

SANDIACRE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 7 May 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	
A	Cllr Mrs S Hales	
	Cllr T Hales	
	Cllr G Hickton	
	Cllr Mrs G Hickton	
	Cllr S Jarratt	
	Cllr J Lowrie	
	Cllr R Pound	
	Cllr T Sanghera	
A	Cllr Mrs K Stewart	
	Cllr R Stewart	

ABSENT: Cllr A Gibson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M Bloor - Clerk to the Parish Council
PC T Dugard & PCSO I Hawsworth (Part meeting for Item 10.1)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Two

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Public consultation on draft proposals for redevelopment of the former Ladycross CH site
A representative from the public consultation event held that day was unavailable to attend.

1. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL FOR ABSENCE

Councillor	Apology for absence received and noted
Cllr Mrs S Hales	Prior commitment
Mrs K Stewart	Health

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies for absence received

Cllr Pound had earlier apologised at the Annual Parish Council meeting for being absent at the April full Council meeting without conveying his apologies in advance.

2. 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 period of 6 months.

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

Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation to Cllr Mrs Stewart for all her commitment as a Parish Councillor and involvement with the local community over many years and wished her well for a full recovery.

3. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations for items on the Agenda.

5. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Refer Item 10. Planning

RESOLVED: to note the application shown on EBC's website after the Agenda was issued

Tree work ERE/0424/0039 **Sandiacre Court Care Centre, Derby Road**

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

EBC reduction in maintenance of parks, open spaces and grass verges

A resident raised concerns that EBC's decision to reduce its mowing service for local parks and green open spaces was having a detrimental impact on the community, especially when compared to parks maintained by the Parish Council to a much higher standard. (*PC: Doncaster Avenue Recreation Ground & Springfield Park*).

It was considered green open spaces were provided for the benefit of local people, especially children, in order for them to stay healthy and active and to aid well-being. Biodiversity would be seen to increase through rewilding, but it was felt parks were not intended to be wildlife areas that restricted access for recreational use.

The Chairman explained it was now EBC's policy to mow parks and verges only 2 to 3 times per year with over 100 areas of green open space being left wild. Strips of grass would be mown around perimeters only and when leading to play areas.

It was noted there had been no consultation with residents or a trial period introduced. Changes were likely to see an increase in ASB and fly-tipping as more areas became neglected and overgrown. Complaints would be received from dog walkers and invasive plant species would take hold.

It was reported residents continued to raise concerns with the Clerk that it was noticeable some parks and open spaces in the parish were no longer maintained. Residents were directed to EBC as complaints related to their areas of responsibility.

In order to assist residents make complaints directly to EBC, Councillors considered additional contact information should be provided by the Parish Council.

Links to the EBC's complaints page would be shown on the Parish Council's website, with hard copies made available for those without internet access. A link to a separate petition for improved services was also shown. <https://www.erewash.gov.uk/the-councilsection/complaints.html?highlight=WyJib21wbGFpbnRzIiwY29tcGxhaW50cyciXQ>

The resident was thanked for raising concerns and left the meeting at 7.50pm.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. Police

PC Dugard and PCSO Hawksworth joined the meeting to report on current trends.

It was confirmed reported incidents had decreased in recent months and some were domestic, but were still included in statistics.

In response to a question, it was noted Asylum Seekers were no longer housed at the Novotel, although the police were present at times to attend liaison meetings.

Officers confirmed they would attend a Hub meeting to offer advice on scam phone calls and how to deal with them.

In response to a question, it was confirmed the police had limited powers of enforcement relating to parking issues and this was the responsibility of DCC Civil Enforcement Officers, who the police liaised with.

The Chairman highlighted residents had raised concerns with him directly over HGV continuing to park on Mark Street and incidents of ASB were taking place at the nearby fast-food outlet. Officers confirmed they were aware of the problems and addressing issues raised.

Officers were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

2. County Councillor

Cllr Major reported on the following:

- Damaged railings at the corner of Derby Road and Longmoor Lane were in the process of being replaced. DCC was unable to install wrought iron fencing due to excessive cost, but identical aluminium railings had been approved for installation in the Conservation Area
- In order to make additional savings, DCC was currently consulting on options for the future of refurbished care homes across the county, including: Lacemaker Court, Long Eaton and Briar Close, Borrowash
- Trading Standards had recently visited retailers and issued fines, where necessary
- Although some pot holes remained in need of repair, work was scheduled and further funding was expected

3. Borough Councillors

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

- Following recent Mayoral elections, the focus of the Borough Council was now on rewilding open spaces in order to create savings
- Long Eaton and Ilkeston Town Halls now had reduced opening hours: 10.00am to 2.00pm each week, which would impact on services provided to the public
- Money saved by reducing services to such an extent was predicted to create a large underspend in the first year
- The Chairman emphasised Sandiacre Borough Councillors remained unhappy by reductions in services now implemented by EBC and felt alternative options

and solutions should have first been considered to lessen the impact on residents and communities

