

SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a REMOTE Meeting held (By SKYPE) held on 1st OCTOBER 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Cllr J Stephens (Chairman).

Messrs – G. Griffin J.P, B Fyfe, S. Haley, N Unstead and M. Snow. Cllr E Dalton

DCC Cllr M Squires. MDDC Cllr E Wainwright (part meeting)

The Parish Clerk Mr M Vallance One member of the Public

The Chairman opened the Meeting with “A moment for quiet contemplation”.

1) APOLOGIES – Cllrs Miles, Ford, Stoye and Lee.
Declaration of Interests - None

2) OPEN FORUM – Steve Mc Culloch (Sandford Tennis Club)

Steve McCulloch gave an update on current membership, activity, and use of the Tennis Court during 2020.

- Membership had increased and was looking good in comparison to earlier years.
(Some Councillors felt Membership fees could be increased in view of their low level)
- Covid-19 Rules were being adhered to.
- A new Banner had been erected giving contact details.
- Open evenings had been taking place.
- Players from New St Cyres had been using the Court and had remained as Members.
- It was hoped to engage the services of a Tennis Coach for children, teenagers and adults.
- Inter Club activities had been taking place.
- A Repainting and Repair of the court would be taking place in the near future.
- A re-surfacing would be needed in the near future.
- The Court was being used by Skate Boarders for limited activities.
- Sandford Tennis Club remained taking the responsibility, and upkeep of the Court on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman congratulated Steve Mc Culloch, and the Sandford Tennis Club Team, on all these achievements in what had been a very difficult year for all Communities.

Discussion then turned to the proposed installation of a Basket Ball Hoop.

Sandford Tennis Club had reservations over this suggestion and the long term wear to the court.

Also responsibility for any damage to the court or fence.

Also the demand on the Court by Tennis Club members during the busy summer period.

This would be even more of an issue as when the proposed re-surfacing took place in the future.

Steve Mc Culloch suggested that the area behind the Sports Pavillion could be an area for use as a Basket Ball area.

The Chairman felt the best option was to form a Sub Committee comprising members of SPC and the Tennis Club to discuss the future ?

3) PARISH COMMENT BOOK / MATTERS REPORTED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PLUS MATTERS REPORTED TO THE CLERK AND PARISH COMMENT BOOK :-

B.T. (Outreach) – BT Contractors had recently unofficially closed Church Street, and parts of the Square, to carry out “Urgent Works”.

However DCC had not been consulted and the works had not been deemed “Urgent”.

B.T would be “fined” according to Steve Tucker at DCC Highways.

Bus to QE Crediton - A parent had complained that children were standing, in the absence of sufficient seats, and was pursuing this with DCC.

Parish Welcome letter – Jean Hope had taken this on, from Mary Rose, and the Parish Clerk had been asked invited to write a Welcome letter from the Parish Council for New Residents.

Chinese lanterns – It had been reported that these had been let off at the Playing Field despite the potential injury they caused to cattle etc.

The Clerk had Posted a comment on Facebook.

3a) SANDFORD PULLS TOGETHER

SPT Group - This was still in place in place and weekly updates were being distributed as and when received from DCC and Devon Communities.

The effect on local business's was noted also the need for them to register and display their Personal QR Code to enable the NHC Covid -19 App to be used.

Scrapbook – Pictures and items were still arriving

4) The MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2020, were confirmed, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed Cllr G Griffin, 2nd M Snow, and carried.

5) To report on MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Beating the Bounds/Boundary Stones

It had been widely publicised that a “Missing Sandford Boundary Stone” had been found by Derek Conibear on the edge of the stream at the bottom of the entrance to “Welland Down”.

In the past this would have formed part of the track from Sandford to Kennerleigh.

Subsequently a rail bridge had been built, to take a proposed train service from Crediton to serve Lloyd Maunder at Witheridge. However as Lloyd Maunder changed their mind, and had re-located, the new bridge remained as a road bridge with the new road.

A Sub Committee Meeting had taken place attended by Ben Huggins who was still offering to produce a new Sandford Boundary Stone Mould.

Locations were discussed and Ben agreed to get back to the Parish Council with his suggested design for new Sandford Boundary Stones.

A Sandford Beating the Bounds over Easter 2021 was becoming a possibility.

b) Grass verge Meadowside Road (2020 and 2021 onwards) – Confirmation as to who owned the grass verge was still awaited before any decisions could be made for the future.

c) Proposed Basketball hoop - Discussion turned to the Open Forum on and the proposal to install a Basket ball hoop.

