

SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Sandford Parish Hall, 8.00pm, on Thursday 7th March 2024.

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

Chair	Cllr R Ward
Parish Councillors	P Larcombe, J Croke, D Hope, B Fyfe, M Snow, R Stoye and P Sandys
DCC	Cllr M Squires (part meeting)
MDDC	Cllr H Tuffin (part meeting)
Members of the Public	5 (part of meeting)
Parish Clerk	Mr M Vallance

- 1) The Chair opened the Meeting and gave a warm welcome to the Members of the Public.
- 2) Apologies MDDC Cllr M Jenkins SPC Cllrs Stephens, Miles, Hooper and Crosby
- 3) Declarations of Interest - None
- 4) The MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2024, which had been circulated in advance, were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr Fyfe, 2nd Cllr Larcombe and carried.

- 5) Open Forum:
 - a) Mervyn Leach welcomed the new Yellow Lines at the top of Rose and Crown Hill on the junction with the Square. He also thanked Cllrs Crook, and Snow, for their efforts to clear the blocked drain in Fanny's Lane near "Panorama". Disappointingly the problem was back once again with a long stretch of the lane currently flooded. He also expressed thanks for the clearing of the rainwater on the West Sandford Road.
 - b) Di Martin reported that she had already started "Hand Weeding" the Village with a Group of Volunteers. There was also the possibility of Voluntary Assistance for Weeding being provided by Ernest Jackson in Crediton as part of their "Volunteer Day".
The Chair advised that Weeding for 2024 was to be discussed later in the Meeting.
 - c) Charlie Werner gave details of a film being made on the Millennium Green on 17th March 2024 when extras were needed.

6) Matters Arising

a) Annual Parish Meeting 28th March 2024

This was confirmed for a 7.45pm start at the Parish Hall. The Chair was hoping to find a Speaker on the Topic of Neighbourhood plans. Representatives from either Crediton TC or Newton St Cyres were suggested.

Both Sandford Relief in Need, and Sandford Parish Hall, had taken up the offer to Opt Out from "Presenting their Accounts".

MV/RW

b) Committee and Sub-committee feedback and Review of Committees

- a) Planning Committee – During the month a Site Meeting had taken place at “Roxgates” and comments had been submitted to MDDC Planning (see Minute 7).

Discussion took place over the lack of numbers on the Planning Committee following the decision of Cllr Sandys to stand down.

Both Cllrs Fyfe and Stoye offered to join the Planning Committee.

This Co-option was Proposed by Cllr Sandys, 2nd Cllr Crooke, and carried.

- b) Finance Committee – A Meeting was to take place on 15th April 2024.
c) Communications Committee – A Meeting had taken place on the 21st February 2024 and the Minutes were now on the SPC Website.

Cllr Sandys appealed for face pictures of Councillors to be included on the SPC Website.

Following the Website Training Event changes would be forthcoming to improve its format, and it was hoped to start a Parish Diary.

“Update on Microsoft 365 - To ensure we have a repository for council documentation and the reluctance to adopt Microsoft 365 it was agreed for the Council to trial the use of “Dropbox” to enable the Council to share information”.

This recommendation was fully supported by the Parish Council.

A request for a small number of gov.uk email addresses were also proposed. Further information was requested about the reason for using gov.uk email addresses for council business.

PS

- d) Play Area Committee - The ROSPA Inspection for Parish play areas at “Creedy View”, Sandford Playing Field, and the “Outdoor Gym” had been booked and confirmed to take place later in March 2024.

Discussion took place over the portable “Dug Outs”, that Sandford AFC had taken delivery of. These were currently standing outside the Pavilion Changing Room surrounded by safety cones and were being used by Youngsters as an extension to the play area Concern was expressed over Safety Issues.

The question arose as to when Sandford AFC had been granted permission for these? The clerk noted that the matter of Permanent, and Portable “Dugouts”, had been discussed by the Parish Council in September 2020. However, no formal permission had been recorded in the minutes then, or subsequently.

The issue of storage was also raised. It was agreed to find out more about the football club’s plans.

