

SANDIACRE PARISH COUNCIL

www.sandiacreparishcouncil.org

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 5 September 2023 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	
A	Cllr Mrs S Hales	
	Cllr T Hales	
A	Cllr G Hickton	
	Cllr Mrs G Hickton	
	Cllr S Jarratt	
	Cllr J Lowrie	
	Cllr R Pound	
	Cllr T Sanghera	
	Cllr Mrs K Stewart	
	Cllr R Stewart	

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M Bloor - Clerk to the Parish Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Three

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

70. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

	Apology for absence received and noted
Cllr Mrs Hales	Family commitment
Cllr G Hickton	Other commitment

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies for absence received

71. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

72. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

73. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no variation of business.

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Asylum Seekers

Two residents raised a number of concerns relating to incidents involving Asylum Seekers housed in the Novotel near their properties. Anti-social behaviour, noise and disturbance and a build-up of litter was ongoing and it was felt little could be done by residents or the police to reduce impact on the community.

Cllr Major (as County Councillor) confirmed he had recently invited the Chief Executive of DCC to visit the area and the matter of housing Asylum Seekers in local hotels had been raised. It was noted she intended to make representation to the Home Office as a number of hotels in Derbyshire were under contract for this purpose.

Residents felt more should be done and it was important that the authorities and police realised issues remained and these matters needed to be addressed without delay.

Councillors expressed their sympathy to those affected by the problems and thanked residents for raising the matter with them.

The Clerk was asked to notify the police of issues raised.

Damage to property: Doncaster Avenue RG

A resident explained she was attending the meeting to speak with the police to raise concerns over ongoing damage to her property boundary fence situated next to the park. She had installed cameras and reported incidents, but the problem remained.

Councillors expressed their thanks to her for bringing the matter to their attention.

The Clerk was asked to notify the police of issues raised.

Residents were thanked for attending the meeting and left at 7.25pm.

75. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Police

PCSO Hawksworth had recently met with the Clerk to apologise for being unable to present a report for the meeting. He hoped to attend the next one in person.

Cllr Major noted there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour around Springfield Mill and there had been a spate of metal gully covers being removed from roadsides. DCC intended to replace them the following day.

Cllr Gibson noted more dogs were now being allowed off-lead on the canal towpath.

Cllr Bilbie reported residents on Nursery Avenue had experienced cars being parked across their drives during school times.

2. County Councillor

Cllr Major reported on the following:

- He had recently provided grant funding to support the introduction of a new volunteer Community Speed Watch group monitoring Stanton Road. The police would provide training, but the group did not have powers of enforcement. Vehicle owners would be sent a letter discouraging them from speeding.
- Emma Alexander (DCC Chief Executive) had visited several sites around Sandiacre with Cllr Major who had been able to raise a number of important issues, including: Improvements needed for Ladycross House, restoring Sandiacre library, alleviating problems with HGV movement and supporting the introduction of a new M1 Junction 25A.
- The findings of the Boundary Commission review were expected in October.

3. Borough Councillors

Having attended the Executive Meeting that afternoon in his capacity as Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Major reported on some of the decisions taken to reduce costs:

- An annual charge would be introduced for brown bin collections
- The free community household waste collection service would be discontinued
- Parish Council's Concurrent Functions grants would be fully withdrawn by 2025
- Recycle centres would be closed
- Future issues of the EBC magazine would be published on-line

76. **TO RESOLVE THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 JULY 2023 ARE A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July 2023, 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/0723/0044 12 Nursery Avenue

Change of use of dwelling to a mixed use to include the construction of an outbuilding in rear garden to be used for a physiotherapy business

Delegated response: No objections

ERE/0723/0053 8 Town Street

Works to various trees within the Conservation Area

Delegated response: No objections

ERE/0823/0001 8 Town Street

Works to 2 Yew trees and 1 Yew hedge. Reduce height down to 12ft. Cut all lateral branches back to trunk

Delegated response: No objections

ERE/0823/0028 78 Springfield Avenue

Two storey front extensions, new raised roof with dormers to rear and addition of roof lights. New doors and windows to rear elevation

