

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Monday 19 February 2024
at Sundridge Village Hall at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors Allgood, De Bono, Evans (Chair), Maybury and Powell

Apologies: Cllrs Banbrook, Collins, Fribbens and Miller. Cllrs Chard (County) and Williams (District).

Attendance: 3 members of the public (in part), Cllr Sandra Robinson (District), Cllr Michelle Alger (District) and Amanda Barlow (Clerk)

Cllr Evans (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Banbrook, Collins, Fribbens and Miller and Cllrs Chard (County) and Williams (District).

2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.

None.

3. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Chard had sent apologies as he had another urgent meeting and his report is at Appendix A.

Cllr Evans advised that he had asked Cllr Chard to request the reinstatement of the speed cameras and for the Police to carry out speed checks.

4. Report from District Councillor

Cllrs Alger and Robinson advised that they did not have reports and had come to discuss various items on the Agenda.

5. **A Public Open Session.** Members of the public will be welcome to address the Parish Council with any local concerns they have. Please note this item will be limited in time at the discretion of the Chairman.

- Stubbs Wood - a resident who lives on Gracious Lane/Nightingale Lane advised that a tree came down in the front of their house and it was cleared by Highways however it has been dumped on the side of the road. Cllr Evans agreed to deal with the tree.
- A resident asked about the Mill Stream – Cllr Evans advised that the stream is now running.

6. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes** of the Parish Council meetings held on 29 January 2024.

Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting on 29 January 2024.

7. **To take Matters arising** from the Minutes where these are not covered under the subject headings below

7.1 Covers Farm

The Clerk advised that Cllr Evans and Mr T Jones are attending a meeting on 5 March 2024 to represent Sundridge.

7.2 Highways

No further update.

7.3 Streetlighting

The Clerk informed that she has contacted SDC about the alleged incident with the lorry and will contact the Parish Council's insurance company.

7.4 Precept

The Clerk advised that she had informed SDC that Members resolved to set the precept at £75,000.

8. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Members resolved to discuss Agenda Item 9.0 and in confidence.

9. To discuss and agree next actions with regard to co-opting a Member for the Sundridge ward.

Members unanimously resolved to co-opt Helen Wilson as Member of Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council representing the Sundridge Ward.

10. Finance & Personnel items for decision and noting

- 10.1 Items, Received Paid and Payable

Members resolved to agree the items received, paid and payable as at Appendix B.

- 10.2 Grant for Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

Members resolved to award a grant of £150.

11. Ide Hill

To discuss and agree next actions with regard to:

11.1 Stubbs Wood

- To receive an update on the Aztech work

A report on Stubbs Wood is attached at Appendix C.

- To agree a date for an information event in Ide Hill

Members agreed that an information event should be held at Ide Hill and the cost will come out of the Annual Parish meeting funding put aside for Ide Hill.

11.2 Ide Hill Green

- Phone Box

The Parish Council recorded a vote of thanks to all the residents who worked on the telephone box in Ide Hill and to Nigel who provided the signs.

12. Sundridge

To discuss and agree next actions with regard to:

12.1 Sundridge Recreation Ground

Cllr Maybury advised that Radnor House wanted to apply for grant from the FA to improve the football pitches.

Members agreed that the Clerk should advise Radnor House that they would consider an application but needed more information.

12.2 Sundridge and Brasted Social Club

The Clerk advised that she had sent the historic documents to the solicitors, CWJ.

12.3 **Anti social behaviour in Sundridge**

No update.

13. Items for noting

13.1 Annual Parish Meeting – 29 April 2024

Cllr Powell kindly offered to provide refreshments.

13.2 Newsletter

Members agreed that a newsletter should be circulated at the Annual Parish meeting.

13.3 Correspondence

14.3.1 General

Noted.

14.3.2 Kent Police

Noted.

15. Dates of next meetings

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Full Council Meetings: | Monday 18 March 2024 |
| | Monday 15 April 2024 |
| Annual Parish Meeting | Monday 29 April 2024 |

16. Confidential Item

To discuss and agree the next steps with regard to a Freedom of Information request/Complaint

Members resolved to agree the actions as per the proposal presented by the Clerk.

Appendix A

From: Nick.Chard@kent.gov.uk <Nick.Chard@kent.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 February 2024 18:55
To: john.evans@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk
Cc: clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk
Subject: Update

Dear John,

I'm sorry to hear of the current chaos on the A25 and the impact the HGVs are having.

I shall contact Matthew Scott our PCC to relay the concerns of the local community and ask for speed monitoring.

I'll suggest that checks are carried out at about 9pm in Sundridge and Brasted.

There is still no firm date when the Covers Farm application will be heard at committee.

I shall be informed whenever a firm date is agreed.

Please let me know if I can assist further.

