

SANDIACRE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Institute, 19a Doncaster Avenue, Sandiacre, Derbyshire NG10 5FJ

PRESENT:

	Cllr W Major	Chairman
	Cllr S Bilbie	Vice-Chairman
	Cllr T Ford	
	Cllr A Gibson	
	Cllr Mrs S Hales	
	Cllr T Hales	
	Cllr G Hickton	
	Cllr Mrs G Hickton	
A	Cllr S Jarratt	
	Cllr J Lowrie	
	Cllr R Pound	
	Cllr T Sanghera	
A	Cllr Mrs K Stewart	
	Cllr R Stewart	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs M Bloor	Clerk to the Parish Council
Cllr M Alfrey	EBC Lead Member for Environment
Mr D Bramwell	EBC Head of Green Space & Street Scene
PSCO I Hawksworth	Part meeting to 8.00pm

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 28

PUBLIC MEETING - EBC REDUCED MOWING SERVICES

Cllr Mark Alfrey, (EBC Lead Member for Environment) was present to hear residents' concerns over reduced mowing services on EBC's parks, grass verges and green open spaces.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and outlined the protocol for raising questions with EBC representatives. The main meeting would commence at the close of the public meeting.

Cllr Alfrey explained his position and the reason for engaging with parishes at this time on EBC's policy for rewilding and leaving areas to develop naturally to support biodiversity.

In Sandiacre, EBC maintained 2 parks: Hayworth Road Park and St. Giles' Park.

The Chairman invited residents to raise their concerns.

Numerous issues were raised, including:

1. EBC had not publically consulted or provided outline plans or surveys to identify areas for rewilding. Parks, open spaces and grass verges had therefore been left neglected
2. Parks existed for the benefit of local people to encourage physical activity, children's play and general well-being, but these facilities had been removed by EBC without dialogue and rewilding had been given priority
3. Dog walkers were restricted to narrow strips of occasionally mowed land that resulted in increased dog waste being left in tall grass. Grass seeds could cause injuries to dogs resulting in vets fees and there was an increase in discarded litter
4. Children and young people were left with inadequate access to exercise facilities
5. The misuse of rewilding could harm biodiversity if not well handled

6. Residents had previously enjoyed well maintained parks and colourful flower beds throughout Erewash, which had brought a sense of pride to communities.
7. Concerns were raised over the poor standard of maintenance given to Hayworth Road Park and St. Giles' Park with areas now left substantially overgrown.
8. Trees were no longer maintained and overhanging branches were allowed to grow, creating a hazard to all park users and inconvenience to neighbouring properties.
9. EBC had informed residents that no tree work was planned to healthy trees.
10. EBC parks no longer had a sense of purpose and all long grass was left to seed without regard for creating separate areas for rewilding. There was no longer any definition.
11. Long grassed encouraged vermin, creating an environmental problem and for neighbouring properties.
12. Concern was raised that not all areas were suitable for rewilding and how had this been established.
13. Rewilding and leaving areas unmown was not considered a cost saving exercise.
14. Both parks now served no community benefit or purpose for local people and families.
15. Residents supported the need for biodiversity, but not at the expense of public parks and green open spaces. Other areas could be found, such as existing nature reserves.
16. St. Giles' Park was hired by a number of local children's groups for fund raising events to safeguard their future viability, but overgrown and neglected facilities did not allow events to be held safely. A risk assessment would need to show increased hazards.
17. There appeared to be an increase in ASB and vandalism due to neglected parks
18. The police supported residents promoting parks for mental health and physical well-being as this helped to deter ASB. Young people needed green open spaces, such as those offered by the Parish Council at Doncaster Avenue RG and Springfield Park.
19. Tall grass at road junctions and verges hindered visibility causing safety concerns.
20. A small amount of weed killer was now being used and not in the most effective places.
21. Elderly residents were now experiencing more health issues with asthma and hay fever.
22. The Friends of Hayworth Road Park volunteer group, who had worked with EBC for many years to help improve its appearance and run annual family events, felt it was a shame to see it now so neglected and they could do nothing about it.

The Chairman invited Parish Councillors to comment.

