

SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at SANDFORD SCOUT HUT, 7.30pm, on WEDNESDAY 2nd November 2022.

At a meeting of the Council held this day those present were :-

Chairman B Fyfe

Messrs – M Lee, J Stephens, Hope and S Haley Mesdames – E Dalton, S Miles and P Larcombe

DCC Cllr M Squires The Parish Clerk Mr M Vallance

The Meeting started with a moment of quiet reflection

1) APOLOGIES MDDC Cllr E Lloyd

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

Pamela Larcombe completed the Acceptance of Office form, as a Sandford Parish Councillor, and was welcomed to the Parish Council by the Chairman.

MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th October 2022

The Minutes of the previous meeting, and after correction over an attendee, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Data Protection – Adoption of Sandford Parish Council “Privacy Policy”.

The Policy, which had been circulated prior to the Meeting, was discussed after which it was formally adopted

Proposed Cllr Stephens, 2nd Cllr Dalton, and carried unanimously.

Discussion then turned to the circulation of Parish Council internal emails.

It was agreed, for the future, by all those present that an Email Group be formed for the Parish Council (to include DCC and MDDC Councillors) and dispense with the use of BCC.

For those not present it was agreed to ask for their agreement to be included in the Email Group.

It was also pointed out that it is recommended that Councillors had a dedicated SPC email address. If not SPC emails should be deleted once read.

b) 20's Plenty signs – Cllr Padgham not present. Discuss at next Meeting.

4) MATTERS REPORTED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PLUS MATTERS REPORTED TO THE PARISH CLERK

At the end of October there had been a flooding incident reported at Homeside The Square.

The residents had approached the Clerk and stated that as drains in Church Street, and the Square, were never cleared out they kept getting blocked. This meant that one late night in October during a night of heavy rain the drains had been unable to cope and the the water and gone back up the pipe flooding the property.

The Clerk has taken pictures of the drains and sent these on to DCC Highways who had confirmed they would be dealing with the issue.

In the meantime the residents had taken up the drain covers and “rodded” the pipes that were causing the problem.

5) OPEN FORUM - No members of the public in attendance

6) POLICE MATTERS - Parking at the bottom of Church Street was once again becoming an issue causing problems for emergency vehicles accessing the Square. The Clerk was asked to report this to the DCC Enforcement Team.

7) REPLIES -

a) The MDDC Enforcement had acknowledged the complaint over Weavers Way (Planning Non Compliance) (14th October 2022).

The Council were concerned that since the October Meeting another month had gone by with no action being taken, and that the matter remained unresolved.

In the meantime construction of the homes was continuing with roofs going on houses had commenced.

DCC Cllr M Squires explained that were staffing issues at MDDC Enforcement and felt that the Complaint at MDDC should be requested to be raised to a “Stage 2” Complaint.

The Council felt that stronger action was need.

It was felt that the time had come to escalate the issue by reporting the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

b) MDDC (Consultation) 2nd Review)

Proposal by parishioner to reduce the number of Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council's comments, setting out their objections to this proposal, had been acknowledged.

c) “Lovely Lunches” - The Landlord of the Lamb Inn had responded to say he was unable to host the proposed “Lovely Lunches” and felt the Parish Hall a more suitable venue.

The Parish Council had previously discussed this venue and felt it was too large and would not provide the “warm and intimate setting” that was required.

No response had been received from the Rose and Crown although it was reported that they might, during the Winter, only be opening at weekends.

As there was no other suitable venue the Clerk was asked to approach Sandford Parish Hall to seek their view on hosting this event. Could a “warm and cosy” space be found at the Hall ?

d) John Bodley Scott (MDDC) had been in correspondence with the Clerk over the proposed listing of Sandford Congregational Church as a Community Asset.

He felt that as the Church and Hall were on one footprint, although the Parish Council were primarily interested the Hall, the request should include both the Congregational Church and Hall.

It was agreed that this was the way ahead and the Chairman had completed the Nomination form and it was agreed this should be submitted to MDDC as a matter of urgency.

