

SANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held at **Sandon Village Hall** on Thursday, 11th April 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm



PRESENT: Councillors: Dee Hyatt - Chairman
Martin Cross – Vice Chairman
Cedric Calmeyer
James Colbeck
Darren Chaplin
Charlotte Lyons

In attendance: 21 recorded electors of the Parish and members of the surrounding Community
Sir John Whittingdale M.P.
Linda & Ian Mascot, Madam Mayor and Consort
Ted Munt, Clerk
Abby Hare, Police Restorative and Mediation Service

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m. with the Chair 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 a break 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 what the parish council could do to help residents, 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 Alan Kalbfell, Cllr Gary Nicholls, Essex Cllr Ian Grundy, City Cllr Jacob Armstrong.
- 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 Chaplin and Lyons had joined during the year. She was pleased to note that the council was full, and that there were no vacancies. Cllr Hyatt asked each of the councillors to introduce themselves and what their areas of responsibility were. She then thanked the clerk for his efforts during the year.
- 4 The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 20th April 2023** were agreed as a correct record.
- 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. The biggest planning notification was the proposed nine warehouses planned to be built on either side of the A12 in Sandon and Great Baddow. She said she would be covering this later in the evening. The Neighbourhood Plan went to a referendum where the residents kindly turned out to vote. Further information on this would follow in the presentation slot. The Army and Navy Plans went in for the new hamburger roundabout which has now been approved. Plans have been put forward to enlarge Sandon Park and Ride to enable them to cope when all the new houses have been built. The P.C. has asked that the buses run earlier and later to

enable residents to use Chelmsford station to go to London and to eat and shop in the City. The P.C. supplied a lovely Xmas tree outside St Andrews and the WI decorated it beautifully.

It was agreed to award the Sandon Cup to Rev Terry Brown. Terry is retiring shortly and he will be sorely missed by everyone. He has worked tirelessly for St Andrews Church in Sandon and has brought all the different organisations in the Parish together. He has been a big presence and is the ideal candidate for this award. As he was unable to attend, then the cup will be presented to him at a later date.

- 6 Presentation of the unaudited accounts for the year 2023/24** – Cllr Cross then gave a report on the unaudited accounts for 2023/2024. To summarise, there was £60,668 in the bank account and the council had made a surplus of £4,102 over the year. However, this surplus was lower than had been budgeted as receipts were £2,288 less and payments were £814 more. Note that expenditure this coming year is likely to be high. The allotments may need improvements, depending on their future, and the Community Centre will need funds before the incorporated charity can take it over. It was explained that the variance on receipts was due to differing levels of Cil monies received from one year to the next.

7 Presentations:

- a. **Sir John Whittingdale M.P.** Sir John gave a short presentation about his last year or so as a working M.P. for Maldon. He highlighted various campaigns that he had got involved with. This included national, as well as local, issues. He was concerned about the future of St Peter's Hospital and is active in trying to resolve this problem. He thanked the residents for their support and felt it was a great honour to serve them in parliament.
- b. **Madam Mayor – Linda Mascot.** The mayor recognised that last year's Assembly had already received a presentation about what the mayor's activities were. She focussed instead on the local charities that she is supporting. Her chosen charity is YMCA Essex. She is a working cllr who is employed in education. She is passionate about getting young people the resources to better themselves. There is a huge potential here that needs to be realised..She was very proud to continue the tradition of Chelmsford having female mayors. She hopes to be a role model to the younger girls.
- c. **Police Restorative and Mediation Service – Abby Hare.** Abby outlined three volunteering schemes under the auspices of the PFCC (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner). The first was restorative justice where volunteers facilitate dialogue between offenders and their victims. The second was independent custody schemes. Volunteers are able to visit police stations to check on the welfare and wellbeing of the detainees. The third was animal welfare schemes. With this one, volunteers are able to observe and report on the conditions under which police dogs are trained. Further details of all three could be found on the Essex Police webpage.
- d. **Neighbourhood Development Plan – Judy Cecil.** Judy updated the meeting with the following:

The referendum was held Nov 2023 when 140 residents voted with 85% approving. This was a good turnout when compared to other parishes' referendums. She thanked the residents for their support. The next step is implementation. CCC Planning are already using it when proposed plans are being considered. There is a real need for a footpath to go from the village to the Park & Ride on Maldon Road. The Plan will need to be reviewed and refreshed to keep it live. However, this should not be needed in the short term.

- e. **The warehouse group and other proposed developments – Cllr Dee Hyatt.** Dee presented several slides showing the proposed developments in the parish. These

include the nine warehouses at Howe Green/Great Baddow, the Redrow development off Molrams Lane and the back of the Park & Ride, the Hammonds Farm estate in the N.E. of the parish, and Hopkins homes north of the A414 in Great Baddow. She encouraged the residents to register their concerns on the Chelmsford Planning Portal and be prepared to attend local meetings to find out more.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:30 pm to allow parishioners to talk to the invited guests around the hall. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 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. She took questions from the floor:

What is the latest on the Community Centre?

Where and for what reason, was a warehouse development up north turned down?

How was the Hammonds Farm site decided?

Aren't there valuable minerals under the proposed warehouse site that need to be extracted?

How does purdah relate to the upcoming elections for the PFCC Roger Hirst?

CCC does not have the warehouse development on its local plan

Residents need to use legal arguments should they wish to object against the warehouse proposal.

City Cllr Julia Jeapes reminded the audience that her next surgery for the residents was 4th May at St Andrews, and 11th May at HGRC.

The Chairman thanked parishioners and guests for attending, and for the support and hard work of her fellow councillors. She thanked Julie Fisher for organising the refreshments at short notice. She then drew the meeting to a close.

The meeting formally closed at 9.15p.m.