Individual Councillors highlighted the number of years they had lived in Sandiacre and expressed pride in their community, but they were deeply saddened and disappointed by the neglect and lack of maintenance now offered to the area by EBC.

It was felt EBC should have gone through public consultation to gauge community reaction. It was considered children had lost their summer by being unable to fully access EBC parks.

The Chairman noted parks were principally provided for the recreational use of local people. A reduction in mowing services for open spaces had adversely impacted on the appearance of the wider community and negatively affected people's mental well-being and leisure time.

Cllr Alfrey offered his apologies throughout the meeting and acknowledged that people had been turned off by events.

Consultation was important and he would liaise with a number of practitioners to find the best way forward to bring about rewilding and deliver services for multi-functional green spaces.

Cllr Alfrey offered to return to a future meeting with plans he could discuss with residents. In the meantime, areas would be left to grow to ascertain what wild species were established.

The Chairman summarised the main outcomes:

1. Cllr Alfrey was invited to return to a Parish Council meeting in February/March 2025 to offer feedback on developments.

EBC would create maps to determine areas for rewilding, if any were identified.

2. Mr Bramwell would liaise with the Leader of the Sandiacre Guides regarding a risk assessment of St. Giles' Park for holding fundraising events
3. Mr Bramwell would arrange for assessment of tree work required on both parks.

Members of the public and representatives from EBC were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 8.40pm.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 8.45pm

70. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL FOR ABSENCE

Councillor	Apology for absence received
S Jarrett	Holiday
Mrs K Stewart	Ill health

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies for absence received

71. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Hales and Cllr Mrs Hales declared an interest in planning application ERE/0424/0020 2, Orchard Way, as neighbours of the applicant.

72. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations

73. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Refer Agenda Item 77: Planning
Applications for consultation received after the Agenda was issued:

ERE/0824/0020 **2 Orchard Way**
ERE/0824/0023 **84 Stanton Road**

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were raised.

75. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Police
PCSO Hawksworth had recently met with the Clerk and reported incidents had remained low in Sandiacre and surrounding areas over the past months.

Councillors noted an incident had recently occurred on Doncaster Avenue RG, but it had been reported to the police and was under investigation.

2. County Councillor
There was no report under this heading.

3. Borough Councillors

There was no report under this heading.

76. **TO RESOLVE THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 July 2024, copies of which have been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record

77. **PLANNING**

1. To consider planning application consultations received from EBC

ERE/0724/0031

Pear Tree Yard, Town Street

External alterations to include new windows and doors, render finish and a new tiled roof covering

Delegated decision: No objection

ERE/ 0724/0018

295 Bostocks Lane

Ground floor rear extension

Delegated decision: No objection

(EBC: Decision below)

ERE/ 0624/0061

Ladycross House, Travers Road

Erection of 75 bed care home (use class C2) with parking, access, landscaping and other associated works following demolition of existing structures

RESOLVED: to comment, as follows:

Layout - Lifts

It is considered that an additional lift for residents and visitors should be provided adjacent to the entrance area to discourage overcrowding and facilitate lift availability in the event of breakdown and maintenance and for use by ambulance personnel.

This would adequately meet H/S requirements so there are at least 2 resident's lifts generally available on site.

Layout – Stairwells

It is suggested that 2 additional stairwells be provided for ease of movement between all floor levels and they are positioned one each between the East and West wing and the Travers Road wing. This will create more efficient movement between floors and emergency exits.

Highways: Road Safety Crossing

It is considered that provision should be made for installation of a pedestrian crossing allowing access for residents and visitors to the other side of Travers Road creating access to the park, local library and village centre shops and local amenities.

A (Pelican) crossing should be positioned outside the entrance to the building for safe access across a potentially busy road with bus route.

ERE/0724/0014

34 The Paddocks

Installation of air source heat pump to rear of dwelling

Delegated decision: No objection

(EBC: Decision below)

ERE/0824/0004

10 Devon Close

Removal of existing external staircase and balcony and construction of replacement balcony

Delegated decision: No objection

ERE/0824/0020

2 Orchard Way

Outline application for the development of 5 dwellings - access and layout for approval now

RESOLVED: that no objections be made

Cllr Hales and Cllrs Mrs Hales declared an interest and left the room while determination of the application and a vote was taken.