8. TO RESOLVE THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024 ARE A CORRECT RECORD

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

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

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

10. PLANNING

1. To consider planning application consultations received from EBC

ERE/0424/0012 **23a Barker Avenue North**

Single storey extension to the front elevation

RESOLVED: to note without comment

ERE/0424/0035 **82, Stanton Road**

Single storey rear/side extension

RESOLVED: to note without comment

ERE/0424/0039 **Sandiacre Court Care Centre, Derby Road**

TPO Tree works: T1 Pine. Prune back limbs from building roof giving approx. 1m clearance in order to prevent damage. Deadwood. TPO162

RESOLVED: to note without comment

2. To note Certificate of Lawfulness application

ERE/0424/0014 **4 Lincoln Avenue**

Certificate of Lawfulness for a change of conservatory roof from polycarbonate to solid metal tile roof sheets

RESOLVED: to note without comment

3. To note planning decisions taken by EBC

ERE/0324/0012 **St. Giles' Church**

Tree work in a Conservation Area: G9 - Yew Tree - Fell and grind

EBC: Approved: 3/4/24

ERE/0224/0035 **29 Mountfield Avenue**

Single storey front extension with other external alterations to forward elevation

EBC: Approved: 10/4/24

ERE/0124/0046 **25 Maple Avenue**

Single Storey extension to forward elevation, Installation of balcony to rear elevation

EBC: Approved: 24/4/24

RESOLVED: to note the above

11. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

How to notify EBC directly of complaints over reduced services, such as grass cutting and maintaining verges, local parks and open spaces

This item had previously been considered under Agenda Item 6. Public Participation.

12. REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. Crime figures, latest recorded: February 23: 83 / February: 1
The above was noted.
2. EBC: Annual Summer Play Scheme grant withdrawn
EBC had confirmed grant funding was no longer available to support Summer Play Schemes in parishes.
3. Padmore Moorings: C&RT undertaking structural repairs to embankment
The Clerk reported remedial work was currently being carried out to stabilise the canal embankment. C&RT had not notified the Clerk of arrangements.
4. Play Area Inspections
It was confirmed the following play area checks were now scheduled for Doncaster Avenue RG and Springfield Park:
 - Mr Wallace carried out a daily visual check of all park equipment during his litter picking rounds (Monday to Saturday). Damage was reported to the Clerk and logged so repairs could be scheduled
 - The ROSPA annual inspection was arranged for May 2024
 - 'Play Maintain Repair' would carry out inspections every 3 months following the ROSPA inspection
5. Premises: Annual Fire Risk Assessment undertaken 9/4/24 – Findings
The findings of the inspection report showed the Parish Council office and store to be in excellent repair and with excellent housekeeping and reporting.

Only two low level findings were highlighted, which the Clerk would action.
6. Staffing: P60 2023/2024 issued to the Clerk
The above was noted.

13. CEMETERY MATTERS

1. Cemetery Deeds: Received from Solicitors and scanned for history of site
The Clerk confirmed the Cemetery Deeds had been collected from the Council's Solicitor and copies of the documents had been scanned for archive purposes.

The Chartered Surveyor dealing with the boundary issue had been given sight of the documents for his records.

A copy of the site history had been circulated to Councillors:

- Middle closed churchyard consecrated 26/11/72 and subsequently closed
- Land sold for a Cemetery amounted to 1.639 acres
- Sold by the Diocese of Derby to the Parish Council in April 1987
- First consecration of the Cemetery land (Area 1) by the Bishop of Derby February 1989.

RESOLVED: to note the above

2. Cemetery & Closed Churchyards memorial headstone testing schedule
Independent Memorial Inspection (IMI) would shortly undertake headstone testing.

In order to priorities work, the following schedule of inspections had been advised, taking into account the number of visitors attending regular church services:

- Priority 1. Oldest churchyard by St. Giles' Church
- Priority 2. Closed middle churchyard
- Priority 3. Parish Council Cemetery

RESOLVED: to note the above

3. Cemetery: Quote to create new footpath by Ashes Plots

A resident had recently requested additional footpaths be laid in the Cemetery to make it easier for bereaved families to access plots.

Subsequently, the Clerk had found archived plans for extending the existing layout of tarmac paths in the Cemetery. However, recreating this kind of layout would incur excessive costs, unless outside grant funding could be sourced.

The Chairman explained the Parish Council's legal obligation and duty to maintain the church grounds in good and safe order. In the past, the Diocese had given notice to the Borough Council to take over maintenance of their closed burial grounds, but responsibility for maintenance was accepted by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Fox Landscapes for £2,080 to create a slabbed path by the Ashes Plots for ease of access

The Clerk would ascertain if outside funding could be obtained for additional paths.

4. Parish Council Cemetery sign

The Clerk confirmed she would proceed to obtain a quote for a new Cemetery sign.

5. St. Giles' Church closed churchyard tree work (Part of Annual Tree Survey)

It was confirmed trees in the closed churchyard by St. Giles' Church now required remedial attention, as per the tree report. Several trees needed to be removed as they were destabilising the ancient stone perimeter wall.

