

SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Sandford Community Sports Pavillion on 2nd September 2021.

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

Cllr J Stephens (Chairman)

Messrs – G. Griffin J.P, M Lee, D Hope, Fyfe and M. Snow

Mesdames – Ford and Dalton

DCC Cllr M Squires (part meeting)

No Parishioners

The Parish Clerk Mr M Vallance

The Meeting commenced with a “Moment for quiet contemplation”.

- 1) APOLOGIES – MDDC Cllr E Wainwright, Cllrs S Miles, S Haley, R Stoye and N Unstead.
- 2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

1a) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr G Griffin J.P. - Proposed by Cllr M Snow, 2nd Cllr D Hope, and unanimously elected.

Cllr Griffin then took the Chair and duly completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

Cllr E Dalton proposed a Vote of Thanks to Cllr Stephens for steering the Parish through difficult time with his very “hands on approach”.

Cllr Stephens responded by thanking Councillors, and the Clerk, for all their support during his time in the Chair.

1b) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr B Fyfe – Proposed by Cllr Griffin, 2nd Cllr Lee, and unanimously elected.

1c) OPEN FORUM

Although no one was present a note was read out, that had been handed in prior to the Meeting, by two residents from Meadowside Road headed “Football Complaints :-

14th August Litter left around benches (tins and bottles)

Thursday 19 August – Football hit car no apology and jumped fence to get ball instead of using gate.

Football problems in one week Saturday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Rubbish left inside fence bottles etc

Football 3 nights a week plus Saturday

Dogs on field on Match days

It was agreed to convey these issues to Sandford AFC.

Also to pursue “Dog signs” although it was noted that the MDDC Consultation had now been completed.

The new ruling for Recreation Areas in Mid Devon would, amongst other things, exclude dogs from Recreation Area.

2) MATTERS REPORTED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE PLUS MATTERS REPORTED TO THE CLERK

a) Trailer parked in Creedy View car park – A letter had been sent to the Resident concerned pointing out that as this was a Commercial Vehicle.

It was agreed that in accordance with the car park rules, displayed at the entrance, the trailer should not be parked there.

A response had been received stating that the Scouts Minibus was permanently parked in the car park. (It was pointed out this was a Community vehicle).

In a P.S to the letter the Resident stated “The trailer will be removed soon”.

The Clerk was asked to follow up the letter repeating the rules for parking in the Creedy View Car Park.

A suggestion was made that it might be a good idea to invest in a Wheel Clamp for use in the car park for future use ?

b) Unresolved parking issues in and around the Square – A Meeting had been requested, on 5th July, with the DCC Road Safety Officer and a response was still awaited.

DCC Cllr M Squires agreed to pursue this matter on behalf of the Parish Council to arrange a time and date.

3a) SANDFORD PULLS TOGETHER

Cllr Stephens reported that due to Covid the Parish Celebration Walk Cream Tea on 1st August had regrettably been cancelled.

He advised that it was hoped to re organise the Event in June (18th or 19th) 2022.

Thanked were conveyed to Cllr G Ford for making Signs for the Event.

Anyone who had bought tickets for 2021 could claim a refund or use their ticket in 2022.

A commemorative plaque had been presented to the Sandford Stores Staff, also to their volunteers, also Parish Volunteers who had helped Sandford Pull Together.

The Clerk advised that Volume 1 of the 2020 Scrapbook had now been completed and the 2021 one had already been started.

3) To confirm MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2021

The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5) To report on MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Meeting with Residents regarding the proposed Sandford AFC net fence – An update following the Sandford AFC AGM was awaited.

It was understood the latest priority, for Sandford AFC, was to raise funds to replace the current grass cutting equipment.

b) ROSPA Safety report – This would be circulated to the Play Area Sub Committee who were requested to arrange a Site Meeting to consider the issues needing attention in advance of the October Meeting.

c) 2021 Gardens Contest – The Clerk had thanked Jim and Rita King for Judging and would arrange for the prize money to be distributed.

d) Proposed meeting with DCC Road Safety Officer – A Meeting had been requested (5th July) following the 1st July meeting and a response was still awaited. SEE Minute 2 (a).

c) 6) POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there had been a Break In at the Allotment over Bank Holiday weekend though nothing of value had been taken.

7) REPLIES

a) S Albrighton had responded further to the Parking Sign in the Square :-

*“ So you are confirming that the parish council, now acknowledging a potential road safety issue due to the actions of 2 persons, is comfortable leaving the risk in place?
Just a simple answer please to my question would be good”.*

An acknowledgement had been sent explaining that the proposed Meeting with the DCC Road Safety had been requested, and was awaited before any final decision.

The Parish Council felt that any increase in traffic in the Square caused by the new Parking Sign was “perceived”.

b) A March (Conservation Area Officer MDDC) had written again regarding the “Mid Devon Buildings at risk Review”.

The Parish Council stood by their previous decision that they did not feel competent to become involved.

c) Lloyds Bank had resolved the Complaint over the Clerk's salary cheque for June which had not been honoured as “there were insufficient funds in the Current Account”.