ERE/0824/0023 **84 Stanton Road**

Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: that no objections be made

2. To note tree application submissions to EBC

ERE/0724/0027 **St. Giles' Church, Church Drive** *(Sandiacre Parish Council)*

Works to trees within a Conservation Area - T1 & T2 (Yew) Reduce back overhang from neighbouring property; and T3 (Yew) Reduce canopy by 2m

Delegated decision: No comment

(EBC: Decision below)

3. To note Certificate of Lawfulness application

ERE/0724/0007 **8 Smedleys Avenue**

Lawful development certificate for the proposed use of the dwelling as a home for up to 3 looked-after young persons

(EBC: Decision below)

ERE/0724/0055 **11 Buckingham Road**

Certificate of Lawful Development: Installation of 5 meters dropped kerb

4. To note planning decisions taken by EBC

ERE/0524/0030 **37 Sudbury Avenue**

Single storey side and front extension

EBC: Approved 9/7/24

ERE/0624/0005 **5 Huntingdon Walk**

T1 - Oak Tree - reduce property side only by 1-2m and clear building by 2m. Thin by 15% and remove all epicormic growth

EBC: Approved 16/7/24

ERE/0524/0051 **9 Faircroft Avenue**

Retrospective application - Revisions to ERE/0523/0029 sought for larger front porch, relocated first floor en-suite bathroom rear window to southern side elevation and addition of 5 x external CCTV cameras

EBC: Approved 18/7/24

ERE/0624/0036 **53 York Avenue**

Certificate of Lawfulness for dropped kerbs (4m)

EBC: Approved 6/8/24

ERE/0624/0036 **1st & 2nd floor 34 Station Road**

Prior Notification of proposed conversion of first and second floor office space to no. 2 residential flats

EBC: Approved 13/8/24

ERE/ 0724/0018 **295 Bostocks Lane**

Ground floor rear extension

EBC: Approved 15/8/24

ERE/0724/0014 **34 The Paddocks**

Installation of air source heat pump to rear of dwelling

EBC: Approved 15/8/24

ERE/0724/0027 **St. Giles' Church, Church Drive** *(Sandiacre Parish Council)*

Works to trees within a Conservation Area - T1 & T2 (Yew) Reduce back overhang from neighbouring property; and T3 (Yew) Reduce canopy by 2m

EBC: Approved 19/8/24

RESOLVED: to note the above

78. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Verbal report to be provided at the meeting

The Chairman confirmed important decisions had been taken over the Summer Recess under delegation in order to progress matters.

Items included:

1. To correspond with FCC to comply with funding regulations
2. To liaise over arrangements for establishing the Cemetery boundary line
3. To deal with EBC Planning to establish a Referendum date in the Autumn
4. To determine improvement work to Padmore Moorings for the 2025 contract

79. REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. Crime figures, latest recorded:

- May 2023: 91 May 2024: 48
- June 2023: 79 June 2024: 64

The above was noted.

2. External audit: AGAR Section 3 signed off without comment. Certificate issued

The above was noted.

The Clerk was thanked for all her work on the 2023/2024 Accounts.

3. Good Councillor Guide 2024: Electronic version circulated to Councillors 13/8/24

The above was noted.

4. Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum: Tuesday, 15/10/24 5pm-8pm Matlock

The above was noted.

5. Premises: Roller shutter annual service undertaken 12/8/24

The above was noted.

6. Premises: PAT testing undertaken 7/8/24

The above was noted.

7. Summer play scheme: Outcome

The Parish Council's 4-week summer play scheme held at Ladycross Infant School had been well attended and Councillors wish to express their thanks to Mr Metcalf and his team of coaches for their services.

Mr Metcalf would shortly provide a report showing attendance figures and feedback.

8. VAT refund: January 2024 to June 2024 = £5,837.39 received 11/7/24

The above was noted.

80. BANK MANDATE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY

To update signatory details.

