

SANDFORD ST. MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL 2018

Approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Sandford St. Martin Parish Council held on 30th July 2018, at Sandford St. Martin Parish Hall.

Meeting Commenced at 6pm.

Councillors Present: Ian Hames (Chair), Emily Wheeler-Booth, Jo Miles, James Rowe, Clive Hill

Public: 23

County Councillor: Dave Jackson

District Councillor: Ian Hudspeth

Clerk: Rachel Johnson

AGENDA ISSUES DISCUSSED ITEM

428. **To receive apologies for absence.** None received

429. **Declarations of Interest.** No further issues were raised.

430. **Minutes and matters arising of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were presented and approved.
Cllr. Clive Hill reported that he had sent letters to the 2 main flying schools in Enstone regarding noise abatement, and had received one reply from Oxfordshire Sportflying Limited.

431. **Reports**

I. Mill lane Maintenance & Drains

Cllr. Jo Miles provided an update on the drains. All have now been aligned and cleared by WODC, with invaluable help from Colin Jones.

The need for a working party is resolved for now.

RESOLVED THAT, a final thank you will be sent to WODC, and Colin Jones for all his help

ACTION : JM

II. Parish Website

Cllr. Ian Hames reported that the website was now live. The address is Sandfordstmartin.org.uk. The about pages are waiting further input, including directions. Training to update the website will be covered by the Website Grant. The PCC page is up and running. Future features will include the ability to book the village hall. Annual ongoing costs are relatively low.

RESOLVED: THAT the about pages will be completed and training sought

ACTION: JM / Clerk

III. Ledwell Village Green

Cllr. Ian Hames gave a report on the current situation regarding the boundary dispute. Following the outcome of the Tribunal, we applied to the First Tier Tribunal for permission to appeal the decision, but that was refused on 27 June. The refusal order permitted a further application to appeal to the Upper Tribunal within 14 days. On 12 July an order was issued by the Tribunal requiring the Parish Council to pay Mr and Mrs Simpson's costs relating to the dispute, although such costs may be assessed by the court in favour of the Parish Council if they cannot be agreed and if there is doubt over the amount or whether they were reasonably incurred. The Parish Council has paid £7,500 of its legal costs out of reserves, and a further £7,500 is claimed by the Parish Council's solicitor but is subject to further discussion. Three Councillors met with Keith Butler (Monitoring Officer) and Jenny Poole (Finance Officer) from WODC. They advised the council to speak to Publica, an organisation set up to support local government, to request legal and financial support. Further discussion with them is pending. On the 12th July, the Council received a demand from Mr and Mrs Simpson to pay their full costs amounting to £29,535.10. On the 26th July, the Council received a letter from Mr and Mrs Simpson offering to accept reduced costs and flexible terms for payment, to bring this dispute to a close. The council wish to consider the costs and get advice from Publica.

Period of Public comment :

Due to the nature of the dispute the public present were asked if they would like to make any comments, which would be noted by the council. 10 Parishioners made representations on behalf of themselves or others. An overview is as follows: It was felt that the council should have made a commitment to let the parishioners know what was going on regarding the dispute, at an earlier stage, and that a lot of people will be affected by the dispute legal costs. Some parishioners felt the councillors were being unfairly attacked. Others felt frustrated that the council had taken a risky adventure and it should never of got this far. A community plan was suggested to try and mend any village divide

432. **Data Protection**

The Clerk presented a Paper on Data protection and GDPR compliance. To improve data security it is recommended that all councillors have specific emails with council domains. A privacy policy needs to be constructed to be as footer on all PC emails.

RESOLVED: THAT a privacy policy will be constructed and OALC will be contacted regarding setting up of council emails

ACTION: Clerk

433. **Finance report**

The Bank reconciliation for April – July 2018 was presented and approved

The Clerk stated that she would like to go on two trainings .All councillors were in favour.

All payments on Paper 4 were approved for payment.

RESOLVED : That invoices to be paid and training applied for with OALC

ACTION: Clerk

434. Any other business.

I. Report on Parish items

Cllr. Ian Hames reported that he had received a few complaints regarding the appearance of properties in Sandford St.Martin. After a discussion it was decided that unless there was a health risk or the property was in a dangerous state of repair, then it was not council business.

II. Payroll update

The Clerk updated council that she had registered the Parish council as an employer with HMRC and they are now fully compliant with PAYE RTI and the Pension Regulator.

III. Parish Emergency Plan update

Cllr. Emily Wheeler – Booth reported that the construction of the Emergency plan was underway. A call out for Volunteers, to be called on if an emergency occurred, from both Ledwell and Sandford, led to 4 people coming forward.

IV. PCC Update

The Clerk read a report from the PCC. It stated that they were very pleased to present a report at the annual meeting and that a new Rector, Revd Jane Wright, will be moving into the Benefice in the Autumn.

V. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Jo Miles reported that she had attended a meeting, arranged by District Councillor Dave Jackson, led by PCSO Chris Jones and had been introduced to the Thames Valley Alert. Individuals can sign up. Suspicious activity can be reported anonymously. It was suggested that it could be advertised on the website.

VI. Dates of next meetings (subject to change)

Thursday 4th October 2018

6pm at Sandford St.Martin Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 7.10pm