

SANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held at **Sandon School**
on Tuesday, 25th April 2017 commencing at 7.30 pm



PRESENT: Councillors: Dee Hyatt - Chairman
Martin Cross – Vice Chairman
Ron Bullus
Cedric Calmeyer
Rosemary Hoare
Richard Mboyne

In attendance: 125 + recorded electors of the Parish and members of the surrounding community
Ted Munt, Clerk
Cllr Ian Grundy, Essex County Council
Cllr Ian Wright, Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Bob Shepherd, Chelmsford City Council
Ms Claire Stuckey, Chelmsford City Council
Jeremy Potter, Chelmsford City Council
Mr J Wincott, Headteacher, The Sandon School
Chris Hemmingsley, Bretts
Martin Curtis, Hammonds Farm
Matthew Lynwood, Hammonds Farm
Clair Dade, Chelmsford Community Transport

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m. with the Chairman welcoming the gathered assembly, the members of the Parish Council, and the invited guests. She explained the format for the meeting. The first half would comprise of the meeting formalities, followed by presentations from the guest speakers. The meeting would then adjourn for refreshments and to enable parishioners to talk to the various invited guests around the hall. The meeting would then reconvene to canvas opinions about the Local Plan, and to sum up.

- 1 **Emergency Procedures** – The Chairman explained the emergency procedures in the event of a fire.
- 2 **Apologies for absence** – apologies were received from Revd. Terry Brown, Cllr John Galley, Cllr R. Ambor, Amanda Parsons, Rita Howard, Elaine & Duncan Williamson, Sarah Sapsford, Revd Mark Meatcher.
- 3 **Introduction of Parish Councillors and Guests:** – Cllr Hyatt introduced and thanked the Parish Councillors for the time and effort they had given the Parish in the past year. Each Councillor then described the nature of their role on the Council.
- 4 **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on 26th April 2016 - The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 26th April 2016 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
- 5 **Chairman's Report and Presentation of Sandon Cup.** – Cllr Hyatt ran through notable issues that had affected the parish over the last year. It was agreed to award the Sandon Cup to George Turner for his enormous amount of unpaid work in keeping the churchyard so tidy over many years.

6 Presentation of the unaudited accounts for the year 2016/17 – Cllr Cross then gave a report on the unaudited accounts for 2016/2017. To summarise, there was £35,000 in the bank account, the precept was £29,600, and the council had made a surplus of £4,700 over the year.

7 Presentations:

- a. **Hammonds Farm – Mr Matthew Linwood** gave a presentation outlining the possible development plans for the Hammonds Farm area. This would be carried out in phases, but could result in the building of c.5,000 new homes, a percentage of which would be affordable housing. Additional infrastructure would include (amongst others); neighbourhood and local centres, new employment park, new transport infrastructure, new secondary school, 2/3 new primary schools, welfare and medical facilities, library and community buildings, allotments and formal recreation.
- b. **Bretts – Mr Chris Hemingsley** outlined the plans for the former quarry site to the south east of Sandon. The area is split into three. The northern void will be restored to provide ecological enhancements and will have public access. The southern void will be infilled and given over to agricultural use. Both areas to have a network of public footpaths and bridleways. It is proposed to complete the infilling of the southern void before starting on the northern void. The third part, the former plant site, will be restored to an ecological/biodiversity area with no public access.
There are regular liaison meetings between Bretts, Essec CC, Chelmsford CC, Parish Council, and local representatives. Mr Hemingsley can also be contacted via email c/o Bretts
- c. **Chelmsford Community Transport – Ms Clair Dade** explained the aims of the charity. It was to provide an affordable and accessible door-to-door transport service for those Chelmsford residents who were unable to access public transport. Further information could be found on their website www.chelmsfordct.org or by ringing 01245 477750
- d. **Proposed Community Centre – Cllr Cedric Calmeyer** advised that the Parish Council had received quotes from three architectural firms on the production of a feasibility study. A Colchester firm had been the Council's preferred choice due to their experience in designing Community Centres. It is proposed that the study will commence shortly. Once the feasibility study has been completed, fund raising can commence. Note that all parties will be kept advised during the entire process.

The meeting then adjourned at 8.22 pm to allow parishioners to talk to the invited guests around the hall and partake in refreshments. The meeting reconvened at 8.51 pm.

8 Summary of main points made during the informal discussions – Cllr Hyatt led a discussion on those items that had been flagged up during the interval, plus an overview of the Local Plan as it would affect local residents.

9 The Local Plan – Cllr Hyatt outlined the Chelmsford Local Plan in more depth. It had designs on three strategic growth sites that affected Sandon Parish. These were:

- 3a – Land east of Chelmsford/north of Great Baddow (Manor Farm)
- 3b – Land north of Maldon Road/west of Sandon Park & Ride
- 3c – Land south of Maldon Road.

Note that there was going to be an exhibition 2nd May at Sandon for residents to view the plans in more detail. Cllr Hyatt asked the meeting for their thoughts on each of the sites in turn:

3a Comments from the floor included: issue of more motor vehicles, flooding, oil contamination, school losing teachers, impact on views. The majority of the floor voted NO to this proposal

3b Comments included: New roundabout at Sandon Mill Lane will slow down traffic, proximity to Park & Ride. Majority vote was NO

3c Comments: Reduction in views, use of green land, need to keep green wedges, loss of wooded area, lack of clear boundary with Great Baddow, archaeological site in the area, sewerage capacity issues, proximity to electricity pylons, gas pipeline, traffic on Molrams Lane, creation of "rat runs". Majority vote was NO.

For all proposals, the Infrastructure was deemed inadequate by the audience and should be improved before any development, or the consequences to the local area would be dire. It was stressed that residents should put their views on the CCC Local Plan website by 11th May.

10 Questions from the floor to the council

Why is the council against development, shouldn't we be encouraging an increase in the housing stock?

Why do we not have a Neighbourhood Development Plan? Cllr Bob Shepherd encouraged the parish to get one set up. It was pointed out that a Plan was led by the community and NOT the Council and Sandon would be happy to have one but required a group of residents to lead it. Cllr Shepherd mentioned three parishes who had achieved their NDPs, but when asked who these were he did not have this information to hand. He will advise of the names of those three parishes once he had found out.

Cllr Hyatt said that there was a vacancy on the parish council. Anyone with strong views about the future of the village is welcome to join.

The Chairman thanked parishioners and guests for attending, and for the support and hard work of her fellow councillors. She also thanked Sandon School for the use of the hall, and the WI ladies for providing the refreshments. There being no further questions, the Chairman then drew the meeting to a close.

The meeting formally closed at 9.31p.m.