RW

- e) Projects Committee - A Meeting had taken place on the 2nd March 2024 and the draft Minutes had been circulated and they included:

Sandford Recognition Awards – It was agreed to accept a Proposal from the Chair to invite Nominations to find Parishioners:

“... Who you think go over and beyond to support our village and community”.

The Chair agreed to deal with this matter by producing a document appealing for Nominations to publish on the Sandford Scene FB page and the SPC Website.

Nominations to close on 21st March and Presentations to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28th March 2024.

Proposed Cllr Fyfe, 2nd Cllr Snow, and carried.

MV/RW

A further Meeting of the Projects Committee had been set for 25th March 2024 to discuss updates including the Adoption of Terms of Reference and update on the “footpath projects”.

g) Staffing matters Committee (Meeting to take place on 25th March 2024)

7) Planning

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a discussion about how to progress items 7a and 7b with Ben Huggins, the agent for the project.

- a. 24/00226/FULL Sandford Congregational Church
Conversion of Church to Dwelling.
PLANNING SITE MEETING TO BE ARRANGED
- b. 24/00227/LBC Sandford Congregational Church
LBC for consent for repairs and conversion of church to dwelling.
PLANNING SITE MEETING TO BE ARRANGED

Standing orders reinstated.

- c. NEW 24/00276/FULL “Roxgates” New Buildings
Retention of two extensions to general purpose agricultural building and grain bin
24/00036/FULL “Roxgates” New Buildings- Erection of an agricultural livestock building.
24/00071/HOUSE “Roxgates” New Buildings Erection of side garage and annexe.

“The Parish Council (SPC) feel that before any decision is taken on these planning applications, confirmation is needed that the strict conditions imposed under 09/00615/FULL have been adhered to.

This also applies to Planning application 22/02081/FULL. SPC would like to propose that the MDDC Planning Committee have a site meeting to view both applications before any decisions are taken”.

- d. 23/01944/FULL “Frostlands Farm” Sandford . Conversion of and extension to a building to create a dwelling.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL (PERMISSION NOW GRANTED)
- e. 23/01612/FULL “Hollycroft Cottage” The Square Sandford. Retention of DSLAM cabinet for electronic communication - **NO OBJECTION**

8) Items for Discussion / Proposals:

a) Weeding 2024

It was agreed to continue with Hand Weeding in 2024. It was agreed to record a vote of “Thanks” to the team of Volunteers for their work in 2023. It was also agreed to set up and promote a weeding day in April to kick start the 2024 programme. Date to be arranged.

RW / Di Martin

In recognition it was agreed to make a Donation of £200 to Sandford Millennium.

Proposed Cllr Ward, 2nd Cllr Sandys, and carried.

b) Grass Cutting Quotes 2024

The Clerk had sent out four letters detailing the Parish Council Grass Needs for 2024. Of these four, three had submitted Quotes and these were discussed A, B, and C.

It was formally agreed to accept quote “B” from Steve McCulloch.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe, 2nd Cllr Stephens, and carried

9) Council Feedback

- a. Mid Devon District Council – The District Council were currently discussing the Budget for 2024/2025.
- b. Devon County Council – The County Council were also currently discussing the Budget for 2024/2025. A large increase was needed to keep up with the demands for Social Services.

The Parish Council raised, with DCC Cllr M Squires, the continuing issues over potholes, highway maintenance, and blocked drains in the Parish and further discussion took place on this issue.

DCC Squires agreed to pursue the flooding caused by the blocked drain in Fanny’s Lane and encouraged Councillors to “Keep Reporting” these issues.

- c. Crediton Cluster Meeting – The Chair had attended this Meeting along with four other local Parish Councillors. and Crediton Town Councillors. The Group were in the process of compiling a “Terms of Reference” document.

They were also keen to come up with a “Crediton Area Footpath” map to see how these could be linked up with Crediton becoming the central point.