A small section of wall was currently being rebuilt as damage from storms and wet weather had weakened the structure and caused it to collapse. Ackroyds were carrying out repair work and had advised 2 other sections also needed restoring.

The Clerk recommended a 2nd opinion for tree work as the projected costs for work in the closed churchyard alone far exceeded the budget allocation.

a. **RESOLVED:** the Clerk obtain a 2nd quote for prioritising tree work in the closed churchyard and identify which trees needed removal to avoid further pressure on the stone wall from roots

b. **RESOLVED:** the Clerk obtain quotes for work from Ackroyds who were experts in historical work to churches

The Clerk had liaised with the Church to notify them of action being taken.

6. To adopt a Cemetery & Closed Churchyard Policy & Risk Assessment

A copy of the Policy and Risk Assessment had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED: to adopt the documents without comment and review in 2027

7. To review the grave digger Risk Assessment

A copy of the Risk Assessment had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the Risk Assessment

14. YEAR END ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

1. Annual Internal Audit conducted 22/4/24

AGAR Page 3. Internal audit report completed by Mrs S Stack (East Midlands Audit Services Ltd)

RESOLVED: to receive and note the DALC checklist and signed Internal Audit AGAR form

The Clerk was asked to enquire if a signed internal audit form summarising findings would be issued, as previously, in addition to the DALC internal audit checklist.

2. Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24

Page 4 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

3. Section 2. Accounting Statement 2023/24

RESOLVED: to approve the Accounting Statement for 2023/2024

Page 5 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The Chairman also signed the following:

- a) Cumulative Funds showing End of Year figures
- b) Year End bank reconciliation

4. Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights

RESOLVED: to note the date of the announcement as Wednesday, 29/5/24

5. Parish Council Precept Charges 2024/2025

A comparison of 2024/25 Precepts across the 13 parishes in Erewash had been circulated showing Sandiacre remained in third place and did not have the highest.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Report on progress.

There was no report on this item.

16. CEMETERY

1. Burials since the last meeting

23/4/24 Area 2, Row D, G14

2. Interment of Ashes since the last meeting
12/4/24 A207

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

17. PARKS & OPEN SPACES

To consider any incidents or maintenance issues since the last meeting.
No items were raised.

18. DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters circulated electronically to Councillors upon receipt. No items were raised.

19. FINANCE

1. To note the monthly financial report

The Clerk circulated a financial report, which included a breakdown of monthly income and expenditure, a bank reconciliation and VAT paid since 1/4/24.

The carry forward from 2023/24 was £45,994.79, which included ring-fenced funds and payments. April payments included annual subscriptions and one-off payments.

a) **RESOLVED:** the Clerk transfer £7,000 per month from the Deposit Account to the Current Account to top-up funds, as and when required

b) **RESOLVED:** the Clerk transfer funds set aside for Church wall repairs when payment became due for the section currently being reinstated

2. To authorise payments

DD 3/4	Water Plus (48)	Premises supply	15.20
DD 10/4	British Gas (78)	Premises electricity supply	131.31
DD 15/4	N Power (92)	Padmore: Bridge lights x 4	62.14
DD 16/4	BT (66)	Phone rental	8.81
CHG 21/4	HSBC	Banking services monthly fee: £8	8.00
BP 1/4	Viking	Office supplies: Paper/envelopes	117.26
BP 18/4	DALC	Annual subscription 1/4/24 - 31/3/25	1,214.54
BP 18/4	ICCM	Inst. of Cemetery Management: Membership 24/25	100.00
BP 18/4	Canopy Tree Serv.	St. Giles' church wall: Fell, grind & remove Yew	1,920.00
BP 23/4	EMAS Ltd	Internal audit	183.10
BP 27/4	O Heap	Premises: Fire Risk Assessment	714.00
BP 29/4	Waterplus	Burial grounds supply: 1/4/24 - 1/4/25	190.64
BP 30/4	Mrs Bloor	Monthly salary: April	1,779.49
BP 30/4	HMRC	TAX/NIC's: April	464.45
BP 30/4	Spen's GS	Low level work: Veg. clearance DARG/Burial grounds	1,056.00
BP 30/4	Andrew's GS	Litter picking: April	775.00
BP 30/4	Andrew's GS	Low level work: Veg. removal DARG/Burial grounds	560.00
BP 30/4	Andrew's GS	Grounds Maintenance: Padmore / Village centre	400.00
Total:			<u>9,699.94</u>

RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for payment shown above

3. To note income received

2	Lymns LE: Plot x 2, Int x 2 (Out of area)	758.00
5	EBC: Precept £96,500 / CF Grant £2,000	98,500.00
8	A127: Prepaid Plot x 2	189.00
8	Hawley's: Headstone - Area 2, Row C, G12	180.00
30	HSBC Savings (Deposit) A/C - Interest	160.93
30	Savings A/C: EBC electoral admin. costs - Interest	2.45
30	HSBC Savings A/C: Grants - Interest	22.21
Total:		<u>99,812.59</u>

RESOLVED: to note income received

20. CORRESPONDENCE

None to date.

21. 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.*

22. DATE & TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 2024 at 7.00pm

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

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

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