

Sandon and Burston Parish Council Meeting Minutes

<https://sandonandburstonpc.org.uk/>

Minutes for a meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025, at Sandon Parish Room, Lichfield Road, Sandon, Stafford ST18 0DN. The meeting commenced at 7.04pm.

Present: Cllr H Wildblood (Chairman), Cllr L Barnett, Cllr P Hickey, Cllr R Wildblood, Cllr Aspin (Stafford Borough) and the clerk.

25.01.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Cllr G Wyatt , Cllr Hudson, Cllr Greaves. - APPROVED

Councillors RESOLVED to send Cllr Wyatt flowers. Clerk to arrange.

25.01.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. NONE

25.01.003 TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF an Extraordinary MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD. RESOLVED

25.01.004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

Bus and Post Office Questionnaire – resident sent a comment via email.

Could Bus Service 101 be diverted through Burston/Sandon, as current route is from Stafford to Stone. Councillors noted that Bus Service 841 could include Sandon/Burston after it stops in Salt. Council NOTED comments from resident and agreed to include survey results in March Meeting.

25.01.005 TO RECEIVE ORAL/WITTEN REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Aspin (Stafford Borough) advised the Stafford Borough Corporate Plan Consultation is taking place, closing date 17.01.2025. Councillors RESOLVED to make comments as individuals. Rough Sleeper survey is taking place, plus Housing Assessment including a call for sites from Landowners. The Local Plan will be updated once the call for sites deadline has passed (April 2025). <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/call-sites-including-brownfield-land-register> Stafford Borough Charging Committee to meet this month.

The National Government white paper regarding streamlining local authorities could bring change to Staffordshire. (devolution).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper#how-we-will-deliver-devolution-in-england>

25.01.006 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

**FOOTPATH 36 – TWO SAINTS WAY – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.**

Cllr Parry (Staffordshire County Council) advised the project is ongoing, but a fairly slow road to get necessary agreements to conduct the work. The Parish Council will continue to request updates and report these at the next meeting.

**CULVERT – BURSTON – UPDATE**

Clerk made a request to Canal and River Trust to clear the silt which has built up on the banks. Responded unable to help, but Staffordshire County Council may have a Flood Liaison

Officer who can help. Council RESOLVED to contact SCC and make the request.

**SANDON VILLAGE GREEN PLANTERS – UPDATE**

Groundwork for planters completed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Council would like to thank Simon Shelley for an exceptional job in completing the works.

Council updated that two planters will be delivered in early January. Asset Register updated. Council RESOLVED this as a Community Project and for Clerk to obtain one quote from Oak Tree Project to provide plants/soil. Council will consider quote in March meeting.

**SALT BOX – BURSTON - UPDATE**

The Salt box was delivered and installed in Burston on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Clerk updated Asset Register updated.

Council would like to thank Cllr Hugo Wildblood for installation.

Council RESOLVED for Clerk to obtain a plastic scoop for the box.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – GULLY CLEARING WITHIN PARISH – UPDATE**

Council made the request to Staffordshire County Council via their portal and emailed Cllr Mark Deaville (SCC) on 10.12.2024. Further information requested by SCC and maps and location of gullies in Parish provided to Mr Portch (SCC) on 19.12.2024. Clerk to distribute report once received.

**FOOTPATH A51 CLEARING – UPDATE**

Cllr Patrick Hickey updated meeting that Contractor, Simon Down Groundworks had cut back hedge and the footpath clearing of grass/weeds/leaves from Hilderstone Road up the A51 to the two Cherry Trees (old bus stop) will take place in early January, including the end of Pearl Lane.

Councillors RESOLVED if invoice received before March meeting, a cheque can be signed, in order to comply with Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. The payment will be recorded in March meeting if made.

Cllr Hickey will liaise with Contractor, Simon Down Groundworks, to obtain a quote for further footpath works which will be considered in March meeting.

**BUS SERVICE/POST OFFICE HUB – QUESTIONNAIRE – UPDATE**

The Questionnaire was distributed and Council have received 20 replies, but further responses expected. Council RESOLVED for Clerk to collate responses and provide report in March Meeting.

25.01.007 TO DISCUSS THE POST OFFICE HUB AND HOW TO SUPPORT THE FACILITY.

Council informed by Sandon Parish Room Treasurer that Post Office service may be cut to new opening on Tuesday, 10am to Noon. Council RESOLVED to write to Post Office Manager in support of service and advising to advertise service in Compass Magazine.

