Sandon and Burston Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2024 at 7.00pm at

Sandon Parish Rooms, Lichfield Road, Sandon, Staford ST18 0DN

Attendees

Cllr H Wildblood (Chairman) Cllr A Hudson (Vice Chairman) Cllr L Barnett

(Left at 20:34pm)

Cllr R Wildblood Cllr L Barnett Cllr A Greaves Cllr G Wyatt Cllr P Hickey

Cllr K Aspin – SBC Nikola Evans – Clerk 3 x MOP

	Chairman to formally open the meeting
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1	To receive any declaration of Interests on agenda items None received
2	To receive apologies
	None, all members attended
3	To approve the minutes of the last meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting – 24th July 2024
	Approved as a true record by all that attended
4	To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation. (Members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue over which it has power for up to 5 minutes each, with the item lasting a maximum of 20 minutes).
	Could the dates of the meeting's be put in compass? – Clerk to action
	Councillors' information need's updating in the noticeboards – Clerk to action
	There will be no service conducted @ Burston church until October
	 Diesel spill reported from Sandon Shops to the Dog & Doublet, clean up has not been carried out
	very well, what else do they plan on doing to rectify the issue? Diesel is still sitting on the road
	surface. – Clerk to report to highways
	 Drains are still and issue, there are 22 in total. Council has agreed the clerk will report every month until they are sorted. This clerk advised this would not be the best course of action. The council agreed they still want it actioning, going against the advice given by the proper officer. Near miss reported on 03.09.24, a vehicle went around the wrong way of the memorial narrowly missing pedestrians. Clerk to add to incidents list
	White lines eroding by the Dog & Doublet junction – Clerk to report
	The council want a meeting with highways and the local county councillor, lan Parry. To discuss
	all the issues, they are experiencing – Clerk to action:
	Speeding
	o Gully clearing
	 Installation of SID's
	o Potholes
	 What has been done to help residents gain access to loved one's graves at Sandon Church? The clerk advised a letter had been written, asking if they could carry out maintenance on the churchyard. Clerk advised the parish council do not have any legal right to demand any maintenance is carried out. A member of the public has offered to talk with the church wardens and report back.
5	To receive the Borough Councillor's Report
3	Cllr K Aspin reported on the following:
	Accommodation for the asylum seekers in Stafford has now been rejected and will not be taking
	place.
	Planning application for Drointon Lane has been refused
	There are two consultations taking place now
	o Licensing
	 Governing Act
	Submissions can be submitted via the Stafford Borough Council website.
	 2nd round of Business innovation grants is now open, closing date 31st December 2024
	 The green solutions are campaigning for business to reduce their carbon footprints, more
	information can be found on Stafford Borough's website
	 Local plan consultations have been postponed, the NPPF is currently going through consultations, submissions can be put forward until 24th September 2024, more information can be found on

Stafford Borough's website. Once these consultations have been completed, the local plan consultations will continue.

6 To receive the County Councillor's Report None received

Meeting closed to the public

7 To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes

- a) Planters Sandon The suggested location on the corner of the Dog & Doublet has been ruled out. New suggested location, to purchase two square planters to sit either side of the bench opposite Rustique Living. Cllr A Greaves and Cllr G Wyatt will determine dimensions, clerk advised they much not obstruct visibility for vehicle users, nor must they cause an obstruction to footpath users.
- b) Speed indication devices Clerk advised consultation from Staffordshire Safer Roads (SSR) and Stafford County Council believe it would be better to wait. There are already three cameras installed in Sandon, SSR are conducting assessments to upgrade all cameras. The installation of other speed indication devices (SID's) could hinder the resultant effect the speed cameras offer. Clerk advised to wait until after these assessments and upgrades have been carried out, however the council agreed the speed cameras do not work now and want SID's installed as soon as possible. Clerk advised the council needs to work closely with their highways officer. Clerk to arrange a meeting. Clerk advised it would be approx. £8,000 to purchase and install two SID's.

The council reported the results from the speed survey that took place two years ago, do not represent the feeling of the community. They would like a new survey to be conducted. Clerk advised there is a survey that can be conducted over a week and identifies speed, volume and vehicle type, costing around £350. The parish council approved the expenditure, clerk to action.