- Whilst it was agreed Sandford Tennis Club continued to maintain and care for the Court it was pointed out that in return they paid no Rent.
- Also if extra funding was needed towards a future re-surfacing of the Court maybe the time had come to review the current Membership charges especially for Adults ?
- It was noted that Skate Boarders were using the Court and whilst it appreciated this was only for basic use this would in time impact on the wear and tear of the court.
- A suggestion that the Tennis Court could become a shared space/responsibility between the Tennis Club and a Basketball Club with BOTH paying an Annual Joint Membership ?

As there was only a modest amount (£300) plus currently in the funding for a Basketball Hoop it was felt taking decisions for the future were premature.

A PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO HOLD A JOINT MEETING, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE, WHEN THE FINANCES WERE AVAILALABLE. THE CLERK WAS ASKED TO CONVEY THIS TO SANDFORD TENNIS CLUB.

d) Sandford School entrance and fence a Sunnyside - See Item 7 (d)

e) Creedy View 2 – The proposed site meeting with Adrian Devereaux (MDDC Planning Officer) was confirmed for 2.30pm on 9th October 2020.

6) POLICE MATTERS – The Community Policeman had been made aware of an email scam that had been circulating in the village.

7) REPLIES

a) Sandford AFC – An acknowledgement of the recent letter regarding the “dugouts” and other issued had been received.

b) DCC Cllr M Squires had forwarded a copy of an email received from Steve Densham (MDDC) regarding safety issues and ownership of the unsafe School fence adjacent to 1 Sunnyside.

“The path here is sold with 1 Sunnyside. We've had discussion over this before - I suspect that access may have been reserved for the Council and perhaps the allotment. I suspect 'officially' the school shouldn't be using the path without the permission of the owner but also suspect they always have. When the Council was maintaining the path that was probably all well and good but responsibility for the path will now rest with the owner and perhaps other users under the Right to Buy clauses or under a benefit and burden principle of law.

As for the fence unusually records do show a responsibility (and you may have assumed any) it is the responsibility of no.1

IT WAS AGREED THIS WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL AND SANDFORD SCHOOL WOULD NEED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE OCCUPANT OF 1 SUNNYSIDE.

c) DCC – Replacement of boundary stones – This was over seen by DCC Highways.

d) MDDC – Had sent a very full reply setting out the current Parish S106 Balances and requested details of suggested schemes for them to prioritise.

e) Vision ict Ltd – Had prepared the SPC Website Accessibility statement and placed it on the Parish Council Website. Invoice to follow.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Rev P Fillery had written to enquire whether the Parish Council could offer any financial assistance for urgent repairs to the roof and windows at Beacon Church ?
The Clerk had responded to advise Parish Council funds could not be donated to Religious Organisations.

As Beacon Church was also used by the Community the Clerk had also contacted SLCC for advice. He had been told if this was the case the Parish Council would need to consider the need and act as they felt fit.

This had been passed on to the Rev P Fillery advising that that Parish Council each January reviewed and allocated funds to any applications received.

(For January 2021 there was an amount of £500 included in the 2020/2021 Precept).

Ctty Cllr M Squires advised that she had promised a contribution of £2000 from the DCC Locality Fund towards Beacon Church.

b) Ben Carr – Had sent an enquiry as to whether he could Rent the Land at the back of Snows to create a Community Garden ? The Parish Council felt it was early days for this suggestion and this would need to be discussed in the future.

c) Boundary Commission

A further recommendation was now being suggested to form a new District Parish of “**Newbrooke and Sandford**”.

The Boundary Commission gave notice of draft proposals for 6 new Wards in the rural west of Mid Devon.

The 14-page report on the draft recommendations explained that it received 68 submissions after the February report was published. Forty were from local residents. The Mid Devon District Council Liberal Democrat Group and the Central Devon Liberal Democrats “outlined significantly different boundaries to those we had proposed in our draft recommendations in the rural west of the district”.
“Accordingly we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft”.

recommendations for the wards of Morchard, **Newbrooke and Sandford**, Taw Vale, Upper Yeo and Taw, Way, and Yeo.”

The proposed **Newbrooke and Sandford ward** would include – Sandford, Newton St Cyres, Shobrooke, Venny Tedburn, Upton Pyne, Hookway and Efford

The recommendations were based on :-

Sandford's Community Links

1. School federations
2. Shared social amenities (e.g. pubs, halls, leisure groups etc).
3. Shared Church ministries
4. Shared political arrangements and interests (e.g. shared Parish Clerks, multi- Parish interest and action groups).
5. Poor Public transport links between Sandford and Morchard Bishop
6. Public transport links with Shobrooke

The Parish Council were unhappy over the way this proposal had been dealt with, there had been no Consultation, and many of the highlighted Community Links were incorrect.

