

Minutes of Sandon Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 7.30 pm, Sandon Village Hall

Present: Cllr P Bolton, Cllr F Cannon (Chair), Cllr K Chamberlain, Cllr B Morris & Cllr B Wordley.

In attendance: Cllr S Jarvis, Mrs H Stubbings, Clerk, Mr M Wicksteed & Mrs C Scott; Responsible Financial Officers and 5 members of the public.

20.11 Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence – Cllr J de Uphaugh

20.12 Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest on items on the agenda – Localism Act 2011 s33

Dispensations as standing.

20.13 To confirm the Minutes of Sandon Parish Council's meeting held on the 15th January 2020.

Corrections; the date of the Litter Pick- 14th March and SID erected in Redhill NOT Rushden.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr K Chamberlain and seconded by Cllr B Morris.

It was Resolved that the minutes with small corrections be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

20.14 Matters Arising

a) VH Deed – a new Deed was circulated, signed copies to be sent to HM Land Registry and The Charities Commission; proposed by BW to execute as a Deed 2nd Cllr F Cannon – resolved.

b) Finger Post – The grant from the Locality Budget has been received. SJ will liaise with Gary Hemming at Ringway to progress the work. CC Clerk.

20.15 To hear reports from nominated representatives for the following

i. Access/Rights of Way – radar keys are available for lock on new gate on Rushden f-p 1.

ii. Highways –

a) Litter Pick, Saturday in March 14th in conjunction with Wallington & Rushden villages. The school will hold their litter pick on Friday. Insurance and Risk Assessment now compliant, subject to PPE equipment being provided and under 18's being accompanied with a parent or guardian. The Risk Assessment for the Litter Pick was signed by the Chair.

b) Weight limit in Cottered, some villagers are worried about more traffic coming through Sandon if the limit goes ahead. Cllr Jarvis explained that there is also to be a weight limit in Baldock. Heavy duty traffic will be encouraged to use the A602/ A505/A10. This proposal is work in progress and not imminent.

c) Gannock road surface, is in a very poor state, BM to supply report numbers to SJ

d) Killogs road is now dangerous due to its condition.

iii. Church – No report.

iv. Sports Club and Roe Green – F-P by Aylwins; the wrong pathway has been cut and the excess brush now obstructs the actual f-p. PB to contact Julia Clerk.

The dangerous willow tree on Roe Green is still an issue ongoing, however the tree at The Willows may now be removed.

The alarm at Sports Club has gone off recently.

The play equipment on Roe Green is rather dated and a request for new play equipment and possible re-sighting of equipment was suggested – discuss at next meeting.

An update on the provision of a replacement sports club storage shed was requested – PB to contact Ben Cannon

- v. Village Hall – At the meeting held on the 5th March items discussed included the revised Deeds, the redecoration and deep clean and the installation of the new wall heaters. It was noted that in some areas the guttering needed repairing.
- vi. Planning & Licensing Applications –
 - a. Payne End – reapplication pair of semis; no changes.
 - b. 14 Dark Lane – no objection prop FC, 2nd FC -all agreed
 - c. Land by Walnut Tree Cottage; the response from the PC to the request was that “in the PC's opinion, and it is only an opinion, there is no objection to the principle of an appropriate dwelling being built on this piece of land: it being land within the development limit of the village. The site is in a conservation area and currently there is no defined access to the land. Local Planning and the Conservation Office will make the final decision. The Clerk will respond.

20.16 To hear from Cllr S Jarvis.

The list of next years planned highways work is now available. There is continuing discussion about signage on the A505. There is new funding for rural buses. The Local Plan consultation continues, the plan may be available by end of the year.

20.17 To receive the Safety Officers Report.

Mud on equipment, but no concerns about equipment.

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

a) Financial highlights; total income of £10,778.45 including £1,500 from the locality budget towards the repair of the finger post.

b) Payments for March 2020 include, mower guard, VH lighting, VH rent for PC meetings and Officers expenses Total of £615.84
Proposed FC, 2nd KC – agreed. Available funds £10,192. 28

c) Internal Audit and report.

The Report was accepted and the PC will follow up on the actions. Remove CV from website. Thanks to David Camps, very thorough. In line with GDP in the next financial year new Declarations will be required. NB comment to remove retired Councillors declarations of interest from website is not correct; required to remain posted until end of financial year.

d) Internal Audit effectiveness review.

The review was read out and agreed. **Proposed by FC 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 reserves.

Reserves are better than Council's Reserves policy of £2,700.

f) Insurance cover review.

The currently levels of insurance provided by Zurich are deemed to be adequate.

h) Annual Return and external audit

The RFO is awaiting documentation from the External Auditor, PK Littlejohn. The RFO will apply for exemption.

i) Bank mandate - RFO is authorised to access bank information electronically. This will need to be changed to Caroline Scott from 1st April 2020 when she takes over the role of RFO.

20.19 Tasks to be completed before 31st March 2020

The RFO is working towards preparing all year end documentation for an anticipated annual return date of 22nd May, with approval by the Council at its 6th May meeting.

20.20 To confirm arrangements for grass cutting for 2020

Robert Wornham and David Locke kindly agreed to cut the grass in the village as volunteers. The Clerk will liaise with DL in regards to PPE equipment ie ear muffs, gloves, shoes and expenses. Arrangements for storage and security of the mower was discussed. The PC are most grateful for the assistance of the grass cutting volunteers.

20.21 To discuss arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, 22nd April

Provision of refreshments were offered by the Wornham's in the absence of the Clerk. Refreshments will be provided from 7.15pm for a 7.45pm. Clerk to send invitations to local organisations who receive grants.

20.22 To note correspondence

a) Blocked drain on Roe Green. Cllr PB will talk to the residents concerned

b) The Application for Neighbourhood Area Designation in Wallington & Rushden is open for consultation.

c) Vandalism outside school of parked cars – the PC were concerned to learn about this happening outside school. The PC noted that if damage had been caused it was a police matter. The PC asked to be kept informed of any further action. The PC will raise awareness of this problem in a gazette item.

20.23 Matters for next agenda.

Play equipment on Roe Green
Car vandalism

20.24 To confirm meeting dates for 2020

6th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.18 pm

Chairman

Date