

Minutes of Sandon Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30 pm, Wallington Village Hall

Present: Cllr F Cannon, Cllr K Chamberlain, Cllr J de Uphaugh (Chair) Cllr B Morris & Cllr B Wordley.
In attendance: Cllr S Jarvis, Mrs H Stubbings, Clerk, Mr M Wicksteed, Responsible Financial Officer and 6 members of the public.

- 20.01 Welcome.
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies for absence – Cllr P Bolton, Mrs C Scott.
- 20.02 Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest on items on the agenda – Localism Act 2011 s33
Dispensations as standing.
- 20.03 To confirm the Minutes of Sandon Parish Council’s meeting held on the 13th November 2019
Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr B Morris and seconded by Cllr J de Uphaugh. Resolved that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.
- 20.04 Matters Arising
- a) VH Deed – the Deeds have been reviewed carefully. The Parish Council is the registered owner of the hall subject to a trust deed under which it is the Custodian Trustee. There is a Management Committee made up of a minimum number of 12 who are also Trustees, and who may co-opt a further 6-members. The provisions of the deed were discussed.
- It was proposed that the deed be updated and varied to make it current, pursuant to the Trustees Act; to include a clause that makes future logical changes possible. The Minister of Education should be informed of the variation along with the Land Registry and Charity Commission. Current acting Management Committee may continue in post.
- Cllr Wordley explained that the process was complicated but given that funds did not permit the retention of external professional advisors she was willing to undertake the drafting if all were content and on the basis that it was not her area of expertise.
- It was proposed by Cllr Cannon that the Village Hall Deed be varied to be in line with current Acts, 2nd by Cllr K Chamberlain – **Resolved BW to liaise with Village Hall Chair.**
- b) Neighbourhood Plan – Wallington is identified as a Category B village in the Local Plan and so to protect the village the residents are producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Rushden village at this stage is not interested in producing a plan.
Sandon could produce a Parish Plan with guide lines if desired but would require buy in from other interested parties and not be a Parish Council led objective.
- c) Update of Standing Orders – the small amendments have been undertaken and publicised.
- 20.05 To hear reports from nominated representatives for the following
- i. Access/Rights of Way – Rushden footpath 1; In an e-mail from Julia Clerk it had been proposed that a kissing gate be installed on f-p 1. This foot-path starts in Sandon and borders Sandon and Rushden boundaries. Sandon having an interest will request provision of a suitable accessible kissing gate. **BW**
- ii. Highways – Gannock Road in a very poor state and dangerous. The Parish Council will write to HCC and Highways to suggest they are not being responsible in looking after their assets by allowing drains and gullies to be blocked. – **Clerk (Chair HCC & Phil Bibby)**

Litter Pick – to be held on Saturday in March 7th may include cleaning of road signage. Rushden and Wallington are also holding litter picking events on other Saturdays in March.

Fingerpost – the refurbishment of the finger post will require removal of ancillary signs, resitting of them following refurbishment and repair of the original sign. Cllr Jarvis offered to pay a grant of half of the total cost from his locality budget. The total cost will be in the region of £2,500 to £3,000.

The Parish Council proseed by Cllr F Chamberlain 2nd Cllr F Cannon that the refurbishment of the finger post be carried out– agreed. Clerk to apply for locality budget.

- iii. Church – Nothing to report
- iv. Sports Club and Roe Green – There was a suggestion to write to the Duke of Edinburgh who had opened the Sports pavilion to invite him back.
- v. Village Hall – The redecoration of the hall should be completed by the end of January and new wall heaters have been purchased. It was noted that it is Village Halls Week; 20th – 26th January.
- vi. Planning & Licensing Applications –
 - a) Gannock Thatch – the plan does not identify the correct curtilage of the plot and the number of buildings and additions connected to this property. The proposed building is large and the addition of another building may create an entity that may not be approved.
This is not a permitted development project or of a mobile nature.
The PC object to the application on the grounds that the plan is inaccurate and misleading and not tied in to the current house. **FC**

20.06 To hear from Cllr S Jarvis.

Waste bin collecting is still causing some problems, but it is improving.

The Local Plan is progressing with further public consultation. Earliest adoption may in the Autumn 2020.

An SID for Rushden is included in the Highways budget for 2020-21

North Herts Transport & Growth plan – generally only covers towns and doesn't reflect scale of house building. The plan does nothing to ease congestion in towns or rat runs through villages.

A505; proposals for improvements will be made junction by junction. Due to lack of funds or buy-in there is little appetite for the provision of roundabouts.

Concern was raised about the new junction/bollards off the A10 at the Redrow housing site in Buntingford as they are almost invisible to see. **SJ**

20.07 To receive the Safety Officers Report.

Nothing to report on Roe Green.

20.08 To receive the Responsible Financial Officer's report noting;

- a) 2019/20 Year to date expenditure as anticipated
- b) Payments for January 2020
Expenditure of £1,895.99 + £25 for hire of Wallington Village Hall + Sandon Village Hall heaters. Total of £2,416.45 **Proposed FC, 2nd KC – agreed.**
- c) Budget
The approved Precept has been submitted to NHDC.
- d) Internal Audit Plan
The IAP needs to be completed before year end. David Camps has indicated this will be his last year of carrying out the internal audit. Sandon Parish Council accepted the IAP. **Proposed JdeU 2nd BM - agreed**

The need of an Internal Auditor for the Parish Council will be advertised to meet best practise.
Clerk/Village Assembly

e) Financial & Business Risks Review

The current RFO has agreed a one-month handover with the incoming RFO. The need to update Pension Auto-enrolment will be held off until after this date to allow incoming RFO decide if they wish to enrol.

The Financial & Business Risks Review Document was proposed to be accepted by **FC, 2nd BM - agreed**

20.09 Matters for next agenda.

The RFO requested time at the next meeting for all matters related to year end.

20.10 To confirm meeting dates for 2020

11th March, 6th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November and 22nd April for the APM

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date