

SANDHURST TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Community Hall Complex on Thursday 1st May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. ending at 9.25 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors: N Allen (Chairman), J Abrahams, Mrs J Bettison, P Bettison, D Birch, R Blair, A Blatchford, J Blowfield, N Bowers, M Brossard, Mrs C Cupper, Mrs D Honey, Mrs D Pidgeon, B Piggin, Mrs A Shephard, R Simonds, N Skinner, A Ward (from minute 7c), D Worrall.

APOLOGIES:- Councillors: R Edger, A Haseeb, R Inions, G Ramsey, A Ronca.

1. Book of Remembrance. The Council stood in silence as the Mayor turned a page in the Book of Remembrance.
2. Order of Business. The Chairman announced that the order of business would be as set out in the calling papers.
3. Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items. Members were asked to declare any interests in agenda items whenever relevant.

Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in the Coffee Spot item on the agenda.

4. The Election of Mayor.

Cllr Allen asked for nominations for Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council for the municipal year 2008/2009. Cllr Mrs Cupper Proposed that Cllr Allen be re-elected. The proposal was Seconded by Cllr Piggin. There being no other nominations, Cllr Allen was duly elected. **RESOLVED.**

5. Signing of Declaration of Office by the Mayor.

The Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. **NOTED.**

6. The Election of Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Mrs Cupper was Proposed by Cllr Allen, Seconded by Cllr Bowers. There being no other nominations Cllr Mrs Cupper was duly elected Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman. **RESOLVED.**

7. Appointment of Committees. In accordance with Standing Orders, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are automatically Members of each Committee.

- (a) Planning Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 53 the following appointments were made.

Cllr Mrs Cupper and Cllr Inions were appointed as Members of the Planning Committee for College Town Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Ronca and Cllr Abrahams were appointed as Members of the Planning Committee for Little Sandhurst. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Piggin and Cllr Mrs Honey were appointed as Members of the Planning Committee for Central Sandhurst Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Shephard and Cllr Simonds were appointed as Members of the Planning Committee for Owlsmoor Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Piggin was elected Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Simonds, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Ronca was elected Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Piggin, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard. **RESOLVED.**

(b) Environment Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 53 the following appointments were made.

Cllr Allen, Cllr Mrs Bettison, Cllr Blair, Cllr Blatchford, Cllr Bowers, Cllr Brossard, Cllr Mrs Cupper, Cllr Edger, Cllr Mrs Pidgeon, Cllr Ramsey, Cllr Ronca, Cllr Mrs Shephard, Cllr Simonds, Cllr Worrall. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Cupper was elected Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Shephard, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Shephard was elected as the Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Cupper, Seconded by Cllr Blatchford. **RESOLVED.**

(c) Leisure Committee.

In accordance with Standing Order 53 the following appointments were made.

Cllr Allen, Cllr Blair, Cllr Mrs Bettison, Cllr Bettison, Cllr Birch, Cllr Blowfield, Cllr Bowers, Cllr Mrs Cupper, Cllr Haseeb, Cllr Ramsay, Cllr Mrs Shephard, Cllr Simonds.

Cllr Bowers was elected Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon, Seconded by Cllr Simonds. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Pidgeon was elected Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Bowers, Seconded by Cllr Allen. **RESOLVED.**

(d) Strategy and Policy. In accordance with Standing Orders the Chairman of each Committee automatically becomes Members of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Mayor	-	Cllr Allen
Deputy Mayor	-	Cllr Mrs Cupper
Leisure Committee	-	Cllr Bowers
Planning Committee	-	Cllr Piggin

The following nominations were made for Ward representatives.

Cllr Mrs Shephard was appointed as Member of the Strategy and Policy Committee for the Owlsmoor Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Bettison and Cllr Skinner were appointed as Members of the Strategy and Policy Committee for the Little Sandhurst Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mrs Pidgeon was appointed as Member of the Strategy and Policy Committee for the Central Sandhurst Ward. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Allen was elected Chairman, Proposed by Cllr Piggin, Seconded by Cllr Bowers. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Piggin was elected Vice Chairman, Proposed by Cllr Allen, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon. **RESOLVED.**

8. Membership of External Bodies.

The membership of the external bodies was deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting. **ACTION.**

9. Schedule of Meeting Dates – 2008/2009.

The schedule of meeting dates for the 2008/2009 municipal year previously circulated was accepted. The Council will adopt the schedule. **NOTED.**

10. Public Question Time. There were no questions from the public. **NOTED.**

11. Minutes. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting, held on the 6th March 2008, be accepted as a true record.

