

SANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held at **Sandon School**
on Thursday, 23rd May 2019 commencing at 7.30 pm



PRESENT: Councillors: Dee Hyatt - Chairman
Martin Cross – Vice Chairman
Alan Kalbfell
Cedric Calmeyer
James Colbeck
Elaine Williamson

In attendance: 36 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
Mr Andrew Weaver, Head Teacher, The Sandon School
Matthew Lynwood, Hammonds Farm
Revd. Terry Brown
Mrs Judy Cecil, Sandon NDP
Mrs Jane Willis, Sandon NDP
P.C. Paul Arthey, Sandon Dog Unit

The meeting commenced at 7.35 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 summarise the main points made during the informal discussions, to encourage comments about the Neighbourhood Development 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, Cllr R. Ambor, Cllr R.Whitehead, Sarah Sapsford, Jenny Robinson
- 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. Cllrs Bullus and Hoare had left during the year, and Cllrs Williamson and Kalbfell had joined. Note that there is still one vacancy. Cllr Hyatt outlined what each of the councillors responsibilities were, and asked them to say a few words about themselves. Cllr Hyatt then thanked Andrew Weaver for letting us his excellent facilities once again.
- 4 The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 24th April 2018** 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 the notable issues that had affected the parish over the last year (see appendix 1 for the full report.) It was agreed to award the Sandon Cup to Ron Bullus for his selfless dedication to parish matters since he joined the council back in 2005.

6 Presentation of the unaudited accounts for the year 2018/19 – Cllr Cross then gave a report on the unaudited accounts for 2018/2019. To summarise, there was £52,000 in the bank account, the precept was £31,150, and the council had made a surplus of £7,600 over the year. Note that expenditure this coming year is likely to be high. We have already bought a second mower, and the allotments need some maintenance, as well as having to be extended.

7 Presentations:

- a. **Neighbourhood Development Plan – Mrs Jane Willis** gave a presentation updating the meeting with the latest on the NDP. All remains on plan with the team currently compiling the various policies that are needed. They meet once per month and welcome any volunteers that wish to join.
- b. **St Andrews Church – Rev Terry Brown** reminded us all of how old the church was, and how important it has been to the residents of the village. He was looking for help and support to ensure that it remained for a further thousand years. Help could be given by joining, or supporting, the Friends of Sandon Church. Leaflets were available with further information.
- c. **Essex Police Dog Unit – PC Paul Arthey** gave a presentation explaining what the Sandon Dog Unit gets up to. He brought in two different dogs and explained how each of their duties were different. He thanked the residents of the village for their understanding in having a working dog unit in their parish.
- d. **Sandon and Howe Green Form Groups – Cllr Martin Cross** explained the function of the two forums. He encouraged more people to sign up, and showed them how to do this.
- e. **History of Sandon Village – Cllr Cedric Calmeyer** wished to draw the residents' attention to the reprint of Reg Bush's book on the history of the village. Copies were being sold at £10 each, and any profits would be going to the Friends of St Andrews. Copies could be bought during the interval, or from the Parish Office after the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned at 8.35 pm to allow parishioners to talk to the invited guests around the hall and partake in refreshments. The meeting reconvened at 9.05 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.

9 The Neighbourhood Development Plan – Mrs Willis and Mrs Cecil said that they had not had any contentious conversations during the interval.

10 Questions from the floor to the council

Cllr Ian Wright thanked the residents for voting him, and his colleagues, back onto the CCC. They are available should the residents need them.

A resident wanted to know whether the old posts left over after the removal of the mirrors on Butts Green Road could be removed.

The Council will look into the request for a defibrillator for the village.

Could the meeting let the council know if they wanted different guest speakers next year?

A resident raised the issue of an overgrown hedge on Hall Lane. CHP to be notified.

Cllr Ian Wright to be contacted about the poor state of those grassy areas on Hall Lane that are the responsibility of CCC.

Cllr Ian Wright warmly thanked the P.C. for their efforts over the past year.