It was confirmed the Local Authority bank mandate form was required to be updated:

1. **RESOLVED:** to remove 4 past Councillors that hadn't stood for re-election
2. **RESOLVED:** to include the following Councillors as named signatories: Cllr T Ford, Cllr Garry Hickton, Cllr Mrs Gerri Hickton, Cllr John Lowrie and Cllr Ryan Pound
3. **RESOLVED:** to confirm the Parish Council remains satisfied with the continuing services of HSBC Bank.

81. CONSULTATION

Nottingham City Council

Consultation on the draft Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Replies required by 30/9/24

RESOLVED to note the above without comment

Cllr Gibson gave apologies and left the meeting for another commitment.

82. SPRINGFIELD PARK / FCC GRANT FUNDING

Funding for perimeter footpath: Progress to date

A 4th quote was required to be obtained to satisfy funding requirements.

83. POLICY REVIEW

Update Financial Regulations – 2024 version

It was noted the new Financial Regulations ensured systems were in place for monitoring electronic payments and creating financial limits to suit each Council.

RESOLVED: the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Major, Cllr Bilbie and Cllr Sanghera (Finance Committee Members) to review the updated Regulations before recommending a final version for ratification

84. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Report on progress

- Independent Examiner Report finalised
- Referendum to be arranged by EBC / Date to be set for Autumn 2024
- Consultancy support received by Mrs Metcalf
- Review NDP in 5 years to consider any major changes in EBC's Core Strategy

The above updates were noted and it was confirmed EBC was making changes to the final version of the Plan as advised by the Examiner, with the Parish Council's consultant checking the final version.

The final Plan would then require approval by EBC before a Referendum was called. EBC would receive funding to cover electoral and administrative costs.

It was noted the Examiner had been very complimentary on the work undertaken by the Working Group and the Parish Council.

85. CEMETERY MATTERS

1. Burials since the last meeting
None.
2. Interment of Ashes since the last meeting
2/8/24 Un-Consecrated area by footpath (Opposite grave row 14)
3. Reserved Graves / Plots since the last meeting
30/7/24 A210

It was noted a new metal black bench installed in memory of a family member had been much admired and complemented the setting.

86. PARKS & OPEN SPACES

To consider any incidents or maintenance issues since the last meeting.

1. Springfield Park
 - Coronation tree removed due to vandalism of main trunk
2. Doncaster Avenue Recreation Ground
 - Tree branches damaged by bank near car park
 - Netting to goal posts and basketball hoops removed due to damage
3. PlayMaintainRepair (PMR): Play area quarterly inspection reports
Risk Assessment findings itemised. Quote for repair work to follow.

RESOLVED: that repair work should be prioritised and undertaken to ensure safety requirements were met

87. DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters circulated electronically to Councillors upon receipt: July and August 2024

88. FINANCE

1. To note the monthly financial report
 - The financial report, including bank reconciliation, was presented by the Clerk
 - Cllr Hales and Cllr Mrs Hales were thanked for monitoring 1st quarter payments
 - The 1st quarter budget monitoring report was circulated covering April to June
 - a) **RESOLVED:** to receive and note the monthly financial report presented
 - b) **RESOLVED:** to give delegated responsibility to the Clerk to transfer £7,000 per month from the Deposit Account to the Current Account to top-up funds, as and when required
2. To authorise payments

July

DD 1/7	Water Plus (9648)	Premises supply	15.20
DD 8/7	British Gas (0778)	Premises electricity supply	0.91
DD 9/7	ICO	Data Protection Certificate	35.00
DD 15/7	N Power (3192)	Padmore: Bridge lights x 4	49.74

DD 16/7	BT (3766)	Phone rental	8.81
CHG 21/7	HSBC	Banking services monthly fee: £8 + activity charge	18.53
BP 9/7	IMI Memorial Insp	Headstone testing: St. Giles Churchyard (270)	1,255.20
BP 9/7	Dukeries Domestic	Graffiti remover and equipment	28.88
BP 18/7	O Heap	Extinguisher/ fire blanket inspection	82.80
BP 31/7	Fox Landscapes	Springfield Park: Hedge work	336.00
BP 31/7	Fox GM	Parks/Burial grounds mowing: July	1,590.42
BP 31/7	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary: July	1,779.49
BP 31/7	HMRC	TAX/NIC's: July	464.45
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: July (4 weeks)	725.00
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	DARG: Low level work (Removing vegetation off site)	100.00
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	Grounds Maintenance: Padmore / Village centre	400.00
BP 31/7	Spen's GS	Low level work: Burial grounds/Parks (Tree uplifting)	1,056.00
Total:			<u>7,946.43</u>

