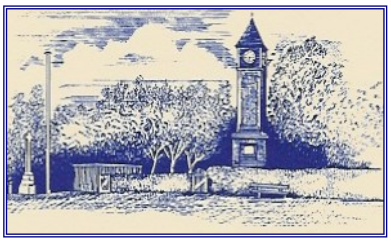

# PARISH COUNCIL OF SANDHURST, KENT

Please reply to Julie Horan, Parish Clerk, Old School, Back Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JS 01580-850273

## Approved Minutes
## Parish Council Meeting 08 October 2024

**In Attendance:**

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| Cllr Mark Griggs (Chairman) MG | Cllr Adam Kerry (AK) |
| Cllr David Rogers (DR) | Ms Caroline Wood (CW) |
| Cllr Katherine O'Neil (KO) | Julie Horan (Clerk) (JH) |
| Cllr Julie Griggs (JG) | County Cllr Sean Holden |
| Cllr Denis O'Neil (DO) | |

| **Item:** | |
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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
| | Cllr Christopher Robinson (Vice-Chairman) (CR), Borough Cllr Beverley Palmer (BP), Borough Cllr Ellen Neville, Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
| | Councillors were reminded that they must inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.<br>• DR Allotments |
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| **3.** | **Approval of Minutes** |
| | To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 September 2024 are a true record of the meeting. Members were reminded the only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy.<br>• DR proposed; AK seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.<br>To resolve that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2024 are a true record of the meeting. Members were reminded the only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy.<br>• DR proposed; CW seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.<br>To resolve that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24 September 2024 are a true record of the meeting. Members were reminded the only issue relating to the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy. |



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| | DR proposed; KO seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. |
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| **4.** | **Councillor Intervention** |
| | Cllr Ellen Neville sent a report which was circulated to councillors before the meeting.<br>Cllr Sean Holden: One million was cut from the Community Wardens Budget, SH to check if Sandhurst is still covered in the Cranbrook division.<br>SH had a meeting with the new inspector for road closures, road closures have increased from 4,000 in 2019 to 16,000 in 2024 which is not acceptable.<br>The Chair of Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Kim Fletcher is campaigning to get another secondary school and the Inspector of TWBC Local Plan has been asking questions about education in the local area, Kim has asked that parish councils comment on the TW Site. SH is not optimistic about this as High Weald Academy closed, but the new government's plans to increase the housing allocation by 58% in the Tunbridge Wells Borough, will have implications for infrastructure and schools. |
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| **5.** | **Finance and accounts** |
| | <u>Accounts</u><br>To approve accounts retrospectively for payments from 01 September 2024 to 30 September 2024<br>To receive details of receipts from 01 September 2024 to 30 September 2024<br>• DO proposed to agree payments and receipts for September; KO seconded - all present agreed.<br>To note the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2024<br>• CR confirmed before the meeting that the reconciliations had been checked and signed.<br><br>The forecast dated 04-Oct-2024 shows a projected year end deficit of £6,691.68 against the target of £23,608.75. However, this includes allowances for expenditures that might not be required, or that might be less than forecast, or that should be covered by grants, totalling £18,850.<br>4005 OSH Maintenance £2,209 costs incurred in expectation of grant funding not yet received. (This should not have been committed before confirmation of grant award). There is therefore up to £16,000 "spare", so I believe the forecast is robust.<br>Also please note that there is an allowance of £14,770 for adult exercise equipment which represents a maximum spend. I have no information about possible grant support for this project.<br>The West Kent Rural Grant of £14,750 applied for to support the car park resurfacing should have come before the Grant Panel on 17th September but we have no information about the decision yet. When we have a positive result, we can then place an order for work to be done, hopefully, in November.<br><br>There is a query with the reading on the gas meter at the OSH DR suggested a check meter on the PC side to keep an eye on usage. JH to contact Cheesemans to see if we can hire one.<br>Financial Regulations, Carried forward to next meeting<br>Any budget items for 2025/26 requested, deadline 31 October 2024.<br>5 Year Programme to be updated – DR<br>Car Park resurfacing, carried forward to the next meeting - CR |
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| **6.** | **OSH/Playing Field Car Park/Pavilion** |
| | Work on the OSH is progressing<br>The floor has been finished.<br>The water heater has been installed and is working.<br>The LED lights and spot lights have been installed.<br>The cooker testing has not yet been carried out – MG to contact MDL<br>Vent Relocation carried forward to the next meeting, |
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| **7.** | **Old Orchard Play Area/Adult Gym Equipment** |
| | The RoSPA report for the Marsh Quarter Lane play area was sent to three suppliers for quotes to deal with issues raised in the report. Only one company, HAGS, came back with a quote of £788.88.<br>• DR proposed to accept the quote supplied by HAGS ; MG seconded – all present agreed.<br>To retrospectively approve the quote for the trimming of the trees at the Old Orchard Play Area (quotes were circulated to councillors via email on 11 August 2024).<br>Quote A (£980.00) – 1 vote<br>Quote B (£260.00) – 4 votes<br>Quote C (£550.00) – 2 votes<br>• MG proposed to retrospectively agree Quote B as the winning quote ; KO seconded – all present agreed<br>The grant application for 15k is in progress for the Adult Gym Equipment. 3 companies visited to discuss adult gym equipment and provided quotes. One company stood out above the others, Sunshine Gym Equipment. The quotes were discussed at the September meeting.<br>• MG proposed to pursue the quote for Sunshine Gym and the grant application for the full 15k ; JG seconded – all present agreed<br>Three bin types and prices were circulated via email before the meeting.<br>• CW proposed to purchase a 100l External Hooded Litter bin in green with ground fixing bolts at a cost of £183.95 ; JG seconded – all present agreed |
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| **8.** | **Speed Watch** |
| | During September we only managed one session, recording 26 offenders out of 415 vehicles passing which is 6.3%.<br>We had few operators available because of holidays etc.<br>However, on 03 October 2024 I was able to complete training for our latest recruit Helen Harding who I hope will be joining us at the roadside next month. |
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| **9.** | **Allotments** |
| | Nothing to report back from the allotment committee.<br>Plot 2 b is in a mess and needs clearing, JH will get 3 quotes to clear the plot and will contact the outgoing tenant to advise that the plot needs to be cleared before the end of October. |
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| **10.** | **Parish Council Insurance** |
| | The Parish Council insurance has been renewed with the current insurer as other quotes received were considerably higher in price. |
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| **11.** | **Defibrillators** |
| | The defibrillators around the village are coming to the end of their life, JG will be applying for grant funding to allow the defibrillators to be replaced. |