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 9.19p.m.

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APPENDIX 1

Chairman's Speech for Annual Assembly 2019

In the past few months, the new Chelmsford City Council Local Plan has been under examination. The Secretary of State appointed Yvonne Wright BSc (Hons) DipTP MSc DMS MRTPI as the inspector.

The Independent Examination hearing sessions took place in November and December 2018. We anticipate the Inspector will issue her report shortly. We will then learn if the 150 houses, primary school and business park have been approved in Sandon. We hope the number of houses will be reduced but very much doubt it!

We have drawn up plans for a new Community Centre for our Parish following the very positive comments at our last Annual Assembly and discussions with all the Sandon important groups. You will hear more of this later.

Both Ron Bullus and Rosemary Hoare stepped down as Councillors last year, and both will be sorely missed. However, we are very pleased to welcome Cllrs Elaine Williamson and Alan Kalbfell to our fold. Ron was a big asset to our group and we are sorry that he has stepped down, but we remain very much in touch with him. Ron's expertise was very varied, being on the committees of the Sports Club and latterly of the Village Hall. He was responsible for Highway issues, but found this a very difficult agency to deal with. We do have one vacancy if anyone else would like to join us and help your community?

We are looking at the allotments at present having purchased the land behind the allotments and up to the Sandon Brook, from Countryside Properties. This land is not accessible except through our allotments and will be levelled to form additional allotments for the Community. We have no allotments vacant at present, so need the new land. This will provide several welcome new gardening opportunities for the Parish. Note that we are having problems finding funding to develop this area. Therefore, it is still work in progress.

The Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan Group has been working hard with Judy Cecil as Secretary and Jane Willis as the Chair. The Plan is taking shape, and you will hear more of this later.

The Crown Pub has been under temporary landlordship, but we are hoping for new, more permanent landlords, will be in situ shortly. This is especially true as the pub is such an important part of our village life. We wish them luck.

General maintenance is of course, ongoing. We have sorted out the flooding at the end of Hall Lane by putting in a new pipe to replace the broken one. We have been looking at the flooding issues, especially in Hulls Lane, which is particularly bad, and have met Highways to discuss the best solution for this. The damaged drain should now be sorted. We have had the brambles, etc., taken back at the junction of Butts Green Road and East Hanningfield, and are waiting for permission to finish this work off. Unfortunately, CCC have put a Tree Protection Order on this area which has stopped us in our tracks. This should be sorted out shortly to allow us to continue. We have raised the lower branches of the oaks on the Sandon Village green to allow the lawn mower to access this area, and have purchased a smaller mower to do the difficult areas in a more efficient manner.

With our Clerk's considerable effort we have now achieved the Local Council Foundation Award, which is really good news. This allows us to use the logo of achievement. Many thanks Ted for all your hard work! To meet this award we have demonstrated that we have our documentation in place for operating lawfully, including policies for training. This is a great achievement for the Council which is held by only 30 other Councils in Essex.

We have also worked very hard to get to know the owner of the land at the bottom of Hall Lane, and are now in regular contact. They have removed the very large red skip and ugly fly tipping, and have strengthened the boundary fencing in an attempt to stop this happening again.

Sandon Cup to be presented to Ron Bullus.

The person we are going to give the cup to this year has been a big part of our Council for many years, Ron Bullus.

Ron joined the Council in 2005 and has been Councillor since then, apart from a short break in 2011. Ron was Chairman of the Council for a period of time and looked after, amongst many other things, Highways and flooding issues. This involved discussing problems with the local land owners. Ron was a big part of the Village Hall Management Committee and drew up plans for the development of the Village Hall. Unfortunately, he had to drop this due to lack of support. Ron is what I call a real gentleman. He has a wealth of knowledge. He quietly gets on with his work. He is always happy to help out with difficult situations and handles people with his gentle, confident manner. He and his wife Deborah are stalwarts of the community, and enjoy walking. Ron still plays golf too.

Many congratulations Ron!

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