12. Matters Arising for information only.

(a) Minute 151 – Presentation. Spelling of Building.

13. Correspondence.

(a) The Tug of War Association had sent confirmation that Sandhurst had been selected to host the Association's 50th Anniversary International Competition. They also asked the Council to sponsor one of the weight classes. The matter was referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee. **ACTION.**

(b) The Audit Commission has appointed Mazars as the Town Council's external auditor for the financial year 2008/09. Notification of the Appointed Date for the Accounts and Audit had been set for Monday 18th August. **NOTED.**

(c) Correspondence was received from the Sandhurst Residents Association with reference to the parking issues in Central Sandhurst. The matter was referred to the Environment Committee. **ACTION.**

(d) An email had been received from the local Methodist Church asking for a representative to attend a meeting looking into creating more unified and improved facilities in Sandhurst. The matter was referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee. **ACTION.**

(e) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent information about the Heritage Open Days 2008. **NOTED.**

(f) Notification of a Tree Preservation Order on Land At 2 Oxford Road, Owlsmoor, Sandhurst, Berkshire. **NOTED.**

(g) Notification of a Tree Preservation Order on Land At 80 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire. **NOTED.**

- (h) Notification of the Street Naming and Numbering at Wood Avens House, Pinehill Rise Sandhurst.
- (i) A copy of the South East England Regional Housing Strategy 2008-11 was available for viewing in the general office. **NOTED.**
- (j) The Surrey Minerals Plan Preferred Option – proposed amendments to Core Strategy Consultation from 25th April to 6th June 2008 was available for viewing in the general office. **NOTED.**
- (k) The Bracknell Forest Borough Core Strategy Development Plan Document was available for viewing in the general office. **NOTED.**

14. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting, held on the 7th February 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

15. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Piggin and Seconded by Cllr Simonds that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 18th February 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

16. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Piggin and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 17th March 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

17. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Brossard and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 31st March 2008 be accepted as a true record with the following correction.

Recommendations were accepted.

18. Matters Arising.

- (a) Cllr Piggin informed the Council of the successful appeal for the planning Application at Rackstaws. **NOTED.**
- (b) Cllr Piggin informed the Council of the refusal of the Planning Application for sheltered homes on the Sandhurst Forge site. **NOTED.**

19. Minutes of the Environment Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Mrs Cupper and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on the 13th March 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

20. Minutes of the Leisure Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Bowers and Seconded by Cllr Simonds that the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting, held on the 20th March 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

21. Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on the 27th March 2008 be accepted as a true record with the following amendment.

Cllr Mrs Bettison was present at the meeting held on 27th March 2008. **NOTED.**

22. Matters Arising.

- (a) Minute 64(a) – Nepali Community Support Worker. In accordance with Standing Order 35(c) the matter of the Nepali support worker was asked to be reconsidered due to additional information received.

After discussion it was put into abeyance as Cllr Birch informed the Council that the PCT had also not been approached properly and the Bracknell Forest Officers had been advised.
ACTION.

23. Recommendation.

- (a) Minute 63(j) – Grants. The approval of the grants allocations with the inclusion of a grant to St Michael's Counselling to the value of £350.00 was **RESOLVED.**

24. Chairman's Report.

Mayoral Engagements during the period:

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| 11 April | The Deputy Mayor attended the Bracknell Forest Mayor's Gala Dinner. |
| 17 April | The Mayor attended the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Sandhurst Stroke & Disabled Club at St Michael's Pastoral Centre. |
| 17 April | The Mayor hosted the Annual Town Meeting in the Sandhurst Community Hall. |
| 18 April | The Mayor attended the Retirement Party for the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Sir Philip Wroughton, at Woolley Park, nr Wantage. |
| 19 April | The Mayor was invited to attend the Art Exhibition held by the Crowthorne and Sandhurst Art Society in the Sandhurst Community Hall. |
| 20 April | The Mayor attended the St George's Day parade hosted by the South Berkshire Scout District at the Memorial Chapel in the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. |

26 April The Mayor was invited to attend the 15th Annual General Meeting of Keep Mobile at their base in Wokingham.

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25. Borough Councillors Report.