They had finally confirmed the long standing arrangement whereby the Current Account (balance of £500) was topped up from the Deposit Account had been overlooked.

An apology was made for the error.

d) PKF Littlejohn – Notice of External Audit and receipt of documents for 2020/2021 had been received.

e) Steve Tucker had written requesting the removal of the Parking Sign in Sandford Square.

An acknowledgement had been sent explaining that the proposed Meeting with the DCC Road Safety had been requested and was awaited.

He had also been reminded that many other road safety issues in and around the Square, which had been reported many months ago, prior to the latest issue over the Parking Sign, were still outstanding.

f) Elizabeth (Wainwright) and husband Jake Lloyd had written thanking the Parish Council for the wedding gift of the pottery jug made by Georgina Ford. Cllr Jim Stephens, and his wife Karen, had attended the wedding, and confirmed it had been a memorable day.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Sandford AFC – The matter of “Servicing of the Boiler at the Pavillion” had been reported to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this cost could be shared between Sandford AFC and the Parish Council.

b) Mrs A Trick – It was confirmed that Safety Signs had been erected, in the adjoining field, for the recent works in the Meadow below Park House .

d) DCC Highways – Road closure West Lodge to Rose and Crown Hill 3rd-7th September for surface dressing works.

e) Louise Thornley, a friend of the Parishioner who lived at 2 Sunnyside, reported that due to the fire at this property it was now unoccupied and alternative accommodation had been found in Crediton. Concern had been expressed over the four cats who had “run away”.

She asked if the Parish Council would publicise a Gift Support on Facebook ?

The Clerk had Posted this and also referred the matter on to Sandford Relief in Need and St Swithun's.

9) SANDFORD COMMUNITY SPORTS PAVILION & PLAY AREA

Damage to the Springy at Creedy View 2 play area – This would be discussed at the Play Area Sub Committee Meeting. A Budget of £600/£700 was agreed if it was decided to go for a replacement piece of play equipment.

10) PLANNING

CREEDY VIEW 2 Update - No news from Justin Denno who was on holiday

MDDC Planning Meeting (8th September 2021) – Cllr Stephens agreed to attend and speak on behalf of Sandford Parish Council confirming the issues raised in their comments to this Planning Application.

Clean Air fund – The S106 agreement prepared for the Planning Meeting suggested that the “Clean Air Funding” could be allocated to the proposed / Furlongs Cycle / Footpath to Pedlars Pool. Costings were being prepared for these works.

South West Water were reported to be carrying out repairs to the part of the footpath passing through the Field belonging to Colin Reed.

21/01317/FULL & 21/01205/FULL

Creedy Manor Long Barn Sandford Erection of two agricultural buildings
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

1992 RQ/DCC/4246/2021 Town and Country Planning General Regulations

The replacement of single glazed windows to Block 02 at Sandford Primary School, Sandford

21/01283/LBC Sandford School

Listed Building Consent for eastern boundary fence replacement works; window repairs/overhaul, window replacement, localised flat roof replacement, including fascia, soffit and rainwater goods replacement, fascia/bargeboard and soffit replacement, roof window replacement and glazed lantern repair

21/01391/FULL Hele House West Sandford

Change of use of agricultural to domestic land and erection of an ancillary residential building
NO OBJECTION

21/00466/FULL Frogmire Farm Sandford (Revised application)

Erection of 5 dwellings and garage block with associated works following demolition of existing agricultural buildings

THE PARISH COUNCIL DID NOT FEEL QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON THE LATEST REVISIONS.

IT WAS AGREED PREVIOUS COMMENTS TO STAND

21/01385/FULL Mill Farm Mill Lane

Variation of Conditions 2, 4, 5 and 6 of Planning Permission 18/01174/FULL - Conversion of barn to dwelling - to allow revised parking area and substitution of approved plans
NO OBJECTION

21/01416/LBC Doddridge Barn East Village Crediton
Listed Building Consent for conversion of former stable and hayloft outbuilding to single bedroom annex
Previous comments to stand - RECOMMEND APPROVAL

21/01506/HOUSE Rookery Lodge Creedy Park
Erection of carport formation of hard standing and alterations to existing potting shed
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

21/01636/FULL/HOUSE Acorn Barn New Buildings
Replacement of existing flat roof and raising of existing pitched roof to provide first floor accommodation

21/00707/FULL Creedy Park Sandford
Change of use of land from agricultural to cricket pitch "Change of description and revised drawings"
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Grants of planning permission :-

21/00972/FULL Town Barton Sandford Erection of calf rearing building

21/01000/HOUSE Venn Farm Crediton
Erection of an entrance lobby on South elevation, boot room and water treatment enclosure on North elevation following demolition of existing conservatory and rear lobby

21/00402/FULL Land to the east of Church Street (Field above Sandford School)
Widening of existing field access
(IT WAS NOTED THAT THE ENTRANCE GATE TO THIS FIELD HAD NOW BEEN COVERED WITH BARBED WIRE.

