

SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Sandford Community Sports Pavillion on 4th NOVEMBER 2021.

At a meeting of the Council held this day those present were :-

Cllr B Fyfe (Vice Chairman) in the absence of the Chairman.

Messrs – M Lee, D Hope, R Stoye, S Haley, J Stephens

Mesdames – G Ford, E Dalton, and S Miles MDDC Cllr E Lloyd

No Parishioners The Parish Clerk Mr M Vallance

DCC Cllr M Squires (Part meeting)

“A moment for quiet contemplation”

The Parish Council were sorry to learn of the passing of Diane Edworthy who had previously been Clerk to Sandford Relief in Need and Sandford Parish Hall Booking Secretary).

1) APOLOGIES Cllr G Griffin J.P., E Dalton and M Snow.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

1a) OPEN FORUM – No Parishioners present.

2) MATTERS REPORTED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PLUS MATTERS REPORTED TO THE CLERK - No new matters to report.

3) The MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting, held on 7th October 2021, were confirmed and signed by the Vice Chairman as a true record.

5) To report on MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) The re launched “Sandford and District Community Facebook” page was up and running well.

b) Proposed Meeting with DCC Road Safety Officer – A date was still awaited and the matter was discussed in further detail under Minute 8 (d).

c) Remembrance Sunday (14th November 2021) – A Meeting had taken place at St Swithun's to discuss the event which would follow the usual format.

d) Casual Vacancy – No request had been held to hold an Election. The Parish Council could now advertise the Casual Vacancy and request “Expressions of interest”, by 1st December 2021, to be considered at the 2nd December Meeting.

e) Meeting regarding Square parking sign – Cllr J Stephens, and the Clerk, were hoping to arrange this the following week.

f) Future of Sandford Congregational Church and Hall – The Clerk had formally written to the Congregational Church Federation in Nottingham and a response was awaited.

Cllr B Fyfe offered to make enquires locally as to the future of Sandford Congregation Church and Hall.

It was agreed to explore the possibility of Sandford Parish Council continuing to use the Hall to avoid it deteriorating.

6) POLICE MATTERS – No new matters had been reported other than the decision to report vehicles parking under the sign post at the top of Rose and Crown Hall .
This was causing a visibility issue over vehicles exiting Sandford Square and wall also in contravention with the Highway Code and rules over parking near junctions.
The Clerk was asked to contact Crediton Police for their advice.

7) REPLIES

- a) Charlie Werner had replied, over the suggestion that SACA lead an initiative to purchase Sandford Congregational Church for use as an Community Hub, stating that “SACA is now registered with the Charity Commission as a small charity. This means that SACA can only accept up to £5000 each year. We have a small group of trustees that allocate funds to the requests we receive, most of which have been profits from the shop. The trustees are in agreement that we are unable to take on such a project. Our terms and conditions do allow us to deal with large sums of money. One suggestion made was that the Congregational church could be turned into low cost flats for local people. Perhaps the Parish council could take on this project as other Parish Councils have done elsewhere? He personally suggested that the Congregational Church be Converted for use Affordable Homes. It was agreed that until a response was received from the Congregation Church Federation no decisions could be taken at the present time
- b) SLCC – Venues for Council Meetings – The rules still excluded meeting at public house premises and private homes.
It was agreed to pursue with Sandford School the possibility of using the School Hall.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Andrew Haining – Free trees were on offer but it was agreed not to pursue this offer
Cllr E Lloyd offered to pursue the MDDC offer of trees in 2020 and the Clerk would pursue the Woodland Trust
- b) DALC/MDDC – Various Newsletters had been received and duly circulated.
- c) Devon Communities - (60th Birthday) A request had been made for photographs, for the Celebration Princesshay Christmas Tree, and the Clerk had sent off some Sandford Pulls Together pictures for the tree.
- d) A “Concerned Parishioner” had sent a letter on the current Back Lane, Rose and Crown Hill, and The Square current parking issues. They had set out the current problems, together with suggestions to resolve the various issues. The Parish Council discussed the content in detail and it was agreed the letter would be very useful when the Parish Council were finally able to meet with the DCC Road Safety Officer to convey the thoughts and suggestions from a “Concerned Resident”.

Copy of letter see Appendix 1.

In a further effort to obtain the proposed Meeting with the DCC Road Safety Officer the Clerk was asked to approach DCC Cllr Stuart Hughes, Cabinet member for Highways, to appeal for his assistance.

If this was not successful it was agreed the Parish Council would pursue the matter with DCC Cllr John Hart Leader of the Council.

Lodge Corner and Pond Corner – Cllr S Haley felt that at the same time urgent attention was needed to the the dangerous state of the road at these locations.

DCC Cllr M Squires advised that she was meeting with Steve Tucker (DCC Highways) the next day and would visit these locations. She invited Cllr S Haley to attend the proposed Site Meetings

e) A letter had been received from a Parishioner highlighting the loss to the Community of the physical and social facilities that had taken place, at Sandford Congregational Church and Hall, prior to its recent closing e.g. “Lovely Lunches”, film shows etc

It was felt that the elderly in Sandford had now lost that opportunity and were losing out on meeting socially to obtain and exchange items of necessary “Information and Advice” .

