

## SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Sandford Parish Hall, 8.00pm, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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

Chair – Cllr R Ward

Parish Councillors - P Larcombe, J Crooke. M Snow, D Crosby, B Fyfe. L Hooper, and J Stephens

DCC Cllr M Squires (Left during the Meeting)

MDDC Cllrs M Jenkins and H Tuffin

Parish Clerk Mr M Vallance Three Parishioners

- 1) Chairs opening remarks and introductions - In his opening remarks the Chair, following his attendance at the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) AGM, encouraged the Parish Council to Consult with Parishioners over current and future Projects.
- 2) Apologies – Cllrs S Miles, P Sandys, D Hope and R. Stoyale
- 3) Declarations of Interest - None
- 4) The MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, which had been circulated, were confirmed and Signed by the Chair as a true record.  
Proposed Cllr Fyfe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Stephens, and carried
- 5) Open Forum  
Items raised included :-  
Problems over Street lights (4) being off in the evening.  
Potholes on the Fanny's Lane junction, and further down the hill towards Back Lane.  
The Clerk confirmed that these matters had been reported to DCC Highways and were awaiting attention.
- 6) Matters Arising

### **The Chair Suspended Standing Order allowing Parishioners to speak on Agenda items.**

#### a) Matters raised by Parishioners

i) Weeding – The 2023 weeding problem was fully endorsed by Parishioners.

It was felt that there were a number of “tall growing non weeds” in need of cutting back as they were **blocking** the pavement. Locations reported included outside the property below the Lamb Inn, as well as other locations in the Village.

The Chair agreed to speak to the residents who had these “tall growing non weeds” to draw the matter to their attention.

Following the September 2023 Meeting’ when it had been agreed to engage Steve McCulloch for 2024 to address the Weeding problem in the Village the Chair confirmed this was in hand Cllr Crooke proposed a “Village tidying up and Weeding before the Winter” and it was agreed to meet at 10.00am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October in Sandford Square.

Also, to encourage Villagers to weed and tidy up the area outside their properties. **RW/JC**

ii) Request for a Disabled Access to Sandford playing field.

The Chair agreed to discuss this matter with Chris O'Connor and asked the Play Area Committee for their input. It was felt grants would be available to help towards costs. **RW**

b) Sale of Sandford Congregational Church - The Clerk confirmed that the sale of the Church and Hall had gone through

c) Shute Stream - It was hoped to make a start on this on the afternoon of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October and, once the weeds etc had been removed, to take up the offer from Steve Tucker (DCC Highways) for the DCC Highways Jetter to make a visit. **JS**

d) Road water issues at Coppice Lane – Cllrs Crooke and Stephens had investigated this problem which appeared to be due to a blocked pipe at a property in Coppice Lane. Investigations are continuing. **JS /JC**

e) Sandford Neighbourhood Plan - The Chair reported that this topic had been discussed at the DALC Conference. The funding year ran from January to January, and he had submitted an Expression of Interest for a Sandford Neighbourhood Plan. **RW**

f) Drain covers at Sandford Playing Field - Discussed with Play Area Committee feedback.

g) Benches in the Square

These had been formally “gifted” by the Landlord of the Lamb Inn.

The Chair had drawn up a “Risk Assessment” and carried out the first Safety Inspection.

Subject to grant aid he was hoping to replace the current Benches with new ones.

It was pointed out that other Street Furniture e.g., the seat on the pavement across from the Lamb Inn was in need of refurbishment. **RW**

h) Obstructions on Pavements and Cobbles in the Square and possible accidents – It was agreed to publicise the comments from Steve Tucker (DCC Highways) on this matter “...that in those circumstances the person causing the obstruction would have to take responsibility for any incident occurring; the properties concerned needed this to be drawn to their attention”. **MV/RW**

**a) Committee and Sub-committee feedback**

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had been circulated, and Posted on the SPC Website. Outstanding issues concerned “Weavers Way”. It was felt that MDDC Planning should not Sign Off this Planning application until all outstanding matters had been dealt with e.g., the earth mounds. Cllr Stephens reported that he was in the process of arranging a further meeting with Justin Denno (Belfield Development); he had also visited the site with representatives of the “Gorwyn Trust” (the original Owners of the Field) for them to view the Development. **JS**

The Clerk was asked to obtain an update from Richard Spurway (PROW) and Ros Davies (PROW) on the “Furlongs Footpath” & “Weavers Way” spur. **MV**

- b) Finance Committee – The next Meeting would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, 7.00pm, at the Sports Pavilion.
- c) Communications Committee – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had been circulated, and Posted on the SPC Website. The future of the Sandford Parish Council website was being reviewed and it was agreed this needed to include a Parish Diary.