25.01.008 TO DISCUSS HOW PARISH COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT THE SANDON PARISH ROOM

Council discussed how they could support the Parish Room and RESOLVED to offer to join

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the Parish Room Committee in an advisory capacity. Cllr Barnett offered to be nominated, Clerk to contact Parish Room Committee with this suggestion.

25.01.009 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE SPEED INDICATOR SIGNS PROJECT DETAILS AND TIMELINE.

Council discussed current County Speed Cameras and RESOLVED for Clerk to investigate with Safer Roads Staffordshire, if the speed cameras can be upgraded too digital. Clerk to report to March Meeting.

Council reviewed the Speed Indicator project and RESOLVED the following:

Clerk to complete the SIDs Location sign paperwork with SCC.

Clerk to complete the SIDs permit to dig paperwork with SCC.

Clerk to follow up with Cllr Parry (SCC) regarding him providing fund from his Ward budget to the cost of location fee.

Clerk to approach Highways regarding waiving the costs of permit to dig.

Clerk/Chair to transfer £8,500 funds from savings account to current account.

25.01.0010 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND RECEIVE PLANNING DECISIONS: NONE

25.01.0011 FINANCE – TO CONSIDER & AUTHORISE PAYMENTS OF LIST BELOW AND RECEIVE FINANCIAL UPDATES

All December payments made 04.12.2024

**Nat West letter** – advising reduction of interest rates – 10.12.2024

**Precept 2025/2026** request made to Stafford Borough Council for £15,399 (includes Gov Grant of £499.04) – Band D cost £86.69

**Asset Register update** – added Salt Box and Planters –new Value £9,789.44 – RESOLVED for Chair and Clerk to sign.

**NatWest bank signatures** – RESOLVED for Cllr Barnett, Cllr Hickey, Cllr Adams and Cllr Hudson to be added to mandate. Clerk to report to March meeting signatory list.

**HP Printer** – free ink trail ends 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 first payment 19<sup>th</sup> February. RESOLVED

**Pension Regulator** – updated contact details – next declaration 2026

**Simon Down Groundwork** invoice – RESOLVED to pay in between meetings.

RESOLVED to make all payments below.

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
23/1081	Amberol Ltd – Two Barrell Planters (Brown)	£536.10 (inc £89.35 VAT)
24/DC	Kingfisher Direct – Salt Box	£145.20 (inc £24.20 VAT)
25/DD	The Countryside Charity – Annual Subscription	£36
26/so	Council Administration	£332.95
27/so	Homeworking Allowance	£10
Payments for January meeting		
28/1082	Staffordshire County Council – website hosting and domain 2025/2026	£157.95
29/1083	SJS Home and Garden Services – planter installation	£171.74
BANK STATEMENTS		

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NatWest current account	31.12.2024	£6,196.94
NatWest savings account	31.12.2024	£15,844.78

25.01.0012 CORRESPONDENCE

Received 10 items of correspondence.

**Road Crime Team** in Hixon reported Road Crime Team had carried out Speed Checks. Councillors RESOLVED for Clerk to contact Road Crime Team to request speed checks on A51.

**Staffordshire Commissioner** survey re council tax contributions for Policing and Fire & Rescue services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The consultation runs until 12 January, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/precept2526> - RESOLVED for Councillors to complete as individuals.

**Stone Area Parish Liaison Group** meeting on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 3.00pm, Stone Heritage Centre, 13 Newcastle Street, Stone. RESOLVED to send apologies, but request minutes.

**Compass Magazine** deadline – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025. RESOLVED to submit an article to include, Post Office support, Footpath clearing, Christmas Trees and Speed Indicator project.

25.01.0013 CLERK REPORT

**Parish Room** – Clerk provided dates for first quarter of 2025 PC meetings.

**Budget 2025/2026** on website.

**Civility and Respect** Certificate on website.

**Christmas Trees** photos on website

**Map of Parish**, SCC have confirmed they will add a separate tab to website, free of charge.

**Remembrance Sunday** Letter dated 19.11.2024 sent to Chief Constable, Crime Commissioner and Sir Gavin Williamson, forwarded letter to press offices, as no reply. Sir Gavin Williamson provided a letter of support for road closure/traffic control for the event.

25.01.0014 COUNCILLORS REPORTS (information only)

Councillor requested for the March Meeting Agenda:

General Reserves Policy, update on Boat in Burston Car Park, presentation by Sandon Estate regarding Stafford Borough call for sites information.

Council contact information for Noticeboards to be updated and laminated. Noticeboards to be updated by Cllr H Wildblood and Cllr P Hickey.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm. The meeting was formally closed at 20.35

Signed.....