

SANDIACRE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 3 December 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	
A	Cllr A Gibson	
	Cllr Mrs S Hales	
	Cllr T Hales	
A	Cllr G Hickton	
A	Cllr Mrs G Hickton	
	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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

136. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL FOR ABSENCE

Councillor	Apology for absence received
Cllr G Hickton	Prior commitment
Cllr Mrs G Hickton	Prior commitment
Mrs K Stewart	Ill health

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies for absence received

It was noted Cllr Gibson had not forwarded apologies for absence.

137. DISPENSATION FOR ABSENCE

To consider granting Cllr Mrs Stewart further dispensation for absence.

Cllr Mrs Stewart was currently unable to attend Parish Council meetings and Members were asked to consider dispensation under s85 (1) of the LGA 1972 for a further period of 6 months.

Cllr Mrs Stewart had given advance notice that she wished to be reconsidered for dispensation as she hoped to attend future meetings once her health improved.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Stewart be granted dispensation for a period of 6 months from the date of the meeting, following approval of the reason given for her absence

The Clerk would notify Cllr Mrs Stewart of the decision.

138. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

139. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations

140. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Refer Agenda Item 144.1: Planning

Application received after the Agenda was issued: ERE/1124/0036 **1 Sycamore Crescent**

141. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Ford reported on work being carried out by Sandiacre Friendship Hub, including the introduction of a new Autism support group and help with digital access.

Councillors were reminded they could ask the Clerk to include an item on the Agenda for consideration at least 5 days prior to a meeting.

142. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Police

PC Duggard had met with the Clerk to request seating on Doncaster Avenue RG by the public footpath be removed in order to deter youths gathering at night.

Since this item had first been considered at the Finance meeting held on 26/11/24 and a response given, the police had again requested benches be removed.

Councillors considered the park's facilities should remain accessible for all users and the cost of removing and replacing existing seating was not viable and there was no storage space available. It was considered the police had responsibility for dealing with ongoing ASB in public open spaces and their request was declined.

It was noted the Council was looking to consult with residents in the New Year through the newsletter on improving the park's facilities through outside grant funding. This could see the introduction of single metal benches around the park, which could reduce the availability of seating to deter youths from congregating.

2. County Councillor

Cllr Major reported on the following:

- DCC was seeking to balance its 2025/26 budget by looking at a number of options to reduce costs
- Children's services and Care Home provision were being considered for savings amounting to £5m per year
- DCC was considering withdrawing the Alveston Castle Master Plan on cost grounds to reduce development in order to safeguard its future
- Following consultation, DCC would reduce discretionary grant funding to community groups in order to make savings

3. Borough Councillors

Cllr Major, Cllr Bilbie and Cllr Sanghera reported on the following:

- More than 100 people had sought homelessness assistance from EBC after the Novotel Hotel (a Government-run asylum seeker hotel) was closed, with 82% of requests being granted
- For those who reapply, the 'early bird' discount fee for the garden waste bin collection scheme would rise from £22 to £25 from 1/4/25
- DD and on-line payments would remain at the higher rate of £37, with no discount applied
- Food waste was required to be separated to all other waste, but this would rely on people's co-operation and created a significant change in routine practice
- Cllr Major had been invited to chair a working group to look at the issues

143. TO RESOLVE THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 November 2024, copies of which have been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record

144. PLANNING

1. To consider planning application consultations received from EBC

ERE/1124/0001 **14 Barker Avenue North**

Retrospective planning application for rear single storey extension and front porch

RESOLVED: that no objections be made

ERE/1124/0034 **29 Barker Avenue North**

New porch to front elevation

RESOLVED: that no objections be made

ERE/1124/0036 **1 Sycamore Crescent**

Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed use of the dwelling for an HMO for between 3-6 unrelated people

RESOLVED: to object on the following grounds – Adequacy of parking provision and access, detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties and the fear of setting a precedent that a number of other residential properties would be turned into HMO's

2. To note tree application submissions to EBC

None to date.

3. To note Certificate of Lawfulness application

ERE/0924/0026 **11 Starch Lane**

Certificate of lawfulness for solar panels to the rear roof of property

Approved: 11/11/24

ERE/1124/0001 **17 Linden Grove**

Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for 5 dropped kerbs

EBC Validated: 20/11/24 *Approved: 26/11/24*

4. To note planning decisions taken by EBC

ERE0924/0038 **123 Longmoor Lane**

Works to three TPO Trees: T006 (Sycamore) crown lift to 3m; T016 (Sycamore) crown reduction by 2m, remove deadwood less than 25 mm and remove deadwood greater than 25mm; T054 (sycamore) Fell

EBC: Approved 5/11/24

RESOLVED: to note the above

145. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Verbal report to be provided at the meeting

There was no report under this heading.

146. REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. Crime figures, latest recorded: September 2023 = 74 / September 2024 = 77

Updated figures for October were provided: October 2023 = 64 / October 2024 = 89

2. Carols Around the Tree: Attendance

Although numbers were slightly down on previous years, over 50 people had attended and the event went smoothly. Festive artwork had been provided by Ladycross Inf. School and Cloudside Academy and the local Co-op had provided free mince pies and chocolates for those attending. Sandiacre Male Voice Choir had again led the carols. Everyone was thanked for contributing to its success.

It was noted that for safety reasons, space was restricted around the village sign and the event could not cater for a much larger crowd. However, in order to attract more interest, Councillors considered ways of developing the event for the future.

The Clerk would include this item on the February Agenda for further consideration.

3. FCC grant funding: Report on progress

It was confirmed further action would be taken in January when tendering could be advertised. Access to Springfield Park was only possible with dryer ground conditions later in the Spring.

