

## SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Sandford Congregational Church Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

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

Vice-Chairman - Cllr J Weedon

Messrs – Lee, Unstead, Snow, Stoye, Harvey and Stephens

Mesdames – Miles, Yeo and Keast

MDDC Cllr Binks (Arrived during the Meeting) DCC Cllr Squires (Arrived during the Meeting)

7 Parishioners Mr M Vallance (Parish Clerk)

1) APOLOGIES – Cllrs Dalton and Ford

1a) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Cllr Lee “Creedy View” Car Park (Personal Interest)

2) OPEN FORUM – The following matters were raised

### a) “Snows Car Park”, Sandford

Mrs Susan Pugsley, of “Hillside”, Rose and Crown Hill, Sandford, demanded an apology from the Parish Council, over a report in the Parish Council Minutes and Crediton Courier, where she claimed it has been stated that the residents of “Hillside” had a dedicated parking space in the “Snows Car Park”. She informed the Parish Council that this had never been the case.

Mrs Pugsley complained that the Parish Council had not contacted her over this matter. She demanded to be given the name of the original complainant, and it was explained that some matters reported to the Parish Council were from parishioners who did not want to be named, and that entries in the Parish Comment Book were on occasions anonymous. She said she was unsatisfied with this response, and left the meeting promising to take the matter further if no apology was forthcoming.

*Extract from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Minutes -*

*“ 3a) Parking issues at Snows (Rose & Crown Hill end) – The matter had been passed on to MDDC who had, despite referring the matter to their Legal Dept., been unable to confirm the legal position over its use and the suggestion that the Resident at “Hillside had a dedicated parking space. A previous owner had informed the Clerk that this piece of land had been previously rented as a garden from MDDC and when it had become a car park there had been no dedicated parking spaces. The car park from that time had been used on a casual basis by the residents of Snows and the occupant of “Hillside”.*

### b) Yellow Lines in and around the Square

Mark Hilyard (Landlord of The Lamb Inn) told the Meeting that he understood that a final decision had been made on the proposal to install Yellow Lines in the Square to go ahead with the recommendations.

(It was confirmed that Cllr M Squires had advised that a decision had been made to go ahead with the proposal and this was reported in her November Report in The Crossing).

Mr Hilyard felt this was “harmful to the Residents of the Square and The Lamb Inn” and advised that there had been 11 Objections to the Proposals.

He felt the extent of the Yellow lines was excessive and would damage his trade and felt a more moderate scheme could be designed. “The length of the lines could be reduced”.

(On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 The Clerk had been informed by Mike Jones Senior DCC Traffic Officer “All correspondents will be replied to individually before the changes are introduced. You will appreciate that as this project covers all 7 Devon Districts plus Exeter, the process does take some time to complete”).

Although there were occasions when parking problems arose most of the time there were no issues and on occasions there was little traffic parked in the Square.

Cllr Stephens asked whether it would be possible for the Staff at the Lamb to park away from the Square ?

A Resident of “Crofts” felt that a smaller bus could be used to help the occasional issue when the bus was unable to gain access in or out of the Square ?

#### **c) Footpath Officer**

Steve McCulloch introduced himself as the new Parish Footpath Officer with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 (Contact details Mobile 07800 710599).

Cllr Stephens suggested Steve introduced himself to the local Farmers and Landowners.

(The Clerk advised that Adrian Gill had submitted an Invoice for £250 to cover his F.P. Duties in the current year, up to the change over, and this was on the Agenda for payment. It was also agreed to take up his offer of a copy of the Inventory of the Machinery handed over).

#### **d) The use of the Football Pitch by Sandford AFC**

Kate Wadge was present to discuss issues raised in her email.

#### **Goal Nets (use by Sandford Youngsters)**

Sandford AFC had advised that the Goals nets were only “taken up” when the grass was being cut and would be left hung up for use at other times.

#### **Use of the Pitch by Teams from outside the Village some of who had Sandford Youngsters as Members**

Sandford AFC advised that no recent requests for use had been received.

#### **Bad Language from Players**

Sandford AFC apologised for this and advised that this was a matter for the individual Referee.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREED TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH THE DEVON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.**

**THE CLERK AGREED TO SEND KATE THE EMAIL RECEIVED FROM SANDFORD AFC RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES MADE IN HER EMAIL.**

3) PARISH COMMENT BOOK. MATTERS REPORTED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PLUS MATTERS REPORTED TO THE CLERK AND PARISH COUNCILLORS.

PARISH COMMENT BOOK - “I have lived here for many years. The Square is a Conservation Area and has never had commercial advertising so why is Crediton Coffee allowed to advertise outside The Lamb ?”.

Cllr Weedon declared an interest in this item.