In the meantime, Cllrs Crosby and Sandys would take up the offer by the current Website Providers (Vision ICT Ltd) for a Training Session (Cost £75 for two Cllrs).

Proposed Cllr Stephens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Ward, and carried.

**PS / DC**

Cllr Hooper would be making a regular, every 6 weeks, attendance at the St Swithun’s Coffee and a Chat event to meet Parishioners.

First attendance set for 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**LH**

- e) Play Area Committee – The Minutes of the Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had been circulated and Posted on the SPC Website.

Basket Ball Project – Cllr Hope had sent the latest update on the plans for this Project. Funding was now in place thanks to a Private Donation promised of £18K.

The Chair felt that before the Project could be progressed the following was needed :-

- i) A plan showing the exact location.
  - ii) Confirmation that the “Neighbours” had been Consulted over the proposal in case of problems of “balls in gardens and noise” ?
  - iii) Proof that there was a need for the Basket Ball Court. **DH**
- f) Projects Committee – No Meeting had taken place. It was considered was that the Sandford Neighbourhood Plan would be dealt with by this Committee.
  - g) Staffing Matters Sub-committee – All necessary paper work now obtained and Meeting to be arranged. **MV /BF / PL**

## **7) Planning**

23/01504/FULL Land and Buildings at Welland Down Farm Sandford  
Conversion of 3 redundant barns to dwellings  
**SITE MEETING TO BE ARRANGED**

**JS**

23/01550/CAT Sandford Congregational Church (Conservation Area)  
Reduction of height of 2 yew trees, by 2.5 meters.  
**SITE MEETING TO BE ARRANGED**

**JS**

The following Grants of Planning permission were noted :-

23/01075/HOUSE & 23/01076/LBC      Kerswell Cottage Sandford  
Conversion and extension to existing annex

23/01027/FULL   Land and buildings Sandford (Road from Signpost Lane to Stoneshill Cross) -  
Change of use of redundant light industrial building and conversion to a dwelling.

23/00794/NMA   Land at NGR 284185 101165 (Creedy Bridge) Crediton Devon  
Non-Material Amendment to Planning Permission 22/00063/MARM to amend the Rugby Club  
boundary

- 8) Items for Discussion / Proposals:** Road Warden – This matter had been discussed at the recent DALC Conference and several Parishes (including Morchard Bishop) already had made Appointments. Any prospective Sandford Road Warden would be fully trained by DCC Highways, covered by Insurance, be supplied with the necessary tools to carry out the works and be qualified to repair any “mini potholes no larger than a Dinner plate”.

**The Clerk was asked to publicise the Post.**

**MV**

## **9) Council Feedback**

- a) Mid Devon District Council - MDDC Cllrs M Jenkins, and H Tuffin, reported that the Meeting to discuss the Sandford “Z Pods” was still awaited. **MJ / HT**
- b) Devon County Council Devon County Council – DCC Cllr M Squires advised that the decision as to whether or not to withdraw the Mobile Library service was now being discussed by the DCC Cabinet Committee.