10) Correspondence

- a) Puddington Parish Council and Pamela Tilney Ellis had written over the speeding of agricultural machinery travelling through the Parish, and issues over mud on the road. These comments were noted.
- b) MDDC – The District Council were carrying out a Review of The Planning Charter with Town and Parish Councils.
- c) Jean Hope had written to say she had read of the initiative by the Parish Council “to do something for the Young People” in the Parish. St Swithuns were also pursuing this matter and Rev Janet May had recently been on a training course to discuss this topic.

St Swithuns were keen to work with the Parish Council on this initiative.

RW

- d) MDDC Planning – The District Council had sent details of the “Public Access Consultee Hub for Planning Comments” whereby Consultee Comments could be recorded on the MDDC Planning portal.
- e) Both Crediton Town Council, and DALC, had sent details of the “Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal”. DALC would be putting together their comments on behalf Devon Parish Councils for submission to this proposal and these would be shared in due course.
- f) Colin Clark gave details of a scheme being suggested for an East Village Sign with a Planter. He asked if the Parish Council support this idea.

The Parish Council felt that this was a good idea, and the Clerk was asked to obtain further details, and the likely costs. **MV**

- g) DCC Highways gave notice of a Road Closure 2nd May 2024 “Tail Corner to Gays Cross” (for pole installation and cabling work).

Replies

- a) Lloyds Bank – The Complaint over delays and issues over the matter of reinvestment of capital had been accepted. Compensation of £57 had been awarded.

It was confirmed the instructions for the reinvestment of capital had been accepted and the necessary changes to the Parish Council bank accounts had been dealt with.

- b) Justin Denno had responded to issues over the “Ha Ha” at Weavers Way which had been covered over. As the Council were not entirely happy with this response it was agreed to pursue the matter with the MDDC Conservation Officer.

Cllr Sandys raised concerns that when the “earth mound” at the back of Meadowside had been removed and the surface area had been left containing litter and other debris.

The Clerk was asked to raise this with Justin Denno.

- c) Jessica Emery (Community First) – An Insurance update was awaited to include cover for the new play equipment at the Playing Field and “Creedy View”.

It was accepted there would be an increase in premiums to cover these costs.

11) Matters reported to the Clerk:

- a) Speed bumps – Concern was once again being expressed by Parishioners over traffic speeding through the Village. The installation of Speed Bumps had been suggested but DCC Cllr Squires confirmed this was no longer County Council Policy.

It was agreed to explore the use of “Speed Watch” appliances. **RW**

It was understood that Sandford School were pressing for a 20mph restriction outside the school entrance on Fannys Lane.

(MDDC Cllr Tuffin left the Meeting at this point)

- b) Noticeboard bottom of Rose and Crown Hill – The Clerk had been informed that the board was beyond repair, and it was time to consider a replacement.

(At the same time, it was reported the Noticeboard at East Village was also in need of replacement).

The Clerk agreed to make enquiries over replacement costs and available grants.

MV

12) Police Matters – No new matters raised

13) Receipts & Payments

Receipts:

Lloyds Bank – Interest (February 2024) £57.16

Payments:

Mr M Vallance (Cheque 000379 re-issued) £690.81

Mr M Vallance (Salary) £604.33

Donations:

CAB £300.00

Mid Devon Community Transport £300.00

Vision ICT Ltd (Website training and update) £360.00

(Signed by Cllrs Miles and Snow 21st February 2024)

Vision ICT Ltd Renewal of gov.uk domain until 2026 £78.00

Mr D Crosby (Travelling expenses for Website training event at Dorchester attended by Cllrs Crosby and Sandys) £88.05

S J Willis & Sons Ltd (Drain cover replacements) £672.00

Cheques Signed by Cllrs Snow and Stoyle

14) Councillors Forum

- a) The AGM of the Sandford Flower Show was confirmed for 22nd March 2024 when it was hoped there would be enough interest to revive this event.
- b) D Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting (8th June 2024) - An appeal was made, for members of the Parish Council, to join a Working Party to discuss Beacon Lighting event. Help was needed for matters such as parking, booking the Community Bus etc. Anyone interested was asked to contact the Clerk.

Next Meeting April 4th 2024, 8.00pm, at Sandford Parish Hall

There being no other business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.06pm.