21/00875/FULL Frostland Farm Copplestone
Enlargement and upgrading of existing farm and field entrances

21/00248/FULL Higher Furzeland Copplestone Erection of an agricultural building

21/00583/FULL 1 Gaters Gardens Sandford Crediton
Erection of dwelling to rear and single storey rear extension to existing dwelling

21/01151/HOUSE 32 Meadows Road Sandford Construction of dormer loft conversion

11) RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & SUB COMMITTEES

DCC Cllr M Squires reported on Electric Car Charging Points in the area.

12) Proposed Electric Car Charging Points – No update had been received.

11) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Receipts

Lloyds Bank (July £0.16 / August 2021 £0.15 Interest)	£ 0.31
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Payments

Mr M Vallance Salary	£466.00
Mr G Reynold (Paint for Mill Lane call box)	£49.98
Mr S McCulloch (Grass cutting)	
Society of local Council Clerks (Membership renewal)	£112.00
Mrs G Ford (Pottery gift)	£60.00
Cheques signed by Cllrs Dalton and Snow.	
cheque returned (00180) Mr M Vallance	£1190.15
Re issued cheque 13 th July 2021	
Mr M Vallance	£1190.15
Cheque signed by Cllrs Dalton and Griffin.	

14) ROADS AND FOOTPATH

The Grass verge at Meadowside had been cut.

It was agreed to request that as the Rumble Strips, at the entrance to the Village from Crediton, were now becoming a road safety issue that they be removed.

Potholes previously reported still awaiting attention.

15) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Sandford Parish Hall reported on significant improvements planned for the Hall Kitchen.

This would enable Outside Caterers to have access to a “full kitchen”.

The Parish Hall Committee asked whether the Parish Council could make a contribution toward “pots and pans” for the refurbished kitchen ?

It was agreed to make a donation of £500 from funds – Proposed Cllr Griffin, 2nd Cllr Stephens and carried.

(Cllr M Snow took no part in the debate or the subsequent Vote).

b) Future of the Sandford Parish Council Facebook page

The Facebook page had been set up to assist Communication during Coronavirus and had truly served this need covering matters other than Parish Council business.

The question was asked as to whether in future the Facebook page should be confined to Parish Council business e.g. Potholes, road closures etc ?

This matter had been raised by at least one Parishioner and during the past 18 months as well as mainly positive comments there had been a few negative comments.

Whilst the Parish Clerk was prepared to continue Posting Parish news and updates he wondered whether the name of the Facebook page should be changed to something like SANDFORD PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS ?

(He had been in touch with the Town Clerk at North Tawton where the Council had a Facebook page. But the Town Council mostly posted all their news on the popular, and highly successful NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY HUB FB page)

Parish Councillors were asked to consider the matter and a decision could be taken at the October 2021 Meeting as to the way ahead.

c) Beating of the Bounds – Ben Huggins had supplied a a further drawing of a suggested Boundary Stone. The drawing showed Sandford on one side and,in the example, Morchard Bishop on the other. IT WAS AGREED THERE WAS NO NEED TO SHOW ANOTHER PARISH. THIS WOULD ALSO MEAN THERE WOULD ONLY BE A NEED FOR ONE MOULD.

Cllr Stephens suggested the matter of Boundary Stones, and their finance, be placed on the agenda for the October Meeting.

d) Future of Sandford Congregational Church

A formal letter had been received to say that “Sandford Congregational Members have made the sad decision to close the church permanently from 31st August 2021”.

“The buildings and land are now in the hands of the executive trustees The Congregational Federation Ltd in Nottingham”.

The Parish Council were thanked for their support over the the years.

A decision would need to be taken as to a new home for the Roll of Honour for those who lost their lives in both world wars.

Whilst this news was very sad it was not entirely unexpected due to the loss of their Congregation and the number of Church Members had been reduced to just two.

The Clerk reported that in the Village there was disappointment no Public Meeting had taken place to discuss this decision.

Also that it had been decided not to hold one last final service.

The Closure had given rise to a lot of nostalgic memories over Weddings, Sunday School, and other events like the Christmas Tree Festival that had taken place over the years.

It was understood that the legal works to close the Church would now proceed, taking maybe as long as two years, before the Hall and Church would ultimately be placed on the Market.

The Closure had given rise to a number of suggestions, from both inside and outside of the Parish, that the buildings should be acquired by the Parish :-

The Hall, which has a disabled toilet and kitchen, as a useful smaller alternative venue to the Parish Hall.

The Church as an Arts and Community Hub.

The Parish Council agreed to pursue the suggestion to Nominate the Hall, and Church, as ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The Clerk was asked to pursue this with both Devon Association of Local Council and Devon Communities.

Also enquire over possible sources of finance ?

e) Date (and venue) of next Meeting 7th October 2021

With the formal closure of Sandford Congregational Church this meant sadly that this could no longer be the venue for Meetings.

Parish Hall – The Clerk had made enquiries over the use of the Annexe and was told the Hall was in use every night of the week.

There was a suggestion that as the Monday night event ended at 8.30pm this might be a possibility?

Scout Hut – Dave Hope to make enquiries.

Cricket Club – Although this was a possibility Parishioners were not happy it was outside of the Village and needed transport to get there.

It was agreed to hold the 7th October Meeting (7.30pm) at the Sports Pavillion