CLLR E DALTON AGREED TO PUT TOGETHER A FORMAL RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL .

THIS WOULD BE PRESENTED, AND ADOPTED AT THE 5th NOVEMBER MEETING, FOR ONWARD SUBMISISON TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISION IN TIME FOR THE 9th DEADLINE.

d) MDDC – The October Parish Newsletter.

9) SANDFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION & PLAY AREA

a) Creedy View play area – As Parents were unable to gather at the School gate they were now using the play area to gather .

As “Social gathering issues” were being caused the Clerk had prepared a Poster for display to address this matter.

b) Sewage leak at the Playing field - A sewage leak had been reported at the playing field at its boundary with Meadowside Road. The Clerk had reported this matter and SWW had attended to the Emergency.

In their feedback SWW stated the blockage had been caused by the flushing of unsuitable articles down the toilet (wet wipes etc) despite a recent leaflet drop in the Village.

LOCAL RESIDENTS HAD INFORMED THE CLERK THAT THIS WAS AN ONGOING ISSUE, HAPPENING ON A REGULAR BASIS, OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

PROBLEMS AT THE PUMPING STATION, AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE FIELD, HAD ALSO BEEN EXPERIENCED.

THE PARISH COUNCIL AGREED TO WRITE TO SWW REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE THE PROBLEM. ALSO POINTING OUT THAT MAYBE IT WAS TIME FOR THE SANDFORD SEWAGE SYSTEM TO BE UPDATED ?

10) PLANNING (Permission Granted)

20/01345/HOUSE 9 Meadowside Sandford - Retention of fence Following a site meeting it was recommended to leave this decision to the Planning Officer 17/00348/ MOUT Land at NGR 284185 101165 (Creedy Bridge) Sandford Proposal: Residential development of up to 257 dwellings and up to 5 Gypsy and Traveller pitches; 8.6 hectares of land made available to facilitate the relocation of Crediton Rugby Club; up to 1.1 hectares of land safeguarded for the delivery of a primary school; access arrangements from A3072 (Exhibition Way); pedestrian and cycle access on to Pounds Hill/Stonewall Cross junction, Old Tiverton Road and Pedlerspool Lane; landscaping and area of public open space; and other associated infrastructure and engineering operations

CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS 20/01235/CLU Frogmire Farm Crediton Devon Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 282404 / 101442 Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy Condition (i) of Planning Permission 88/00908/OUT for a period in excess of 10 years Location: Non compliance with agricultural occupancy condition attached to Frogmire Farm under condition (i) of application 88/00908/OUT

11) RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & SUB COMMITTEE

MDDC Cllr E Wainwright advised that the District Council had met to discuss an Emergency Budget.

Other matters being discussed included Climate Action Plan and Diversity, S106, and the new Government White Paper on Planning.

DCC Cllr M Squires had circulated her report prior to the Meeting.

Cllr Squires offered to obtain a Speaker for a Virtual Meeting on the matter of Rural Wi Fi.

12) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts

Lloyd's Bank Interest (September 2020) £0.07

Mr M Vallance (Salary) £454.00, use of Home £54.00, postage £8.80, stationery £13.12 £529.92

Mr G Baker (re-painting the Queen Victoria Coronation plaque) £14.64

Cheques signed by Cllrs S Miles (30/9/2020) and Cllr J Stephens.

13) Review of Parish Clerk's Salary from 1st April 2020

It was agreed to accept the recommendation from NALC of an increase of 2.27% from 1st April 2021.

(Salary 1st April 2019 £5445.70pa £454.00 per month)

Salary from 1st April 2020 £559.45pa £466.28 per month

Annual cost of increase £149.75)

Proposed Cllr Griffin, 2nd Cllr Snow, and carried to accept the recommended increase.

The Clerk was not present when this item was discussed.

14) ROADS AND FOOTPATHS No new matters reported.

15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Remembrance Sunday - 8th November 2020

It was agreed to seek advice over the Annual Remembrance Event in the Square in view of issues of Social Gathering due to Coronavirus.

b) At the next Meeting it was agreed to discuss a suggestion for Electronic Charging Points in the Creedy View car park.

16) Date of next Meeting 5th November 2020 – Whether this would be Remote or Face to Face socially distanced would depend on the Covid 19 rules in place at the time.