Delegated response: No objections

ERE/0823/0030 21 Maple Avenue

Construction of a new House in the garden of 21 Maple Avenue

Delegated response: No objections

2. To receive planning decisions taken by EBC

ERE/0223/0046 Land Rear of Beech House, Lock Lane

Demolition and replacement of existing agricultural stores to form one new dwelling, with associated landscape works

Withdrawn

ERE/1222/0022 34 Bostocks Lane

Erect first floor front extension, single storey front extension and detached garage / convert existing garage and apply new render finish to front elevation walls

EBC approved

ERE/0523/0046 Forte Posthouse Hotel / Holiday Inn, Bostocks Lane

Installation of 7 Electric vehicle chargers, lighting and associated work

EBC approved

ERE/0623/0006 **50 Bostocks Lane**
Two storey front extension and rear extension, first floor side extension and loft conversion with rear dormers windows and roof lights
EBC approved

ERE/0723/0019 **52 Lancaster Avenue**
Prior Notification for proposed single storey orangery to the rear
EBC: Prior approval not required

ERE/0723/0019 **15 Nursery Avenue**
Certificate of Lawfulness for dropped kerbs
EBC: Approved 18/7/23

RESOLVED: to note the above applications and decision notices

78. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman was pleased to report the Memorial Institute had recently been decorated and the building now looked attractive and appealing for users groups.

79. REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. Crime figures, latest recorded

May 2022	92	May 2023	91
June 2022	94	June 2023	79

2. Christmas lights: New motifs / School competition

Leisure Lites had issued a number of designs for choosing new motifs under the new 3-year rental agreement and Councillors were asked to send their preferred designs to the Clerk.

Cloudside Academy had confirmed they would run a children's competition for creating a new design, with the winner being invited to switch-on the Christmas tree lights with the Parish Council Chairman.

3. DCC to repair small surface hole by Church Drive / Maple Avenue

The above was noted.

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

The above was noted.

5. Planting of 2 commemorative trees

Two hornbeam trees had been planted at the top of Springfield Park with funding provided by Cllr Major (as County Councillor) from his celebrating the coronation community fund. Two commemorative plaques would also be obtained.

6. Summer play scheme x 4 weeks feedback: Monday, 24/7/23 to Friday, 18/8/23.

Mr Metcalf had provided a breakdown of the 4 week summer play scheme, which had proved to be a great success with local children and their families.

It was noted the Parish Council had made additional funding available to sustain a 4-week scheme following EBC's earlier decision to withdraw a £1,200 grant.

80. EBC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Expressions of interest to be appointed to the Borough Council Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: to note the above

81. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS (CF) GRANT

Notification from EBC that all parishes in Erewash will receive only £2,000 in 2024/25. In 2025/26, the CF grant will be withdrawn completely.

2023/2024	Actual	£24, 046	
2024/2025	Reduction	£22,046	£2,000 remaining
2025/2026	Reduction	£2,000	Nil

Councillors to consider no reduction in service levels and all CF costs to be met through the Precept

Careful consideration was given to the recent EBC decision to withdraw future Concurrent Functions grant funding to parishes and the implications this would have on existing services if the Precept was not increased to meet costs.

Councillors noted the detrimental impact it would have on services to the local community if the Precept was not increased and by at least 28% to meet the shortfall.

Following further discussion, it was

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk write to the Leader of EBC and the Chief Executive to raise concerns over the decision to withdraw CF grants without first formally consulting parishes

The tone of the Notice letter sent by Cllr Thomas (Lead Member for Resources) informing Parish Councils of the imminent withdrawal of funding was considered to be unsympathetic to parishes and the functions they carried out.

Parish Councils were at the heart of the community and residents greatly benefit from a high level of service they provided to maintain parks and open spaces and reduce litter.

- b) **RESOLVED:** that any shortfall in Concurrent Functions grant funding from April 2024 and April 2025 should be met by an increase in the Precept

82. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS – TENDERING 2024/2025

The Clerk advised she had experienced no problems with the company over the previous 12 months and numerous compliments had been received on their work. They had worked above and beyond to ensure a quality reliable service.

A comparison of costs covering a one and two year period were considered.

