0.00	358.75
Cheshire Pensions	Employer Pension Payment	469.19	0.00	469.19
L A Irvine	Expenses	35.00	0.00	35.00
Microsoft	Office 365 Package	24.99	5.00	29.99
Royal British Legion	50 Large Poppies for Lampposts	208.33	41.67	250.00
Green-Tech	Airpipe for Planter	9.03	1.81	10.84

Signed..........Chair 23rd October 2025

SLCC	Cheshire Branch Conference	35.00	0.00	35.00
First Tunnels	Polytunnel for Greenhouse Project	1377.25	275.45	1652.70
CLM Ltd	Base for and Relocation of Planter	210.00	42.00	252.00
CLM Ltd	Jubilee Forest Maintenance Quarterly Invoice	833.75	166.75	1000.50
CLM Ltd	POS Maintenance Quarterly Invoice	2746.30	549.26	3295.56
CLM Ltd	Swans Reach Pond Clearance	2090.00	418.00	2508.00
	Totals	9816.47	1499.94	11316.41

10/9/25 Finance Report

The RFO presented the following report:

Current Account:

Precept: £22,655.83

Excess POS Dividends (In Current A/C): £38,893.80

Sink Fund Dividends & Rent (In Current A/C): £10,362.49

Total: £71,912.12

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 Hinkley & Rugby Account: £20,000.00

Current Account Income and Outgoings (22nd July 2025 – 21st September 2025):

Expenditure: £6,570.41

Transfers from Current to Savings: £0.00

Income: £11,364.63

Transfers from Savings to Current: £0.00

Investments:

POS Dowry1 Latest Valuation: £709,804.91

Dividend Received for Quarter (31st July 2025): £7,911.90

Sink Fund2 Latest Valuation: £39,002.10

Dividend Received for Quarter (31st July 2025): £434.73

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.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed..........Chair 23rd October 2025

Clerk's Report to Council, September 2025

Hatter's Chase Development

I had the following complaint from a resident which I have passed on to a Borough Councillor:

'There are no public bins anywhere, the nearest bins are on the approach to Norton near the canal or at Sandymoor co-op, all of which are overflowing with rubbish and dog poo bags.

A few days ago, while I was out walking my dog, he found a dead rat laying on the football field.

We are due to have a new play park installed near the railway line and there needs to be enough bins now and especially for when this opens. '

Potton Close

Received the following which is being dealt with by Home Ground Maintenance:

The trees running parallel to the side of my house are overgrown and impeding upon my house. We have more squirrels on the roof, so I would like someone to come out and cut back the trees at the earliest convenience. I reported this last year and nothing was done about it. Can someone come out and take down the tree as a matter of urgency please?

Remembrance Poppies for Lamp posts

We now have 50 of these which HBC are happy for us to put up in the second half of October and remove by end November / early December. Volunteers needed!

Xmas Tree

Have had a quote as follows:

To supply install and remove a 13-foot Xmas tree with stand. £900.00

To dress, remove lights and store £470.00

To supply and install picket fencing £435.00

Total Cost £1805.00

I tried to secure other quotes last year and only had a belated response – without a quote - from one other company. I have contacted them again this year and not had a quote. I understand there are very few doing this kind of work.

I will seek further quotes but it would be helpful **to have authority to proceed if none are available.**

Fishing at Swan's Reach

I've had an enquiry about youths fishing at Swan's Reach and am told there are fish in there. I'm not sure how the council could or would want to stop fishing but perhaps addition warnings re deep water and possibly advising against fishing.

Planters

A planter has now been installed at Manor Farm Road and the planters' group are to meet on 27th to purchase new plants for the autumn/winter period.



Polytunnel

This has now been ordered and will be delivered and erected week commencing October 6th. The providers are liaising directly with Rose at Halton Housing on this.

December Meeting Date

Hazlehurst have changed the date of the December meeting to 18th December.

The Council are asked to approve.

Arthur Neil

Clerk 22nd September 2025

Good evening Arthur

I'm writing in regard to the next parish council meeting. I want the residents of Sandymoor to be aware of comments made online via X to the world from councillor Siân Davidson regarding our area. She states that people are scared to go out at night and scared to go to the shops. This is categorically untrue. It doesn't not represent Sandymoor and seems that locally reform has now moved on from Greenway Rd to Sandymoor. So, what if you're trying to sell a house and your potential buyers read that.

So councillor Davidson needs to be held to account for these claims bringing our homes and tight community into disrepute. A response either in person or writing before the next meeting.



Dear Sandymoor Parish Council,

Please accept my apologies for this evening's meeting, as I am currently away on holiday with family. Thank you for informing me that you had received an email from a resident in Sandymoor relating to a post that I had put on X. I would like to provide some context on the post on X which I hope will provide the resident who contacted yourselves with some clarification.

In the post I mentioned that: "In my own ward people are scared to go out at night and to visit their local shops because of anti-social behaviour which I have witnessed firsthand myself." Within this post I did not mention a specific part of the ward by name and was reflecting on either my own experience or what I had heard. When visiting the Co-op in Sandymoor myself, there has been an occasion when I witnessed youths in the car park on bikes riding between both parked cars and moving cars back and forth across the carpark which was reported to the police. There have also been previous occasions when Co-op had to close early due to anti-social behaviour and informed people of this via social media. There have also been posts by residents in the local community Facebook pages stating that they have felt intimidated by youths.

Further on in my post I stated that: "In other parts of the ward we have rural issues with bikes going through woodlands where they are prohibited, off road bikes and speeding issues." Alongside Sandymoor Parish Council, I also attend the meetings of Daresbury Parish Council and Moore Parish Council. Each of the villages within the ward have various issues that may only be brought up at Parish Council meetings. During these meetings, PC Georgina Griffiths and reports from residents in Daresbury, informed me that there have been issues with off-road bikes in various fields which are being looked into. There have also been issues in Daresbury Firs with people creating courses using wheelbarrows etc for bikes which are not permitted in Daresbury Firs. The police are currently working in partnership with Halton Borough Council in resolving these issues.

I hope this information provides clarification on the context of what was posted on X over the summer. If the resident who asked for clarification or Sandymoor Parish Council would like more information on this issue or another please email: Sian.Davidson@halton.gov.uk

Kind Regards

Cllr Siân Davidson BA(Hons), PgDip, PGCE. Daresbury, Moore & Sandymoor Ward