## **10) Correspondence**

- a) A Parishioner from “Back Lane” had written complaining over Parking issues on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 when Farm Machinery was in operation and travelling through the Village. The size of these vehicles, in conjunction with parked cars on “Back Lane”, was causing an obstruction.  
The Clerk was asked to respond that “Back Lane” was already one of the areas identified as a problem parking area for reporting to DCC (Highways). **MV**
- b) C.A.B. – A Donation request had been received and would be considered in January 2024 along with any others received.
- c) Semata had written offering a “Parish Council Accounts software” package (£75).  
It was agreed to purchase this Proposed Cllr Ward, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Stephens & carried. **MV**
- d) MDDC were in the process of a “Polling Station Review” and were proposing:-
- i) Sandford Village – Sandford Parish Hall (no change)
  - ii) East Village – Sandford Parish Hall (no change)
  - iii) New Buildings – Sandford Parish Hall (previously Beacon Church)
- As there were 171 Parishioners on the New Buildings Voters List, more than some of the smaller Polling Stations in the District, it was not felt this was acceptable. Consultation ran until November 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 and it was agreed to bring this to the attention of Parishioners at New Buildings. Objections to be sent to MDDC. **MV**

- e) A Parishioner from “Linhay Park” had written to the Chair over “Current issues” and these included 2023 weeding, benches in the Square, Parish donations, and Chairs outside the Shop.

The Chair confirmed that he had responded explaining the position for each of these matters.

## 11) Replies

- a) Sandford Stores had responded to the suggestion to re-introduce a Parish Diary and would discuss this at their October Meeting.
- b) DALC had replied on the question of Committee “Quorate issues” .  
For Quorate purposes individuals co-opted to SPC Committees should not be included in the Quorate number.
- c) Newton St Cyres PC advised that the “Raddon Down Group” had been disbanded. The Clerk agreed to write to the Parish Council, and the Clerk, thanking them for Hosting and Clerking these meetings. MV
- d) MDDC S106 – The Clerk had written asking for clarification of the 2022 changes to the rules in the way S106 was now being dealt with,  
A rather unhelpful reply had been received referring the Parish Council back to an email sent by MDDC in May 2022.  
As the Clerk, Parish and MDDC Cllrs were still not sure how the new system worked it was agreed to contact David Parker (Parish Liaison Officer MDDC) to seek his help and clarification of the position. MV

**Matters reported to the Clerk** – Closure of “Furlongs Footpath” – This was the current issue causing concern. The matter was not helped by DCC Highways stating that the footpath would be closed for 6 MONTHS from 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. However, the Contractors stated “Up to 6 WEEKS” from 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Clarification was awaited.

**12) Police Matters** – No new matters were raised.

## 13) Receipts & Payments

a) Receipts	
Crediton Lions (Donation towards Basketball project)	£200.00
Pamela Tilney Ellis (Donation toward Michael Lee Memorial)	£50.00
b) Payments	
Mr M Vallance Salary £557.00, use of home ¼ year £54.00. postage £18.49,	
Stationery £263.92 (includes ink cartridges £212.49)	£893.41
MDDC (2023 Local Election costs)	£1917.00
SLCC (Subscription renewal re issued cheque)	£134.00
CAB (Replacement cheque)	£250.00
Community First Trading Limited (Insurance renewal)	£765.34

Cheques signed by Cllrs Snow and Stephens.

## 12) Commemoration for Michael Lee

Suggestions included a picnic bench and another similar to the Mary Lee seat.

Chunkey Monkey in Exwick were recommended as a potential supplier.

Cllr Stephens suggested a circular seat around the tree sited on the land to be “gifted” to SPC as part of the Weavers Way development, and agreed to speak to the Lee Family. **MV / JS**

## 14) Future of Sandford Flower Show – Cllr J Stephens reported that since Covid the Flower Show had not been able to start up again due to lack of Committee and Supporters.

The remaining members of the Committee were keen to explore whether there was enough support in the Parish to continue with the Flower Show.

It was agreed that the way ahead was for the Flower Show Committee to call a Public Meeting to gauge what support came forward.

The Clerk reported that Parishioners were suggesting an alternative date earlier in the Summer, rather than August Bank Holiday Monday, as well as a reduction in the number of show classes. **MV**

## 15) Identification of areas causing Parking issues

It was agreed to submit the following locations. to DCC Highways. as areas currently causing Parking issues :-

- Fanny’s Lane Cross – This has been reported before
- Back Lane – This has been reported before
- Area between The Lamb Inn and Star House
- Outside the front of Sandford School, below Orchard Close where the road is very narrow. **MV**

## 16) Date of next Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, 8.00pm, Sandford Parish Hall

Team Bonding event – Sandford Scout Hut – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00pm

The Chair closed the Meeting at 10.10pm.