At the same time it was felt that contact should be made with the estate agents dealing with the sale. This would make them aware of the Parish Council's interest and also the proposal to Nominate the property as a Community Asset.

The process of completing the relevant paper work had caused administration problems for the Clerk. The Parish Council only used a Free version of Word and Excel and did not have the use of "Office".

This had meant that the Chairman had taken on the task of completing the Community Asset Listing paperwork.

It was agreed at this point to deal with the item 14b) Review of office equipment.

It was felt that it was imperative that the Clerk had the "tools" to carry out his duties.

It was agreed to make enquiries over the purchase of Office plus Abodie Reader, replacing the current printer which was over 10 years old and would only print on one side, and also update the Laptop which was also over 10 years old.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

a) MDDC had sent details of a "Rigorous prioritisation of public expenditure" in connection with their future budget and projects in the pipeline.

b) MDDC had also sent details of the request for Precept details for 2023/2024 to be completed and returned by 23rd January 2023

9) SANDFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION & PLAY AREA

The Outdoor Gym had been erected and chippings/road scalplings would be placed under the equipment.

Improvements had been made to the fencing including the construction of a gateway at the Pavillion end.

The Basket Hoop would be erected in the Spring when the surface area had dried out.

The new play equipment at Creedy View would be installed as and when received.

10) RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & WORKING GROUPS

a) Working Party report on the proposal to list Sandford Congregational Church as an Asset of Community Value – The Group had discussed the way ahead and the completion of the formal application to MDDC. SEE ITEM 7 (d)

b) DCC Cllr Margaret Squires gave details of severe financial issues at DCC and the likelihood of severe cuts to Services to balance the budget. The number of potholes being reported had dropped.

11) PLANNING - CREEDY VIEW 2 / Weavers Way – See Minute 7 (a).

Grant of planing permission

22/00459/FULL Langlands Farm New Buildings
Erection of 5 dwellings after demolition of existing barns
SITE MEETING TO BE ARRANGED.

12) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts

Lloyds Bank (October 2022 Interest)	£ 0.82
Jubilee (Mugs,pens and tea towels)	£540.00

Payments

Mr M J Vallance (Salary)	£475.00
Sandford Scouts (Hut hire x 4 months)	£100.00
S McCulloch (Grass cutting)	£577.51
DALC (AGM delegates)	£84.00

Cheques signed by Cllrs Dalton and Stephens.

Platinum Jubilee Funds – The final finances were now coming together and would be included in the Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2023 in due course.

In the meantime the Clerk was asked to respond to the question from N Silk as to how the £500 paid to Mrs A Croke had been made up ?

Band £320 and £180 Expenses for catering, bunting, plates, serviettes and hire of lighting from Crediton Rugby Club.

Mrs Croke had already offered, and was making enquiries, over the next Lighting of the Beacon for the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

13) ROADS AND FOOTPATHS – It had been reported that the hedge on the Gosses Footpath, below the Paddock, was falling away. It was agreed to notify the Landowner (Eddie Trick) and ask him to attend to this matter.

Cllr Stephens wished to put on record “a job well done” by DCC (Highways) on the bridge at Jack's Back.

14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Noticeboard at the bottom of Rose and Crown Hill – The Clerk would ask Steve Kirkham to take a look as it was reported it was in need of maintenance.

b) Review of office equipment. - Dealt with at Item 7d.

c) Annual review of the Clerk's salary (from 1st April 2022) and terms and conditions – Final details from NALC were still awaited.

d) Absence of the Parish Clerk – Clerk gave details of the dates he would be out of the Parish and the Vice Chairman had agreed to read PC emails

e) The Clerk gave details of the arrangement for Remembrance Day on 13th November 2022.

f) Steve Haley raised the issues of Road Safety above Sandford School on the road from Kennerleigh and the need for a flashing Speed Warning Sign also road safety, and parking issues, at the Fanny's Lane junction.

It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next Meeting.

It was felt that Sandford School should be included in these discussions.

13) Date of next Meeting Wednesday 7th December 2022 (At Sandford Scout Hut)

There being no other business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.17pm.