August

DD 1/8	Water Plus (9648)	Premises supply	15.20
DD 2/8	BT (2269)	Broadband 1/7/24 - 30/9/24	235.36
DD 5/8	British Gas (0778)	Premises electricity supply	22.36
CHG 21/8	HSBC	Banking services monthly fee	8.00
BP 7/8	EBC	Cemetery bin collection x 2 (1/4/24 - 30/6/24)	260.00
BP 7/8	Viking	Office: Stationery	229.13
BP 9/8	J Bloor to Screwfix	Premises: Combination padlocks x 2 (Incl. spare)	60.98
BP 16/8	Ashfield Ind. Doors	Roller shutter annual service	120.00
BP 16/8	UK Safety Management	Office: PAT testing x 20 items	70.80
BP 26/8	Planning with People	Consultancy support re Examination	1,500.00
BP 26/8	PKF Littlejohn	External audit 2023/24	504.00
BP 26/8	Play Maintain Repair	Parks: Play Area quarterly inspections	240.00
BP 28/8	A M Sports	Summer play scheme	4,000.00
BP 30/8	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary	1,779.29
BP 30/8	HMRC	TAX/NIC's	464.65
BP 30/8	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: 3 weeks only	581.25
BP 30/8	Andrew's GS	DARG: Low level work parks	278.00
BP 30/8	Andrew's GS	Grounds Maintenance: Padmore / Village centre	400.00
BP 30/8	Spen's GS	Low level work: Burial grounds/Parks/Open spaces	942.00
Total:			<u>11,711.02</u>

3. To note income received

July

10	Hawleys: Area 2, Row C, G15 H/S	190.00
10	Hawleys: Plaque - UN-C area, Opp. G row 14	95.00
11	HMRC: VAT refund	5,837.39
22	A211: Plot only for memorial plaque	189.00
24	Hawleys: Plaque - UN-C area, Opp. G row 14 = 2nd	95.00
24	Hawleys: Area 2, Row C, G15 H/S = 2nd	190.00
31	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	134.55
31	Savings A/C: EBC electoral admin. costs - Interest	3.21
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	0.02
Total:		<u>6,734.17</u>

August

14	Hawleys: A209 Memorial plaque	95.00
14	Hawleys: Barnett A207 Memorial plaque	95.00
27	Hawleys: A209 Memorial plaque	95.00
27	Hawleys: Barnett A207 Memorial plaque	95.00
31	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	135.55
31	Savings A/C: EBC electoral admin. costs - Interest	3.32
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	0.02
Total:		<u>518.89</u>

RESOLVED: to note the above and approve payments

89. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

90. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

*If the Council decides to exclude the public it will be necessary to pass a resolution in the following terms: **RESOLVED:** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

91. BOUNDARY ISSUE

Outcome of meeting with resident 28/8/24

Cllr Major, Cllr Bilbie and the Clerk had met with the resident to consider the findings of the Surveyor's report, which following extensive investigation, had identified the boundary line to be set back, allowing for a small strip of land to the Cemetery side.

It was mutually agreed with the resident that Tower Surveys would be asked by the Parish Council to pinpoint the boundary line with markers.

Permanent marker posts could then be fixed into place by the Council to ensure a lasting and defined line for creating future grave/memorial space, whilst ensuring privacy through regrowth for the resident.

Installation of permanent marker posts would be established with the agreement of both parties and details formally recorded for posterity.

RESOLVED: to agree the above to ensure final resolution of the disputed area by both parties

92. DATE & TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024 at 7.00pm

The Memorial Institute, 19a Doncaster Avenue, Sandiacre NG10 5FJ

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed by the Chairman: _____ Date: _____