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| **12.** | **Christmas Tree** |
| | AK will get a quote from the current supplier of the Christmas Tree. |
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| **13.** | **Youth Services** |
| | Following up on an email received from a councillor on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council JH to write to express interest in exploring activities for young people in the local area. |
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| **14.** | **First Aid Kits** |
| | There are two first aid kits at the Old School Hall. JH will relocate one to the Pavilion. |
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| **15.** | **Planning** |
| | **Application: 24/02101/TPO**<br>Proposal: Trees, Cypress - Remove<br>ADDRESS: Alderden Oast, Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5NR<br>The parish council has no comments on this application.<br>**Application: 24/02451/FULL**<br>Proposal: Single storey rear extension with fenestration alterations, new roof and front porch<br>Address: Crossways , Ethnam Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5PS<br>The parish council has no concerns on this application |
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| **16.** | **Correspondence to the clerk** |
| | Email received from resident:<br>Will Sandhurst PC get involved at all with the Newenden bridge closure which is to take place next Spring for 3/5 months? I am anxious about it as my doctor, dentist and vet are all in Northiam and I suspect many people living in Sandhurst feel the same. I have forwarded you an email I received from Newenden PC about how we might approach this issue. Email that was forwarded: (This is something we have previously discussed with KCC but nothing has been agreed and we have been told it would be very difficult. Can I suggest you approach our local Kent County Councillor Mr Mike Hill as a first port of call? He also sits on the KCC highways committee. If you explain to Cllr Hill how a temporary bridge might make a difference, he can look into it further).<br><br>JH contacted Mr Mike Hill from KCC who in turn contacted the Structures Programme Manager in Highways and received the following response:<br>*The option of using a temporary bridge has been considered but unfortunately is not really a feasible option. A temporary bridge required to carry an A-road (even over a short period of time) would require significant changes to the local road layout to permit the approaches to the bridge to be compliant with modern design standards. It would not be acceptable to simply place a temporary bridge on open land to the west of the bridge to try to re-use the existing field entrances and several tight right angle turns as part of the approach roads. In addition, the foundations of the temporary bridge would probably be very similar to the foundation of a permanent bridge and would be very expensive to construct. To the west of the bridge there is also a watercourse joining the river which would push the position of any temporary bridge further away from the Newenden Bridge, extending the length of new road required to re-join the main carriageway. The land that this section of new road would occupy is not owned by the council and so would likely require purchase or legal agreement to use. Both of these processes are slow and expensive. Once the works* |



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| | *to the main bridge was completed the temporary bridge and the road connecting to it would need to be removed which would add to the cost and disruption. Unfortunately, whilst temporary bridges can be used in some circumstances, they are very dependent on the layout of the road. In this case, the road layout is not helpful."* |
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| **17.** | **Public intervention** |
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| **18.** | **Date of Next Meeting** |
| | 12 November 2024<br>03 December 2024 – Precept meeting<br>10 December 2024 |

**Mark Griggs**
Chairman, Sandhurst Parish Council

**CC:** **For Information**
County Cllr Seán Holden
Borough Cllr Ellen Neville
Borough Cllr Beverley Palmer
Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings



Signed:…… Dated:……