Kind regards

Nick

Appendix B

Items Received 24 January to 19 February 2024

19 February 2024 (2023-2024)

**Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council
RECEIPTS LIST**

| Voucher | Code | Date | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 74 | Income Casual | 02/02/2024 | Village Hall Hire | | X | 120.00 | | 120.00 |
| 73 | Income Nayax | 15/02/2024 | Toilet Door Income | Nayax Europe UAB | X | 163.11 | | 163.11 |
| Total | | | | | | 283.11 | | 283.11 |

Items Paid 24 January to 29 February 2024

**Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

| Voucher | Code | Date | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|---------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 263 | Energy Costs | 07/02/2024 | Electricity Sundridge Pavilion | EDF Energy | L | 126.32 | 6.32 | 132.64 |
| 264 | Electricity and Gas | 07/02/2024 | Gas Village Hall | British Gas | L | 1,008.38 | 50.42 | 1,058.80 |
| 265 | Electricity and Gas | 07/02/2024 | Electricity Sundridge Village Hall | British Gas | L | 241.41 | 12.07 | 253.48 |
| 267 | ROSPA Inspection (Playg | 07/02/2024 | Play Inspection Report 22-23 | Play Inspection Company | S | 255.00 | 51.00 | 306.00 |
| 268 | Professional Services | 07/02/2024 | Aztech Forest Management 2023 | Silva Woodland Management Limited | S | 200.00 | 40.00 | 240.00 |
| 270 | Parish Zoom account | 07/02/2024 | Zoom | Mrs A C Barlow | S | 11.99 | 2.40 | 14.39 |
| 271 | Parish WiFi (Clerk) | 07/02/2024 | WiFi | Mrs A C Barlow | X | 10.00 | | 10.00 |
| 272 | Parish mobile telephone | 07/02/2024 | Mobile | Mrs A C Barlow | S | 19.79 | 3.96 | 23.75 |
| 274 | Software Adobe | 07/02/2024 | Adobe software | Mrs A C Barlow | S | 10.95 | 2.19 | 13.14 |
| 277 | Professional Services | 07/02/2024 | Silva Woodland Consultancy | Silva Woodland Management Limited | S | 200.00 | 40.00 | 240.00 |
| 278 | Legal Costs | 07/02/2024 | Legal advice re: Clarke Telecom mast | Wellers Hedleys | S | 300.00 | 60.00 | 360.00 |
| 266 | Legal Costs | 07/02/2024 | Social Club Legal Work | Clarkson Wright & Jakes | S | 600.00 | 120.00 | 720.00 |
| 269 | Stubbs Wood Volunteer | 07/02/2024 | Volunteer Expenses - fuel and oil | Dominic Rossi | S | 24.05 | 4.81 | 28.86 |

Items to be paid @ 20 February 2024

19 February 2024 (2023-2024)

**Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST**

| Voucher | Code | Date | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 275 | Cleaning | 20/02/2024 | Cleaning | Val & Sander Reytenbach | X | 180.00 | | 180.00 |
| 276 | Conveniences cleaning | 20/02/2024 | Cleaning | Val & Sander Reytenbach | X | 500.00 | | 500.00 |
| 284 | Cleaning | 20/02/2024 | Additional Clean SVH | Val & Sander Reytenbach | X | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| 285 | Repairs | 20/02/2024 | Streetlighting repairs | UK Power Networks | S | 3,100.00 | 620.00 | 3,720.00 |
| 286 | Supplies for meetings | 20/02/2024 | Coffee and Biscuits | Mrs A C Barlow | X | 13.25 | | 13.25 |
| 287 | Travel Expenses | 20/02/2024 | Mileage | Mrs A C Barlow | X | 17.10 | | 17.10 |
| Total | | | | | | 3,840.35 | 620.00 | 4,460.35 |

Appendix C

As previously stated the ride widening as required by the Management Plan is now complete from West to East . The coppicing and thinning programme has gone well and is also now complete in all main aspects and the main Aztech vehicles have left the site well ahead of the target date of end February ,This is essentially compartments 3g 3d and 2c .Thinning has been completed in the area of 5d .The one area that has not been thinned under the contract is 1d west of the Wellingtonian because of time constraints given the request principally from Richard Don to complete the JAPA viewpoint which was not originally part of the contract .

Lifting of timber -this is making good progress but again this is weather and safety dependent but will be reviewed at the end of February with the contractor .Drier weather is of course essential and therefore residents must expect this process to continue into the drier months .

Making good -Residents are understandably upset at the considerable disturbance that has been caused by the heavy machinery . No real progress can be made on this until all the timber has been removed and the forwarder is no longer operating .The PC will be liaising closely with Aztech to ensure that the rides and paths are made good and fully accessible prior to departure from the site .

The significant work carried means that the level of disturbance in the future will be greatly reduced .Whilst many residents have complained ,there have also been many who fully recognise the need for the coppicing work and are very glad to see after many years of inaction progress is being made .It is important to remember that the Stubbs Wood status as a SSSI is deemed UNFAVOURABLE by Natural England not least because of the heavily overstood nature of the sweet chestnut coppice which makes up approximately 50% of Stubbs Wood , Cllrs Sandra Richardson and Michelle Alger from SDC have both visited the site in person and are fully supportive of the PC's efforts .

Bluebells .-One of the key indicators of ancient woodland is the presence of bluebells .Close observation of the clearance sites are already showing the benefits of light and warmth on the understorey in the Stubbs Wood .Bluebells that have lain dormant for perhaps 100 years are now springing into life

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council

Stubbs Wood

| | Ring Fenced Receipts RPA | General Receipts | Total Payments excluding VAT | *Payments against Ring fenced |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2019/20 | | 200 | 11,438.83 | 11,438.83 |
| EA Grant | 15,000 | | | |
| 2020/21 | 3,720 | | 910 | 910 |
| 2021/22 | 3,720 | 1,575 | 4864.1 | 3395 |
| 2022/23 | 3,720 | 1,326 | 2,435.76 | 550 |
| 2023/24 | 3,720 | 600 | 9110.75 | 7550 |
| Total | 29,880 | 3,701 | 28,759.44 | 23,843.83 |

**this is purely discretionary and all payments would be eligible to be offset against ring fenced income.*