

Sandford Parish Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 7th May 2026
in the Parish Hall, Fanny's Lane, Sandford, at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs, Stephens (Vice-Chair) Crooke, Dalton, Fyfe, Hooper, and Larcombe,

In attendance: Mrs M J Mills, Clerk to the Council,
District Councillors Tuffin and Jenkins
County Councillor Keable
4 Members of the public

In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair took the chair.

26/05/23 Election of Chair for the Council Year 2026/27

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Dalton

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

Cllr Dalton accepted the appointment commencing from the June Meeting,

Cllr Stephens remained in the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Cllr Dalton signed the declaration of office

26/05/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sandys, Miles and Ward

26/05/25 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the item being discussed. There were no declarations.

26/05/26 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 Hooper (all in favour)

26/05/27 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd April 2026

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd April 2026

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

26/05/28 County Councillor Report

The County Cllr had circulated a report by email, (see website) Work is proceeding on the Local Plan, timetable is DCC Cabinet meet in May, scoping Local Plan, June it will go to consultation to receive information. The Council has 30 months from October to come up with a plan to be published around March 2029.

He went on to speak about HELAA (Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment), owners are being asked to submit sites for housing and employment consideration. MDDC have been asked to identify sites for 6000 houses over the next 20 years. Land Banking is proving an issue.

He advised there is now a policy for transferring assets from MDDC to parishes. There was a discussion about the bench outside the Lamb Inn and the railings. Members agreed to write to the Health and Safety Executive. There was also a discussion regarding Weavers Way and the delay, it was agreed to write to the solicitors.

26/05/29 District Councillors Reports

District Cllr Tuffin's report was circulated by email: (see website)

Members were advised the resilience fund will soon be available for those on a low income suffering a sudden financial shock. MDDC voted recently in support of rights of rivers, ecological and cultural, aligning with DCC. Anti-social behaviour is being under reported. They were questioned about protecting the villages with no gas supplies. They also spoke about river pollution, some of the dirtiest rivers are in the County. Members asked about MDDC assets that could be transferred e.g Land at Weavers Way. (This will be an agenda item)

26/05/30 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.

Members of the public raised queries about the bench in Church Street, and others in the parish, the possibility of a digital diary on the website, Complaints were raised about the allotments, this will be an agenda item.

26/05/31 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.

Payments were approved in the sum of £2599.13 (details will be on the web)

26/05/32 Appointment of Committees

Deferred to next meeting

26/05/33 Review of Subscriptions

To review and agree council memberships (e.g. associations)

It was **resolved** to agree memberships and subscriptions (DALC, DCT, ICO, SLCC and to check on membership of CPRE

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

26/05/34 Schedule of Meetings for the Coming Year

To agree dates, times, and venue of meetings

It was **resolved** to accept the calendar of meetings with a start of 7pm from November to March inclusive.

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

26/05/35 Financial Matters (To review banking arrangements and signatories)
It was agreed that the current signatories should remain in place and the Clerk to the Council to check all registered signatories

26/05/36 To consider the Action Log (herewith)
The Action Log was noted

26/05/37 To receive an update on the Recognition Awards and Annual Electors Meeting date
Members were given an update on nominations and invited speakers

26/05/38 To consider a date for a public meeting re parking issues & survey response
This was deferred

To confirm the venue and date of the next meetings
Electors Meeting 28th May 2026 Full Council 4th June

Part B

26/05/39 To resolve: 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 the likely disclosure of confidential information

26/05/40 To consider staff matters
Members were updated on the current situation in relation to the tribunal. Members had been previously advised of the resignation of the Clerk with effect from 31st May 2026.
It was **resolved** to proceed with recruitment, with a closing date of May 31st and interviews commencing the 2nd week of June.
It was also resolved that the current clerk would be employed as a locum from the 1st June 2026 until a replacement is recruited and will mentor if required.
Proposed: Cllr Fyfe, seconded: Cllr Larcombe (all in favour)

26/05/41 To resolve to re-admit members of the press and public
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed Dated