4. Finance Committee met 26/11/24

It was confirmed the Finance Committee had met to consider the 2025/26 budget. The budget would be very tight as increases had been necessary for an increase in Employer NIC's, salary and service costs and inflation.

A 4% increase in the Precept would be recommended for ratification at the January full Council meeting. Taking into account the withdrawal of £2,000 Concurrent Function grant by EBC and recovery through the Precept, it left a 1.85% actual increase.

Services undertaken by the Parish Council would remain unchanged to maintain consistent and reliable grounds maintenance work and litter picking. It was not intended to increase litter picking in the village centre as this was the responsibility of EBC who should be approached directly if areas were left neglected.

5. Office closure: Monday, 23/12/24. Re-opens: Monday, 6/1/25 (two weeks)

The above was noted.

6. Remembrance evening service: Attendance

The Chairman noted his disappointment that attendance at the evening service was considerably reduced compared to previous years.

Councillors considered a number of reasons why this may have occurred, including limited accessibility and parking, darker evenings and community group representatives no longer able to attend.

RESOLVED: to note attendance at the 2025 evening service before considering alternative options for marking Remembrance Sunday in the community

147. DELEGATION UNTIL THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

To consider the Clerk be given delegated authority to make BACS payments, consider quotations, deal with urgent matters and respond to planning applications, following consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Sanghera (any 2 as available), until the next ordinary meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 14 January 2025, the Second Tuesday in the month.

RESOLVED: to approve the above

148. CONSULTATIONS

- a) Public consultation on the Nottinghamshire County Council Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document.
- b) Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan - Public Draft Consultation.
- c) EBC Core Strategy Review: Response from Inspector following examination on 5/11/24.

RESOLVED: to note the above consultations, without comment

149. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Report on progress

It was confirmed EBC Executive had approved calling a parish Referendum on the Sandiacre NDP for February 2025 at the usual Polling Stations: Sandiacre Memorial Institute and the Cricket Club.

The question on the ballot paper would read as follows: *'Do you want Erewash Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sandiacre parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'*

The referendum would be run by the Council's Electoral Services team with reimbursement of costs obtained by EBC through Government funding.

Publicity would be provided at the time by EBC and the Parish Council.

150. CEMETERY MATTERS

1. Burials since the last meeting
3/12/24 G169

2. Interment of Ashes since the last meeting
25/11/24 A158
5/12/24 A202 (Current month)

3. Reserved Graves / Plots since the last meeting
None to date.

4. Grave digging in Sandiacre Cemetery
Future arrangements following Mr Wilford's retirement from grave digging.

It was noted the Clerk would shortly meet with the new gravedigger to obtain relevant paperwork for working in the burial grounds.

Mr Wilford wished to continue digging Ashes plots for Sandiacre Cemetery and St. Giles' Church.

151. PARKS & OPEN SPACES

To consider any incidents or maintenance issues since the last meeting

- Doncaster Avenue RC: Ongoing gang activity and evening ASB
- Request by police to remove seating by footpath through park (declined)

152. DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters circulated electronically to Councillors upon receipt.

153. FINANCE

1. To note the monthly financial report

The financial report, including bank reconciliation to month end and the budget monitoring statement to 31/10/24 were circulated at the meeting.

2. To authorise payments

DD 1/11	Water Plus (9648)	Premises supply	17.11
DD 1/11	BT (2269)	Broadband 1/10/24 - 31/12/24	224.58
DD 11/11	British Gas (0778)	Premises electricity supply	103.35
CHG 21/11	HSBC	Banking services: A/C fee: £8	8.00
BP 5/11	Fox	Grounds Maintenance: October	1,590.42
BP 12/11	J Bloor	UK Domain name/Email A/C: 28/8/24-28/8/25	25.71
BP 12/11	Viking	Scanner: Toner x 4	305.88
BP 23/11	LeisureLites	Xmas lights rental agreement: Year 2/2 (Half)	5,958.00
BP 25/11	LeisureLites	Xmas lights rental agreement: Year 2/2 (Half)	5,958.00
BP 26/11	Fox	DARG: Remove/replace seized padlocks x 2	120.00
BP 26/11	PMR	Play area quarterly inspections	240.00
BP 29/11	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary: Nov + NJC arrears from 1/4 (7 x £76 net)	2,160.93
BP 29/11	HMRC	TAX/NIC's: November	685.96
BP 29/11	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: November (5 weeks)	968.75
BP 29/11	Andrew's GS	DARG: Low level work parks	264.00
BP 29/11	Spen's GS	Low level work: Burial grounds x 2 / Poppy dismantling	440.00
Total:			19,070.69

It was noted expenditure included NJC salary arrears from 1/4/24 and Christmas lights expenditure, as contained within the budget.

- RESOLVED:** to receive and note the monthly financial report presented
- RESOLVED:** to note and approve the above payments
- 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

3. To note income received

13	Hawleys: A212 Plaque	95.00
14	Lymns ST: A202 Plot / Interment x 2	397.00
14	National Grid: Wayleave payment cables	8.05
14	Lymns ST: A212 Plot / Interment x 2	379.00
14	Co-op LE Row D, G10 Headstone	378.00
14	Craftmen-in-stone: G158 H/S additional inscription	140.00
15	EBC: Refund of VAT incorrectly requested 29/10	243.99
26	Hawleys: A202 Plaque	95.00
27	A216: Reserved Plot/Interments	379.00
29	Hawleys: G153 H/S	190.00
31	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	72.64
31	Savings A/C: EBC electoral admin. costs - Interest	3.23
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	0.02
Total:		<u>2,380.93</u>

RESOLVED: to note income received

154. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

155. 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.*

156. DATE & TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2025 at 7.00pm

SECOND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

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

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed by the Chairman: _____ **Date:** _____