

Sandford Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 5th February 2026
in the Village Hall, Fanny's Lane, Sandford, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs, Ward, Dalton, Fyfe, Larcombe, and Stephens

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills, Clerk to the Council,
County Councillor Keable from minute no: 26/02/
2 Members of the public

26/02/208 Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllr Crooke, Hooper, Miles, and Sandys

Apologies were also received from District Cllr Jenkins

26/02/209 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the item being discussed.

26/02/210 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (confidential information)

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe, seconded: Cllr Larcombe (all in favour)

26/02/211 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th January 2026

*It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th January 2026*

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe, seconded: Cllr Dalton (majority in favour 1 abstention not present at the meeting)

26/02/212 County Councillor Report

The County Cllr report is at minute no: 26/02/223

26/02/213 District Councillors Reports

District Cllr Tuffin spoke about

- the library survey, about closures and reductions in opening times. there has been a good response.
- There is some funding available to help people suffering from storm damage and for emergency equipment

Members have been kept updated with reference to lighting at the zed pods. And a fix was imminent.

- Everyone was reminded of need to tape over the positive terminals, when disposing of batteries.

It was suggested that County and District Cllrs might like to contribute to the "The Crossing" with updates.

26/02/214 Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Order 3(f) members of the public are permitted to make representations and ask questions, the period set aside shall not exceed 15 minutes. It should be noted that answers will generally not be given at the meeting, where the questions are delivered, each member of the public is entitled to speak once.

A member of the public asked about the progress with the gifted land. The transfer is now signed off and it is expected to complete week commencing 9th February. Land Registry process is taking a long time. It was confirmed that there will be no legal fees payable by the parish council for the transaction.

Members were advised that creation of the path is estimated to cost in the region of £8500 to £10,000. A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the

Installation of the Bench on the gifted land and the possibility of it being placed around the tree, it was suggested that an arboriculturist should be engaged as the tree is looking very fragile.

26/02/215 To receive a report from the Clerk to the Council to include payments, budget, and bank reconciliation,

Members were provided with bank reconciliation, list of payments and current budget information, showing the situation continues to be healthy.

It was **resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation, payments and current budget review.

Proposed: Cllr Larcombe, Seconded Cllr Stephens, (all in favour)

Staff pyts	513.60	
Staff Costs	162.18	HMRC PAYE
Training	275.85	
Christmas Tree	50.00	
Admin	32.80	
Grant St Swithun's	710.00	
Grant CAB	<u>240.00</u>	
	Total	1984.13

26/02/216 To review the asset register.

The asset register was reviewed, and it was **resolved** to accept it after the new defibrillator at the sports pavilion was added. Members were unsure whether the hedge trimmer was still serviceable. This will be checked.

Action Point: Check viability of hedge trimmer with Steve McCulloch.

26/02/217 To consider a report for creation of the Vision Statement

Members discussed the draft Vision Statement; it was agreed to add in to the first Paragraph “and Parish of Upton Hellions.” It was further agreed to add in to the fourth bullet point “retention and support of the local school”
It was **resolved** to adopt the Vision Statement going forward as part of the lead into the Neighbourhood Plan. It will be added to the new website for reference.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe, Seconded Cllr Dalton, (all in favour,)

Members also requested that copies of the existing village plan should be circulate to them, to confirm alignment with the Vision Statement.

Action Points: find and circulate copies of the village plan.

26/02/218 To consider an update on the Neighbourhood Plan future

- **To appoint a lead councillor and steering group** (this was deferred to the next meeting)
- **To consider a budget and funding sources** (this was deferred to the next meeting)
- **To consider the use of external planning support** (this was deferred to the next meeting)

Action Point: Agenda item next meeting

26/02/219 To consider the Action Log

It was agreed to note the Action Log.

26/02/220 To consider and adopt Draft Policies

Preferred Contractors Policy, deferred to next meeting

IT Policy

It was **resolved** to adopt the IT Policy. A question was raised as to why we needed all the new policies and councillors were reminded that it was to satisfy last year’s internal audit

Proposed: Cllr Ward, seconded: Cllr Fyfe, (Majority in favour one abstention)

Action Point: Agenda item

26/02/221 To receive an update on S106 monies

Following an enquiry to DCC regarding S106 monies, the response received confirmed the only money currently available is for a footpath linking Sandford to Libbets Grange.

26/01/222 To consider an update on flooding.

It was agreed to propose a vote of thanks to Dominic Dunn, Pauline Madden, Graham Baker and Jack Munday, for their efforts to prevent flooding and Shute Stream. And the timely intervention of MDDC prior to the heaviest rain to clear Shute Stream. Also, thanks to Mike Snow for prompting DCC to provide a temporary fix to clear the flood on Fannys Lane.

26/02/223 County Councillor arrived at the meeting and gave his report.

He went through his report (circulated earlier)

- This report will be placed on the website, he asked Council views on the preferred style of post for the Lamb inn. The options highlighted were circular wooden posts, square oak posts like the existing, or steel posts.

It was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded: by Cllr Dawson that square oak posts should be used. There were 4 votes in favour and 1 vote against.

- He also reported that there may be some funding available to assist with provision of a lengthsman. The council agreed to continue to press for recruitment.
- He suggested the Council write to DCC requesting confirmation in writing on who has responsibility for the maintenance of Shute Stream. Information so far suggests MDDC are responsible for the part under the road, DCC are responsible for the stream by the road and the culvert under the road up to the property boundary on the other side of the road where responsibility passes to the property owner.
Action Point: Clerk to write to DCC for written clarification.
- Regarding the flooding on Fannys Lane due to a broken drain in the field. The situation is that DCC were awaiting approval from the landowner to go ahead with the work. Cllr Ward agreed to approach landowner
- Some tarmac work is planned on the road to West Sandford which it was agreed was almost impassable. No date for the works has been set. The general state of the road at the junction with the Henstill road was also highlighted by councillors. It was agreed that it needs to be included in the West Sandford Road works.

26/02/224 To receive verbal updates on

- Online banking, the forms have been received from Lloyds Bank and had been brought to the meeting for signature. This will enable the mandates to be completed by the Clerk, updating the signatories.
- The new Website is progressing.

26/02/225 To consider grant applications

Application from the Village Hall for curtains was deferred until receipt of application.

26/02/226 To consider an update on the Recognition Awards and Annual Electors Meeting date

The Chair is not available until mid to late May, the hall booking will be changed. A suitable alternative date will be sort and publicised.

26/02/227 To consider moving forward with a survey and public meeting

(double yellow line issues in Sandford)

Following some suggestions and additions to the draft questionnaire, it was **resolved** to move forward with the questionnaire, which will be circulated. A variety of options to access the questionnaire to ensure everyone has a

chance to contribute. Responses collated and followed up with a public meeting

Proposed: Cllr Larcombe, seconded: Cllr Ward (all in favour)

26/02/228 To consider an update on the Lamb Railings
Updates were covered in the County Councillor report

26/02/229 To receive an update on the Michael Lee Bench
This was covered under public participation

The next meeting will be Thursday 5th March 2026 at the Village Hall

Part B

26/02/230 It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting as the following item involves likely discussion of confidential information.
Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded Cllr Larcombe, (all in favour)

26/02/231 To consider staff matters
Members were updated on the current situation

26/02/232 It was resolved to re-admit members of the press and public
Proposed: Cllr Ward, Seconded Cllr Larcombe, (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

Dated