**MDDC Cllr Binks offered to pursue the matter with the Conservation Officer at MDDC.**

During the Month the Clerk had dealt with enquiries on matters relating to :-

a) When was “Creedy View” Phase 2 likely to happen ? - On contacting MDDC the Clerk had been advised they held no information to assist.

b) Incident at Crofts when a Parishioner had fallen on the pavement.- A copy of the relevant emails between SPC, MDDC and DCC had been requested. Following an enquiry to Lesley Smith (DALC), who advised that this was NOT a Freedom of Information request, copies of the relevant emails had been supplied.

c) Car Park problems at “Snows” - A Resident from “Hillside had telephoned the Clerk (and he had phoned back ) to demand who had made the Complaint over parking in the “Snows Car”. The Clerk had told the Caller that a report had been made of an incident in the Car Park. The person who had reported the matter did not wish to be named. The Resident stated that there had never been any assumption that they had an “Allocated space” in the “Snows” car park.

THE CLERK HAD SUGGESTED THE CALLER WRITE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL RECORDING WHAT SHE HAD TOLD HIM AND THESE COMMENTS WOULD BE NOTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AND INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

The Caller was not happy with this suggestion, and became abusive.

She was also very angry over how this matter had been reported in the November Minutes and the Crediton Courier.

The Clerk was advised of the Callers intention to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> November Parish Council Meeting to demand an Apology and the call had been terminated.

**The Parish Council discussed the various ways in which Parishioners made contact with them to report matters.**

**IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD DISCUSS, AT THEIR NEXT MEETING, HOW MATTERS WERE REPORTED TO THEM DURING THE MONTH ON ISSUES WHICH DID NOT ARISE FROM THE PARISH COMMENT BOOK OR ENQUIRIES FROM THE COUNCIL WEBSITE.**

**THE CLERK OFFERED TO DRAW UP A DRAFT SCHEDULE THAT COULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

4) To confirm MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017

17/01492/FULL Lower Shoplands New Buildings - Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling

**An addition was made to the Minutes to state that “Cllr Unstead Declared an Interest and left the room when this application was discussed”.**

5) To report on MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Mill Lane Call Box – Cllr Yeo reported that a group of Volunteers were to re-paint the Call Box with paint supplied by B.T.

b) Creedy View Car park - Following the last Meeting the Clerk had written to Mrs M Ellis to advise the Gorwyn Trust that the Parish Council wished to proceed with the acquisition of the car park but they did not presently have the funding to cover the Legal Fees.

The matter of the finance would be discussed, and resolved, when Setting the Precept for 2018/2019.

Veitch Penny had subsequently responded (13<sup>th</sup> October 2017) to say :-

*“ I had a conversation with Elizabeth regarding this matter yesterday, the quotation which has been given by Foot Anstey is a quotation, often estimate and quotation are terms we use interchangeably and I apologise for any confusion in this regard. The quotation which has been provided by Foot Anstey is subject to the matter proceeding to completion as soon as possible, this was initially suggested as the end of September, however, they were understanding of your requirement to meet to discuss expenditure. I have advised Elizabeth I will now await your further comments when the council have had the opportunity to agree on a way forward, I have also provided Foot Anstey with an update to this effect”.*

c) Footpath Officer – See item 2 (c).

6) POLICE MATTERS – No new matters needing attention

7) REPLIES

a) Veitch Penny – (See Minute 5b).

b) Charity Commission – A reply had been finally received to the enquiry over Letting out the facilities (See item 9c).

On the matter of the Parish Council as Trustees it was stated “Finally, with regard to the charity’s trusteeship; you would need to establish who acts as the charity’s trustee. However, we assume that the trustee is the Council as a corporate body rather than the individual councillors”.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WERE TRUSTEE AS A CORPORATE BODY.**

8) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Mr K Stanlake had written to express his concern over the “excessive speed” which heavy traffic travelled down the Hill (past Orchard Close and Sandford School) from the Kennerleigh direction. He also pointed out that farm traffic had to be expected when living in the country. However over the years the size of the machinery had got “bigger and bigger and was unsuitable for our village roads”. He went on to give an example of a tractor towing an even bigger trailer that had come down the hill travelling too fast. He felt it would have been unable to stop should a child have run out of the school entrance. He felt that the Farmers and Contractors should be warned of the danger of travelling at high speed before a serious accident occurred.

**IT WAS AGREED TO WRITE TO EXPRESS THESE CONCERNS TO THE SANDFORD FARMER'S CONTRACTORS KNOWN TO THE PARISH COUNCIL.**

b) Kate Wadge – An email had been received listing a number of issues regarding the use of the Field by Sandford AFC. **Discussed in the Open Forum (item 2).**

c) MDDC – The Parish Council were asked to confirm that it was their wish to allocate £30K of future Sandford S106 Funding to the refurbishment of the Sandford Play area and the purchase of new equipment including Adult exercise equipment ?

**THIS WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) Sport England – A Request for Data had been received for the use of the new Pavillion to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. This information had been recorded by Sandford AFC on a Spreadsheet which had been passed on to the Clerk who was in the process following up a request to Sport England on how to submit this Data.

e) Falcon Housing – There was a Vacancy at Creedy View for a one bedroom home. Any applicant would need to be on the MDDC Housing List.

f) B.T. Outreach advised that their Contractor would be working in the Square for three consecutive Sundays from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and had applied to the Highway Authority to close the Square.