- c) Quotations for a hearing loop Clerk presented options and costs to the council:
 - Option 1 a microphone and hearing loop neckless set £1,263 + VAT consisting of 1 x microphone and 4 x necklaces. The clerk advise it would not be suitable; the passing of the microphone could be problematic, the council agreed.
 - Option 2 a tabletop mic paired with hearing loop necklaces £1689 + VAT for the tabletop unit then £159 + VAT per necklaces – the clerk advised this was the best option. The council discussed applying for a VCSE grant to pay for the equipment, clerk advised this may not be an option, the council would not meet the criteria, Clerk to try anyway.
- d) gardening maintenance update on visits and appointment The council reported no maintenance has taken place despite being advised by the contractors a starting date of w/c 12th August 2024. Two scheduled cuts should have already taken place with the next one due w/c 9th September. Clerk to speak with contractors and ask why no maintenance has taken place? The council would like photographic evidence (before and after photo's) to prove maintenance has been carried out.
- e) Bus service Correspondence received from Rt.Hon. Sir Gavin Williamson CBE MP, advising he has taken up this issue with both the county council and our local county councillor, he will share any updates he receives.
- f) Tow path The bare minimum of maintenance has been carried out by Canal's and River Trust; the council have requested further maintenance be carried out to cut the hedges right back. Clerk to action.
- g) Footpath 36 and damaged bridge across the River Trent. Cllr H Wildblood has contacted the lead project manager at Rights of Way. They report:

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of Public Footpath 36 Sandon and Burston that has been necessary in the interests of public safety due to a damaged bridge.

The County Council are committed and planning to undertake works with the aim of reinstating the bridge before the Winter storm season returns and our specialist engineers are in the process of finalising details.

There have been numerous challenges to overcome due to the rural and remote nature of the location. This has presented not only access challenges for heavy plant and materials but also requires us to consider protected wildlife. Additionally, there is also a risk that the existing bridge may be unusable once recovered from the river. Due to the costs involved in attending site, we're keen to pre-empt this risk if we can so we're ensuring our plans consider all options that will enable us to achieve a reinstated bridge so that the path can be re-opened as efficiently as possible. Please be assured that we are committed to resolving the issue and, whilst public safety must always be our priority, we understand the inconvenience caused. Thank you for your continued patience and to the landowners we're engaging with for their co-operation. Possible plans are, considering whether replacing the bridge with a new bridge structure is more likely to mean we achieve a reinstated path, we welcome any feedback on this point or any other concerns. " The parish council will provide further updates at future meetings. Finance - RFO a) Payment approval - APPROVED Payments made and to be made since last meeting in July 2024 Cashbook Sub total VAT ref no. Description Salary and PAYE Salaries 03/09/2024 £241.66 £241.66 1086 Salary and PAYE HMRC PAYE 03/09/2024 £60.40 £60.40 1087 Office Running Costs August £27.95 £27.95 1088 03/09/2024 Office Running Costs September | Clerk £14.00 £14.00 1089 03/09/2024 £344.01 less payments already made £302.06 Total left to pay £41.95 b) Budget summary - APPROVED c) Bank reconciliation - APPROVED To consider matters relating to planning None received To adopt the following policies a) model councillor officer protocol - Circulated and adopted b) antibullying-and-harassment-policy - Circulated and adopted c) Equality and Diversity Policy - Circulated and adopted d) Homeworking Policy – Circulated and adopted
 e) Lone Working Policy – Circulated and adopted f) Social media - Circulated and adopted g) Grievance Policy - Circulated and adopted h) Complaints Procedures for parish - Circulated and adopted Councillor Information and items for the next Agenda Consider purchasing an information board for Sandon stock, MOP has offered to write a suitable

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inscription.

The parish council would like to pass on their condolences to Hannah Marr's family. Hannah served as a clerk and RFO for Sandon and Burston Parish Council.

- 12 To agree date of next meeting - Extraordinary Meeting 1st October 2024 @ Sandon Parish Rooms from 7pm
 - a) 5th November 2024
 - b) 7th January 2025
 - c) No meetings in August or December.
- 13 Meeting Closed – 20:37pm

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Cllr Hugo Wildblood, Chairman Signed