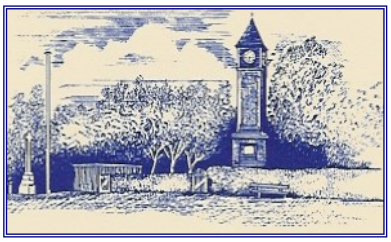

PARISH COUNCIL OF SANDHURST, KENT

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

Approved Minutes
Parish Council Meeting 10 December 2024

In Attendance:

Cllr Mark Griggs (Chairman) (MG)	Cllr Caroline Wood (CW)
Cllr Christopher Robinson (Vice-Chairman) (CR)	Julie Horan (Clerk) (JH)
Cllr David Rogers (DR)	Guest: Ken Hopkins, Hopkins +

An announcement made by Cllr Griggs: We were all saddened to hear the news of Godfrey Bland passing away. He was incredibly supportive of the parish council and during his time as both a borough councillor and as the mayor he always had Sandhurst's best interests at heart. He was a gentleman and will be sorely missed.

Item:	
1.	**Apologies for Absence**
	Cllr Adam Kerry (AK), Cllr Katherine O'Neil (KO), Cllr Julie Griggs (JG), Cllr Denis O'Neil (DO), Borough Cllr Beverley Palmer (BP), Borough Cllr Ellen Neville (EN), Borough Cllr Tom Dawlings (TD), County Cllr Sean Holden (SH)
2.	**Declarations of Interest**
	Councillors were reminded that they must inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes to their Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. • DR Allotments – Plot holder • MG Planning – Application 24/02767TCA
3.	**Approval of Minutes**
	To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 November 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. • DR proposed; CR seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. To resolve that the Minutes of the Precept meeting held on 03 December 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. • DR proposed; CR seconded and it was agreed by those present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

Signed:..... Dated:.....

4.	**Councillor Intervention**
	No councillors present.
5.	**Finance and accounts**
	Accounts: To approve accounts retrospectively for payments from 01 November 2024 to 30 November 2024 To receive details of receipts from 01 November 2024 to 30 November 2024 • DR proposed to agree payments and receipts for November ; CR seconded - all present agreed. To note the bank reconciliation at 30 November 2024 • CR confirmed that the reconciliation had been checked and signed. **Direct Debits:** A list of direct debits for the year was circulated • DR approved the list ; CR seconded – all present agreed **Precept 2025/26:** Following on from the Precept meeting held on 3rd December 2024, the Precept for 2025/26 will be set at £105,000. • DR proposed to accept the Precept at £105,000 ; CR seconded – all present agreed **Budget 2025/26:** The budget for 2025/26 was circulated and discussed. • CR proposed to accept the 2025/26 budget ; DR seconded – all present agreed
6.	**OSH**
	An issue with the new flooring in the OSH has been identified. MG has been in touch with Academy Flooring, who are coming to the OSH on 24th January 2025 to make the necessary repairs. The hall will not be able to be used for a few days following the visit to allow for the lacquer to dry. External renovations are continuing.
7.	**Old Orchard Play Area/Adult Gym Equipment/Playing Field/Pavilion**
	Adult Gym Equipment: JG/CW will reapply in the New Year **Dog Mess Signs:** We have one quote for £62 each on Correx board. JH will request a quote for aluminium signs with the same specifications. **Grass Protection Matting:** More matting is required than originally thought CR will obtain further quotes. **Pavilion Boiler:** Enquiries ongoing - DR
8.	**Speed Watch**
	There have been four outings this month 91 offenders out of 959 vehicles passing which is 9.5%. A speed watch event was held at the school for the children, two incident cars and the speed camera van went along with the operators. The children came out class by class to have a look around the vehicles and ask questions, the children had great fun. The upper class then went across the road with the speed watch chief and a handheld camera and noted the speed of the passing cars.
9.	**Allotments**
	Plot Clearance: One of the vacated allotment plots was left in a mess, 2 quotes were obtained to clear the plot and were circulated via email: Quote A - £1290.00 Quote B - £350 plus £400 to trim hedge bordering the allotment.

Signed:..... Dated:.....