Also to discuss issues without having access to current technology.

They now had to rely on newspapers, family members if they lived close, Carers, noticeboards, and Neighbours.

“ Previously even on bus journeys the need for socially distancing made getting those snippets of information over such matters as to where and when to get advice especially as to where to get your vaccinations is no longer easy”.

The good news was the Community Transport were once again doing a once a week Shopping Trip from Sandford to Crediton.

WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR SANDFORD TO PULL TOGETHER TO PLUG THIS GAP ?

The Clerk confirmed that when talking to other Elderly Parishioners they had also expressed the same views.

THE CLERK SUGGESTED TO THE PARISH COUNCIL THAT THEY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A “CUPPA AND A CHAT” ONCE A MONTH (TO START WITH) IN THE UNDER GALLERY AT ST SWITHUNS.

EACH MONTH PERHAPS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MAYBE THE NEW VICAR, A SANDFORD RELIEF IN NEED TRUSTEE, AN OUTWORKER FROM AGE CONCERN CREDITON ETC ETC ?

THE PARISH COUNCIL FELT THIS WAS SOMETHING WELL NEEDED AND AN IDEA WORTH PURSUING.

The Clerk added that the closure of the Congregational Church Hall also meant that the Good Companions has lost their venue for their monthly meetings too.

Maybe the “CUPPA & CHAT” could be run under the umbrella of the Good Companions ?

It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this initiative and several Parish Councillors offered their support.

9) SANDFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION & PLAY AREA

a) Play Area Sub Committee Meeting - A successful Meeting had taken place and the following matters had been highlighted from the 2021 ROSPA report – See Appendix 2.

The Clerk would make enquiries over someone to carry out the suggested tasks.

The question arose as to whether the fence between Toddlers and Junior Play Park could be removed ?

The Clerk advised that this had been erected following a recommendation from ROSPA in one of their previous Safety Reviews.

Basket ball hoop and further new equipment – Cllr D Hope agreed to pursue possible sources of Grant funding.

The last time the Parish Council had explored the possibility of New Equipment a Public Consultation had taken place with children and parents.
As this would support any Grant application it was suggested this should be repeated.

The Clerk reported that currently in the Parish Council Reserves there was £12K allocated for Play Areas Refurbishment .

Also S106 monies at MDDC (Adult exercise equipment).

It was agreed that the Play Area sub committee would meet again to suggest a new piece of equipment for the Creedy View Play Area.

10) PLANNING

CREEDY VIEW 2 – No updates to report.
MDDC were still dealing with S106 issues.
Also the possibility for funding towards the Path/ Cycle Path to Pedlars Pool.

CREEDY VIEW 2 – Update – No news to report the S106 Agreement was still being finalised.

21/02083/LBC Westfield Back Lane Sandford
Listed Building Consent for replacement of roof to single-storey end of house
SITE MEETING

21/01647/LBC Rose Bank New Buildings
LBC for formation of new opening for external French doors following removal of conservatory
SITE MEETING

21/01986/FULL Mulberry House Mill Lane Sandford - Reduction of heights of trees in a Conservation Area
NO OBJECTION

21/0887/FULL Linscombe Farm) New Buildings Sandford
Erection of 5 dwellings with associated works following demolition of existing agricultural building
(This application had been placed on the Agenda for consideration by Members at the hybrid meeting of the Planning Committee for their November 2021 Meeting).
MDDC Cllr E Lloyd advised that at the Meeting permission had been GRANTED for this application.

Grants of permission

21/01416/LBC & 21/01414/HOUSE Doddridge Barn East Village
LBC for conversion of former stables and hayloft outbuilding to single storey bedroom annex.

21/00617/FULL Creedy Park
Erection of a general purpose agricultural building

21/01662/HOUSE Creedy Nook Coppice Lane Sandford
Erection of single storey extension

21/01506/HOUSE Rookery Lodge Creedy Park
Erection of car port etc

11) RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & SUB COMMITTEES

MDDC Cllr E Lloyd reported that current issues being discussed included Creedy View 2, Climate Change, Broadband and also the MDDC Budget for 2022/2023.

Cllr Lloyd was also involved in the Crediton Climate Change Meetings that were taking place.

Cllr S Haley continued to circulate any items of interest on Police matters

- 12) Proposed Electric Car Charging Points – Cllr S Haley was still working on this matter and had produced a printout, which had been circulated from West Devon Borough Council on their “Electric Car Challenge. MDDC Cllr E Lloyd advised that MDDC were doing something similar. It was suggested that Parishes should be included in these discussions.

13) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts

HMRC (Vat refund)	£25.16
Lloyds Bank (Interest October 2021)	£0.23

Payments

Mr M Vallance Salary	£466.00
Steve Mc Culloch – Footpath Honorarium	£570.00
Mr S Kirkham – Wall repairs etc at playing field	£108.00
CPRE (Annual subscription)	£36.00

Cheques signed by Cllrs Miles and Stephens

The Clerk gave an update on Parish Council finances to 30th September 2021 which stood at £27404.04. This included £22087 in the Council's Reserves.

14) ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) Pointing needed to Victoria Jubilee Well – It was agreed to ask Steve Kirkham to attend to this.

15) BOUNDARY STONES – Meeting to be called

16) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Cllr B Fyfe raised the issue of “Quirky Homes” to help the owners of residential homes improve their contribution to reduce carbon emissions. These homes currently do not enjoy the support others get as we move into a post COP26 world but are no less deserving. Listed buildings are part of the rural economy which it was agreed deserve more attention from the policy makers. A meeting drawing expertise from local and national NGO's would be very popular to those on Sandford and the surrounding Districts. MDDC Cllr E Lloyd reported that MDDC were currently discussing this matter.

IT WAS SUGGESTED A PUBLIC MEETING TAKE PLACE IN SANDFORD, TO INCLUDE OTHER PARISHES, TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE ?

17) Date of next Meeting 2nd December 2021 at the Sports Pavillion.

In the meantime it was agreed to pursue the purchase of an electric heater for the Pavillion. Also to make enquires over the possible use of the Hall at Sandford School as a venue for future Parish Council Meetings.

Appendix 1 Content of letter from “Concerned Resident”

Good morning

I'm writing to register severe ongoing concerns about parking and delivery behaviours of householders on Back Lane and ask for action from the council, or for referral to a higher authority if Sandford Parish Council are powerless in this area. As a resident of the village I expect to be kept updated of progress whatever decision is taken, and for this to be done in a clear and timely fashion. I have been patient on this particular issue, generally following a 'live and let live' approach and trusting that the authorities manage the situation to the best of your abilities. But the continued inaction of the council in addressing traffic management has tested my patience past its limit and it is far beyond the time when this should have been addressed.

You'll be very aware of the ongoing issues of parking along the upper reach of Back Lane - specifically, in two main places I see problems from my home office on a regular daily basis:

1. at the junction to the Square where habitual parking by residents and use by tradespeople working at adjacent houses means visibility and mobility is reduced both from traffic exiting the Square, and vehicles entering the Square from the Kennerleigh direction
2. Along the road opposite the Lynch between the turning to the Square, Old Saddlers and Hunters Lodge.

Recently a Parsons lorry delivering to one of the houses along this stretch held up traffic for approximately 20 minutes, with a FedEx van, two large tractors with forage trailers, a coach, two further delivery vans and numerous cars all held up for that time without being able to get past. Since then, there have been repeated episodes of long traffic jams on this stretch caused by cars parked inappropriately along Back Lane. Vehicles are often parked along this stretch, and continually cause issues for essential businesses - the drivers are amazingly patient but the number of tractors, agricultural vehicles and other delivery vehicles which are held up in their day-to-day business activity is utterly ridiculous.

The clear solution is to introduce double yellow lines up through this section, stretching down to the bottom of Rose & Crown Hill. As a council you are clearly making small efforts to tackle the parking issues by putting up plastic signs to the parish hall car park. I have not seen any reduction in traffic problems since these signs went up, and am surprised they were approved in a conservation area. The signs have had little or no impact on traffic problems. This is a sticking plaster for a broken limb, and the need for double yellow lines is irrefutable.

I'm aware there is a vocal minority who resist further restrictions and blame a growth in agricultural traffic - but we are a proudly rural economy and should be supporting our local businesses in such difficult times, not ignoring the problem and hoping it'll go away. Free movement and clear transport routes are the least that people should be able to expect when going about their daily business, and at the moment I see daily evidence of selfish and ignorant parking behaviour in Sandford interrupting the flow. Besides these points it is a clear safety issue. I have witnessed several small accidents and near misses with traffic trying to negotiate past blockages, frustrations increasing tempers and blocked roads requiring complicated manoeuvres to take a different route - generally through the Square. Beyond all of this is the increased pollution that these blockages cause - it is noticeable that soot deposits have increased over the last 5 years, and air quality is adversely affected when traffic is forced to sit and idle waiting for blockages to clear.

I look forward to your response

Appendix 2

Pavilion Play Park

Toddlers

1. **Gateway**- requires matting or stone filling.
2. **Picnic table**- Cut off or replace with correct length bolts (M12 x100mm)
3. **Picnic Table**- Clean off moss and maybe move to a more accessible spot.
4. **4 seat rocker**- Two bolt caps damaged and ground erosion.
5. **Dolphin rocker**- Tighten centre handle and clean off algae.
6. **Multiplay**- Replace rotting timber leg (middle leg nearest wall)
7. **Multiplay** - Remove low branches

Juniors-

1. **Multiplay** - Tighten bolt at base of slide
2. **Play bus** - Repair surface under stairs (The area kids can not get too!!!)
3. **See-saw** Grease or lubricate moving parts

Juniors litter bin - Both hinges broken and unmendable chuck and replace with Toddlers bin which only has one broken hinge.

Or purchase one new bin ?

Creedy View

1. **Gates**- Requires 'Dog ban and ownership' signs on both entrances.
2. **Bench**- 3 caps missing
3. **Penguin bin**- Too close to benches, move to other corner.
4. **Swing**- Both post tops loose.