Parks, Cemetery and Burial Grounds

RESOLVED: to reinstate Fox Landscapes Ltd for a 2-year period based on lower costs

Year 1: £15,904.20	Year 2: £16,381.32
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Amenity Areas

To consider reinstatement of Mr Wallace for a further 12 month period from 1/4/24.

The Clerk advised she had received compliments on the work undertaken by Mr Wallace to the flower bed areas and Padmore Moorings.

RESOLVED: to reinstate Mr Wallace for a further 12 month period from 1/4/24 at a cost of £2,400

83. CANCELLATION OF CIVIC SERVICE

For Councillors to consider cancelling future Civic Services from October 2023

It was confirmed Rev. Trelenberg (Chairman of St. Giles' Parochial Church Council) had written to outline difficulties facing the church if they organised a Civic Service and space was restricted this year as roof repairs were being carried out.

Councillors considered the future viability of the Civic Service and the decline in support received from local community groups and organisations over several years. However, it was evident the Remembrance evening service was well attended and should continue.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council no longer organise a Civic Service

84. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Cllr Ford and Cllr Pound were unable to attend induction training on 24/7/23 as the event had been rescheduled to October.

85. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

www.sandiacre.neighbourhoodplan.uk

Report on progress by the Chairman/Steering Group Chairman.

Public consultation period

- Monday, 12/6/23 to Friday, 8/9/23 = 13 weeks
- 4,500 leaflets distributed into the community: Houses and businesses
- Details provided on Parish Council website, Sandiacre NP website and library
- Consultation: Erewash parishes, local council authorities and statutory consultees

Public drop-in sessions

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| • Saturday, 1/7/23 | 10am to 12noon | Over 60 attended |
| • Tuesday, 18/7/23 | 6pm to 8pm | Over 50 attended |

Future funding

Government funding was now available from 1/4/23 to 31/3/24.

A claim had been submitted for £5,525 for additional consultancy fees and subsequently, it had been confirmed £5,000 was approved.

It was confirmed funding must be spent by 31/3/24, or returned. Consultation responses were being received from residents and statutory bodies.

The consultant would now progress the NP before it went to inspection and Referendum.

86. CEMETERY MATTERS

1. Burials since the last meeting
9/8/23 Area 2, Row D, Grave 9
30/8/23 Area 2, Row B, Grave 13
2. Interment of Ashes since the last meeting
31/7/23 G53 Ashes into grave
3. Reserved Graves / Plots since the last meeting
None.

RESOLVED: to note the above

87. PARKS & OPEN SPACES

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

The Clerk noted both Doncaster Avenue RG and Springfield Park had not sustained damage over the summer months and compliments had been received on grass cutting and the appearance of the parks.

- The top entrance gate to Springfield Park had been repaired and fencing had been replaced and brambles removed.
- A small section of the stream ditch had been cleared for ease of access
- Two commemorative coronation trees had been planted by the daffodil bench.

A quote for installing a new perimeter path had been obtained, which amounted to £90,000. The Clerk would ascertain if outside funding could be sourced for the project.

Cllrs Mrs Hickton left the meeting at 8.50pm.

Cllr Stewart and Cllr Mrs Stewart noted the Friends of Hayworth Road Park volunteers had recently worked alongside EBC tree wardens to clear vegetation and brambles.

88. DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters circulated electronically to Councillors upon receipt: August 2023

89. FINANCE

1. To note the monthly financial report for August
 - a) **RESOLVED:** to note the report presented by the Clerk
 - b) **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk could transfer £5,000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account, if necessary, during the month in readiness for payments
2. To receive the 1st Quarter budget monitoring report

RESOLVED: to note the monitoring report covering the period 1/4/23 to 30/6/23

3. To authorise payments - July

DD 3/7	Water Plus (9648)	Office supply	18.05
DD 7/7	ICO	Data protection renewal fee	35.00
DD 10/7	British Gas (0778)	Office electricity supply: 27/4/23 - 26/6/23	91.46
DD 17/7	Npower (3192)	Street lighting: Bridge lights 1/4/23 - 30/6/23	34.21
DD 17/7	BT (3766)	Phone rental	7.73
DR 21/7	HSBC	Bank: Monthly charge	8.00
BP 4/7	Fox GM	Grounds Maintenance: June	1,529.24
BP 4/7	O Heap	Annual fire extinguisher check	76.80
BP 20/7	EBC	Cost for organising parish election: Uncontested	421.00
BP 31/7	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary: July	1,665.13
BP 31/7	HMRC	TAX/NIC's: July	455.53
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: July	744.00
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	Low level work: July	265.00
BP 31/7	Andrew's GS	Amenity areas maintenance/planting	408.33
BP 31/7	Spen's GS	Burial grounds/Park: Low level work	837.00
Total:			<u>6,596.48</u>

RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for payment shown above

4. To note income received - July

3	Lymns: A63 Interment (2 nd)	95.00
14	Baileys: Area 2, Row C, G10 H/S	360.00
19	G53: Transfer of Rights	49.00
27	Hawleys: A206 Plaque	85.00
31	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	132.02
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Polling station costs - Interest	10.36
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	0.16
Total:		<u>731.54</u>

RESOLVED: to note income received

5. To authorise payments - August

DD 1/8	Water Plus (9648)	Office supply	18.05
DD 2/8	BT (2269)	Broadband: 1/7/23 - 30/9/23	255.78
DD 8/8	British Gas (0778)	Office electricity supply: 26/6/23 - 25/7/23	84.39
DD 16/8	BT (3766)	Phone rental	7.73
DR 21/8	HSBC	Bank: Monthly charge	10.00
BP 9/8	Fox GM	Grounds Maintenance: July	1,529.24
BP 9/8	EBC	Hanging baskets Year 3 of 3	1,056.00
BP 14/8	Fox GM	DCC Grant: Planting 2 coronation trees	942.00
BP 14/8	Fox GM	Spr. Park: Excavate and level stream bank	84.00
BP 15/8	Fox GM	Spr. Park: Repairs to entrance gate/fence	780.00
BP 15/8	Mrs Bloor	Premises: New mats x 2	10.00
BP 23/8	Ashfield Ind Doors	Premises: Annual roller shutter service	120.00
BP 29/8	PKF Littlejohn	External audi	504.00

BP 29/8	A.M Sports	Summer play scheme x 4 weeks 24/7 - 18/8	3,850.00
BP 31/8	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary: August	1,665.13
BP 31/8	HMRC	TAX/NIC's: August	455.53
BP 31/8	Fox GM	Grounds Maintenance: August	1,529.24
BP 31/8	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: August	744.00
BP 31/8	Andrew's GS	Low level work: August	200.00
BP 31/8	Andrew's GS	Amenity areas maintenance/planting	408.33
BP 31/8	Spen's GS	Burial grounds/Park: Low level work	837.00
Total:			<u>15,090.42</u>

RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for payment shown above

6. To note income received - August

7	A206: Plot / Interment x 2	370.00	
10	Craftsmen-in-Stone: G144 H/S Add. Inscription	33.00	Part payment
15	Craftsmen-in-Stone: Area 2, Row D, G6	180.00	
18	Craftsmen-in-Stone: G144 H/S Add. Inscription	32.00	Part payment
10	Bailey: Area 2, Row C, G2 - H/S	180.00	
31	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	148.77	
31	Savings A/C: EBC - Electoral costs	421.00	
31	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	0.08	
Total:		<u>1,364.85</u>	

RESOLVED: to note income received

90. **CORRESPONDENCE**

EBC: Notification of reduction in Concurrent Functions grant. Item 80 refers.

RESOLVED: to note correspondence received

91. **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.*

No members of the public were present.

92. **CEMETERY BOUNDARY LINE**

Cllr Gibson and Cllr Jarrett left the meeting at 9.10pm.

Report on progress to resolve the boundary line issue.

Background information was provided for new Members.

The Clerk advised the resident was requesting additional evidence from the Parish Council's Solicitor to establish his claim to the boundary line, which would incur legal costs.

Councillors considered it was important to establish ownership in an amicable way and resolution would require each party to abide by the final report and outcome.

At present, the Parish Council was maintaining the strip of land and seeking to have available grave space there in the future, once ownership was proven.

RESOLVED: that the resident would be asked to jointly share the cost of a land survey and in addition, each party would agree to abide by the outcome of the decision for the future

93. DATE & TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2023 at 7.00pm

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

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

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