	JH to write to the householder who shares the hedge with the allotment to request a contribution of £200 towards the hedge cutting. A decision will be carried forward to the next meeting. **Outstanding Allotment Rent:** The rent is outstanding on 3 plots despite reminders being sent. JH is to contact the plot holders requesting payment by 31st January 2025. If payment is not received by 31 January 2025 the tenancy for these plot holders will be terminated in line with the Tenancy Agreement, Clause 9.1 Termination of Tenancy, by re-entry if the rent is in arrears for not less than 40 days. **Allotment Checks:** Carried forward to the next meeting.
10.	**Defibrillators**
	Ken Hopkins kindly attended the meeting to advise the council on the best thing to do with the old village defibrillators once they are replaced with new devices. KH thinks we could possibly achieve approx. £100 per device if they were sold (there are 6 devices to be replaced) and he would be happy to facilitate the sale. • MG proposed the old devices be sold ; CW seconded – all present agreed
11.	**HIP Plan**
	CR & KO have drafted a response to Nigel Rowe, circulated before the meeting. Councillors are to send CR comments before Sunday 15 December with any comments.
12.	**2025/26 Parish Council Meeting Dates**
	The proposed meeting dates for 2025/26 were circulated before the meeting, CR asked the precept meeting date be amended by one day. DR requested a planning committee meeting date for August. • CR proposed to accept dates with the two alterations ; CW seconded – all present agreed
13.	**Neighbourhood Plan**
	KO requested JH read a report in her absence: After the setback caused by TWBC not being satisfied with the Design Code Guidance provided by AECOM for our draft plan, we are now back on track. We had to apply for another grant (the fifth!) to allow AECOM to revisit a number of aspects. At a Teams meeting, where we were represented by Alison Eardley and Caroline Wood, the issues were resolved. Alison was most unhappy with this, feeling that it could have been done much more quickly and with much less expense and certainly not the need for another grant. She is now working towards the submission of the Draft Plan for inspection.
14.	**Planning**
	Application: 24/02870/FULL Proposal: (Retrospective) Construction of a single storey home office and guest accommodation. Address: Honey Cottage, Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN18 5NR This application was discussed no comments were made. **Application: 24/02820/FULL** Proposal: Variation of Condition 4 of Planning Permission 24/01490/FULL - Finish of gates Address: Land North Of Alderden Manor Farm, Sponden Lane, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent.

Signed:..... Dated:.....

	A condition of the retrospective application 24/01490/FULL was to paint the gates either green or black, this was not an unreasonable condition and would help reduce the impact of the development on the rural character of the area. Sandhurst Parish Council feels strongly that the applicant should comply with this condition and paint the gates. Sandhurst Parish Council objects to this application. **Application: 24/02923/FULL** Proposal: Rear, single storey extension Address: 5 Betherinden Cottages, Bodiam Road, Sandhurst, Kent, TN18 5LW This application was discussed no comments were made. **Application: 24/02767/TCA** Address: Cowbeach Bodiam Road Sandhurst Cranbrook Kent Proposal: Trees in a Conservation Area Notification: HORNBEAM (T1) - Reduce height to 8ft; 3No POPLAR (T2) - Pollard to previous points; SYCAMORE (T3) - Dismantle to ground; SWEET CHESTNUT & PINE TREE (G4) - Reduce by 6m; 8No Group of POPLAR, HOLLY & SWEET CHESTNUT (G5) - Reduce height by 6m; 2No POPLAR (G6) - Reduce by 5m; 2No ALDER (G7) - Reduce by 3m; 8No WILLOW (T8-T9) - Reduce by 6ft; SYCAMORE (T10) - Dismantle to ground; ACER (T11) - Reduce by 4ft This application was discussed no comments were made.
14.	**Correspondence to Clerk**
	Email received regarding the poor condition of the dog waste bins around the playing field. *JH to investigate replacing the dog waste bins.* Email received regarding donating to Tunbridge Wells Counselling Centre. *This request was declined.*
15.	**Public Intervention**
	None.
18.	**Date of Next Meeting**
	14 January 2025 11 February 2025 11 March 2025

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:.....