

**SANDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Chair Cllr R. Elliott (RE).**

**In attendance Cllr T. Wyatt (TW) Cllr J. Speedy (JS)**

**County Councillor P. McLain (PM)**

**Clerk P. Langley**

**J. Robinson (Footpaths)**

**Members of the Public - 3**

**01 .06. 23 RE welcomed PM to the Meeting.**

**02.06.23 Apologies – Borough Councillor M. Williams. Cllr R.. Davies. Cllr G. Phillips.**

**03.06.23 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2023 were approved and signed by RE.**

**04.06.23 Declaration of Members Interests – None declared.**

**05.06.23 Public Participation. Concerns were raised about the number of Potholes throughout the Village. Advice given about using the Report system to GCC. PM spoke about this issue and would be contacting the Highways Manager.**

**A question was also raised about the legal rights of using Pony & Traps through the Village.**

**07.06.23 County Councillor Report High cost of placements for - and number of - looked after children. GCC therefore looking to enter the market. Development of Family Hubs.**

**Highway says Transformation Programme including a review of work streams to focus on the approach to potholes, minor works and comms. Find and fix 'dual repair' gangs will focus (where practical) on doing entire roads so that teams doing safety defects will also identify and fix non-safety defects at the same time. Jet patching to be trialled on dedicated areas. Meeting with the Highways Manager later this week.**

**Mowing programme has been brought forward.**

**130,006 Trees planted in the 22/23 season. I'm aware of a number that have been vandalised. Lots more trees available for next season - More land and partners welcome for new initiatives.**

**08.06.23 Borough Councillor Report. Apologies**

**09.06.05.23 Finance Report Cheque 23/834 was approved.**

<b>Cheques for Payment</b>			
<b>23/833</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>£228.70</b>	Approved 15 May
<b>23/834</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>£249.98</b>	

<b>BANK BALANCE</b>			
<b>1 May 2023</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£11880.62</b>	
	<b>Cheques Banked</b>	<b>£592.39</b>	

<b>Outstanding Cheques</b>			
	<b>23/833</b>	<b>£228.70</b>	
	<b>Available Balance</b>	<b>£11288.23</b>	
	<b>Cheques to be Banked</b>	<b>£249.98</b>	
	<b>Balance</b>		<b>£10809.55</b>

10.06.23 Planning Application Planning Letter sent to TBC Planning Sandhurst Parish Council wish to object to the proposal for a solar farm at Coks Brook, Twigworth (Application Number: 23/00441/FUL) for the following reasons: In addition to being visible from some properties, many in our parish use the local footpaths, which will have significant visual impact from the site. The Visual Impact Assessment is misleading, locations have been picked to suggest views of the site are restricted with existing vegetation. Taking location 12 for example, at the top of Sandhurst Hill, if the location was moved approximately 30m along the footpath there would be clear unobstructed views of the proposed development spoiling the rural views. The size and location of the proposed solar farm significantly and adversely, impact the character and appearance of the local landscape. The open green fields with far reaching views would turn into a semi-industrial power complex, with numerous 4-6m high solar panels, shipping containers, cctv and security fencing. Unacceptable negative impact on local heritage. For example, Wallsworth Hall which is a nationally important site whose significance is linked to its architectural and historic value, as well as from its isolating and commanding position within the rural setting within which is positioned. Loss of local wildlife habitats, where this land has previously been used for floodplain grazing providing valuable habitats. Consideration should be given to the site location being near the Severn Estuary's Special Protection Area and research that suggests Solar farms risk harming birds due to confusion with appearing like water. Additional traffic during construction on the already congested A38. This will both effect members of our parish passing the site and cause more traffic to travel through Sandhurst on roads that are too narrow and badly maintained for any additional traffic. As the site floods extensively along the brook the panels will have to be raised substantially, thus affecting lots of issues even more than a standard solar farm design including 'glint and glare'; impacting more residents, higher disruption for maintenance, heritage aspects, wildlife habitats, industrial development in a rural area etc.

**11.06.23 Standing Items Village Green / Recreation Ground.** Playground had seen damage caused to the newly planted trees. It was suggested that the Playground may be better sited at the Village Green.. Hazel Brown was looking into Grants.

**12.06.5.23 Footpaths.** A discussion took place about Horses on the footpaths.

**13.06.23 Clerk Report.** AGAR Audit would take place on Wednesday 7 June. Asset registered circulated to Cllr's.

**14.06.23 Correspondence.** AGAR 2022/23. A receipt had been received, notification of exempt status 2023.

**Next Meeting at Sandhurst Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 3 July 2023.**

**The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.45pm**

**Signature Chair.....**

**Date.....**