Cllr Birch gave an update on the Primary Care Trust. Bracknell Forest Borough Council are developing an older persons strategy for the over 50's, transforming social care and making significant local changes.

Cllr Worrall spoke of the staff changes in Planning Policy and Highways.

26. Councillors Reports.

Cllr Mrs Pidgeon and the Executive Officer joined Cllr Bowers when they attended a meeting at South Hill Park regarding the events on the Memorial Park during the summer months; the final details will be discussed at the Leisure Committee Meeting. He also reminded Members of the cultural weekend due to take place on the 5th & 6th July 2008. Help from Councillors will be needed on both of these days. **NOTED.**

Cllr Mrs Pidgeon asked for volunteers to help at the Fitness Fun Day on Saturday 7th June 2008. The Blackwater Valley Partnership has called an Extraordinary General Meeting for 19th June 2008. It will be taking place in the Kitty Dancy Room during the Loves Park Week when there will be many activities going on in the Memorial Park. **NOTED.**

27. Motion.

To consider the following Motion:

“This Council cannot support the proposal by the Sandhurst Churches Together to build a Coffee Spot, Meeting Hall on the grassed area adjacent to the play area at the Sandhurst Memorial Park.”

Proposed by Cllr Bowers. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon.

Cllr Bowers introduced the Motion referring to the meeting with the Five Churches, which was also attended by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon, Cllr Mrs Shephard, and Cllr Piggin. Cllr Bowers stated that scant regard was shown to the current users of the Coffee Spot and other facilities of the Park. Errors in the business plan were admitted to and Cllr Bowers could name several things omitted on the expenses side that would easily swallow up any profits expected in the current plan. The proposed building at 22.5 metres long was too large for the site and would result in the removal of three trees and at a depth of 23.5 metres the structure would intrude into the play area by 6.5 meters causing the relocation of play equipment.

Cllr Mrs Pidgeon spoke of the play area being an asset and the cost incurred putting the play equipment in this position, she also mentioned the safety issues and after speaking with Bracknell Forest Borough Council about the planning proposal it was clear that all of the play equipment would have to be moved.

Cllr Piggin felt he could not support the Motion as submitted and proposed an amendment to the submission.

An amendment to the Motion was proposed:

“This Council does not currently support the latest proposal by the Sandhurst Churches Together to build a Coffee Spot Meeting Hall on the grassed area adjacent to the children's play area at the Sandhurst Memorial Park. However, the Council wishes to make it clear that discussions should continue regarding the viability of any future proposal.”

Proposed by Cllr Piggin. Seconded by Cllr Birch.

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During the debate Cllr Piggin reminded Members that twelve months ago it was agreed to give £5,000.00 towards a feasibility study for the new building. The Leisure Committee had discussed the project and a sub group had been set up to monitor its progress. Although the site by the play area had been identified the sub group had found it unacceptable that the proposed new building would intrude into the play area.

Further discussions identified that there was support for the principle of the new building and that constructive negotiations should continue. It was identified that it was the scale of the proposed building that has caused the problem not the position and further more frequent informative meetings should take place as if it had been known the Council could have said at an earlier stage that it would not be feasible to encroach into the play area. The new building should benefit the residents of Sandhurst.

In summing up Cllr Bowers felt that the existing plans should be turned down on the dimensions alone as the proposed new building is too large for the site proposed.

The amended Motion was put to the vote.

All were in favour of the motion.

The Motion was carried.

28. Balance at the Bank. The Executive Officer reported that the Balances at the Bank as at 1st May 2008.

Current Account	£1,251
Business Reserve	£379,396
Capital Reserve	£339,297

29. Accounts. It was RESOLVED that payments for cheque numbers 8275 to 8395 inclusive be approved. Receipts for February and March 2008 were **NOTED**.

In accordance with Standing Order 62. The financial statement for year ending 31st March 2008 was received by the Council. **NOTED**.

30. Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Thursday 3rd July 2008 in the Kitty Dancy Room commencing 7.30 p.m.

31. In Committee Exclusion of Public and Press.

It was resolved that pursuant to section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of items, which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of schedule 12A of the Act.

Information relating to employees of the Council.