#### 9) SANDFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION

a) Fence between the Pavillion and the Play Area – Estimate still awaited.

b) Funding Update – The Clerk had transferred the final amount of VAT (£1221.55) to the Pavillion Account and the Invoice to Sanford AFC for payment of the Benches (£1150) was on the Agenda for payment.

c) Protocol for accepting Bookings for the Field/Community Room

The Charity Commission had finally responded to the enquiry regarding the Hiring out of the facilities at the Sport Pavillion :-

“For organisations that further the charity's purposes; they can use the charity's property for free or the charity can ask for contributions. For organisations that want to use the charity's property but do not further its purposes; the charity must be asking for fees for use at market rate. The charity can also fundraise. Any funds/income from such sources would be charity funds”.

**After discussion it was agreed to treat all Sandford Parish Organisations as “furthering the charity's purpose”.**

**THE CLERK WAS ASKED TO CONVEY THIS TO SANDFORD AFC AND ASK FOR THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIRE CHARGES ?**

#### 10) PLANNING

17/01536/HOUSE Ash Bullayne Cottage Copplestone

Erection of two-storey and single -story extensions

**Whilst there was NO OBJECTION following a visit to this very rural location, it was noted that a previous connected Grant of planning permission at this location was never started.**

17/01492/FULL

Lower Shoplands New Buildings

Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling

**APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**

#### 11) TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & SUB COMMITTEES

a) DALC Annual Conference – In the absence of the Chairman Ctty Cllr M Squires gave a brief Report on the Conference. A full report would appear in the new DALC News sheet.

b) Date for Meeting of the Finance Committee – This was set for 13<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm.

c) DCC - DCC Cllr Squires advised that she had sent a report for the November Crossing on the outcome of the Review for Parking in the Square. She advised that of all the Consultations in Mid Devon Sandford had made the largest response. As part of the process DCC Officers had visited the Square to measure up the maximum and minimum lines required.

*“The consultation for yellow lines finished at the beginning of October – thank you to all who took part. All the responses were analysed and a report and recommendation came back to HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee), it has been voted through for the three locations in the square.*

*The parking space for Sandford Stores was also agreed with a revised time from 8.30am to 5.30pm as requested. We should be seeing the works taking place before the end of the financial year”.*

There was an also an update on Highway matters at New Buildings

*“The patching/resurface work through New buildings will hopefully be happening soon. I have been asking for this for many years, and as you will”*

Cllr Unstead advised that Dr M Anderson had written to him on hearing this news suggesting that as a result of the planned re-surfacing this would have the result of traffic Speeding through New Buildings and once again requested “20's Plenty Signs”. It was agreed that Cllr Unstead would respond saying that these Signs needed to be placed on Private Land. They had been used by other Communities and it would be an idea to establish how effective they had been.

On the matter of mud on the road left by farming Contractors he would advise Dr Anderson there was an obligation for them to clear up any mess made.

c) MDDC – MDDC Cllr Binks reported that the District Council were looking into the car park issues at “Snows” to review the situation in view of recent events. Parking issues at “Crofts” were still being dealt with and the MDDC Enforcement Planning Officer was looking into a planning issue in the Square.

## 12) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

### Receipts

Lloyd's Banks (Interest October 2017)	£0.25
MDDC (Half year Precept)	£6436.00
HMRC (VAT refund)	£1259.00

### Payments

Mr M Vallance Salary	£444.63
MDDC (Repayment of half year Precept Payment overpaid by the District Council)	£6436.00
Mr A Gill (Footpath work)	£250.00
Mr S McCulloch (Grass cutting)	£17.00
The Poppy Appeal (Poppy wreath)	£15.00
Sandford AFC (Benches)	£1150.00

Cheques were signed by Cllrs Miles and Harvey

The Clerk reported that the half year bank balances stood at :-

Lloyd's Bank	Current Account	£6,496.54
Lloyd's Bank	Deposit Account	£4,728.01
Lloyd's Bank	Pavillion Account	£1,556.05
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>£12,780.60</u></b>

The Clerk thanked Cllr Miles for assisting him in balancing the Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and copies of the half year finances were distributed.

## 13) ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Parking at entrance to Meadowside and Snows (Yellow lines).

DCC Cllr M Squires advised that this would be going out to Public Consultation in the New Year.

14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The absence of the Parish Clerk – The Clerk would be away from 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- b) Remembrance Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> November 2017) – The Council Poppy Wreath would be laid by Cllr Stephens, and the Clerk had been asked to lead the Intercessions
- c) Carols in the Square this had been set for 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- d) Old Slide – An offer for £75 to dispose of this as scrap metal had been offered and this was accepted
- e) Cllr Yeo advised that further Defibrillator training had taken place with Sandford Scouts.

15) Date of next Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

There being no other business the Vice-Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.35pm.