

7th September 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Sandhurst Town Council** held this day in the Kitty Dancy Room Sandhurst Community Hall Complex, Sandhurst commencing at **7.30pm** and finishing at **9.02pm**

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr R Mossom (Mayor)

Councillors: N Allen, Mrs D Allum Wilson, Mrs J Bettison, P Bettison, D Birch, M Brossard, M Butcher, J Edwards, M Forster, Dr S Forster, Mrs H Hill, B Hutchinson, C Ives, Mrs M Mossom, P Panesar (Deputy Mayor), S Thomas, P Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Officer (Angela Carey)

Deputy Executive Officer (Martina O'Keeffe-Johnston)

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (Agenda Item 1)

The Council stood in silence as the Mayor visited the Book of Remembrance.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 2)

A resident asked the Council not to adopt the minutes of the Strategy & Policy Committee as they did not agree with the decision that was made concerning a lease. Cllr Mrs J Bettison reminded the resident that the minutes are being considered for approval as a true and correct record of the meeting.

A resident raised a number of points-

- a) A concern about the Police Point not being used by TVP as it is a good deterrent on the park. A question was raised about the volunteers that used to run the police point and whether STC stopped this facility. The Executive Officer advised the resident that TVP have a lease on the Police Point and decided not to continue with the volunteer service. They now use the Police Point on an adhoc basis based on their needs.
- b) A concern was expressed about the outside toilets being closed at weekends. Cllr Mrs J Bettison advised the resident of the recent issues regarding vandalism and confirmed that the Leisure Committee are considering other options and will be discussing this in their next meeting.
- c) A comment was given in support of the Neighbourhood Plan and the resident said that they would be happy to support by being part of the working group. Cllr D Birch thanked the resident and confirmed that he was currently creating the group.

A resident asked if all agendas and minutes will be available for the public in the future for the Delegated Decisions Committee. Cllr R Mossom confirmed that this would be addressed during the agenda item in tonight's meeting.

A resident expressed concern about a decision approved by the Leisure Committee to give permission (subject to conditions) for The Alt Prov to relocate from Bottom Meadow onto the park without a public consultation.



Cllr Mrs J Bettison advised the resident that it was appropriate to consider permission prior to the conditions being met to avoid unnecessary costs to either party. After considering the cost implications and the sites offered The Alt Prov have withdrawn their request.

A resident asked why Councillors agreed for Bottom Meadow to be used commercially. Cllr R Mossom advised the resident that if the SB Group had not invested in Sandhurst Town FC, the club would not have survived financially and there would have been no local football team. Their improvements have led to a superb facility that is an asset to the community. It has enabled STFC to continue to have its own identity.

A resident asked what the benefits are to the council concerning the lease arrangements with the SB Group and stated that no payments had been listed on the Council's finances from them for the last few months. The first part of the question was already answered by Cllr R Mossom's response to the previous question, the second part of the question was taken away and will be answered directly to the resident advising the dates of receipts from the tenant. All receipts are detailed on the STC website.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 3)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors-

Mrs J Alves De Sousa (Vacation)

G Birch (Vacation)

Mrs S Davenport (Vacation)

Mrs P Limbu (Indisposed)

Mrs L Quigg (Vacation)

P Widdowson (Indisposed)

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda item 4)

There were no declarations of interest on the business to be transacted.

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL (Agenda item 5)

It was proposed by Cllr R Mossom and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
3020**

that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd June 2023 (pages 1423-1427) be received as a true and correct record, and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Agenda item 6)

For the information of members, the written report listing the Mayoral engagements was received. Cllr R Mossom informed the Council that the Summer of Fun was a fabulous day which was well attended, and he raised funds for the Mayors Charity by doing a raffle. The Mayor opened the new pitch at Bottom Meadow and shared how great the facility is. He watched Sandhurst Town play in an FA Cup game. The Deputy Mayor had the honour of opening the new Thames Hospice Charity shop on behalf of STC.

The Mayor also informed the Council that he had attended a celebration for a resident that was celebrating their 108 birthday.



MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY & POLICY COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7)

It was proposed by Cllr N Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and the following was

**RESOLVED
3021**

that the Minutes of the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting held on 27th July 2023 (pages 1437-1440) be received.

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 8)

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
3022**

that the Minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 20th July 2023 (pages 1432-1436) be received.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 9)

It was proposed by Cllr P Panesar and seconded by Cllr S Thomas and the following was

**RESOLVED
3023**

that the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 13th July 2023 (pages 1430-1431) be received.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 10)

It was proposed by Cllr D Birch and seconded by Cllr Mrs H Hill and the following was

**RESOLVED
3024**

that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26th June 2023 (pages 1428-1429) be received.
and

It was proposed by Cllr M Brossard and seconded by Cllr Mrs H Hill and the following was

**RESOLVED
3025**

that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31st July 2023 (pages 1441-1444) be received.

DELEGATED DECISIONS COMMITTEE (Agenda item 11)

- a) The Council received the recent decisions that were resolved by the Delegated Decisions Committee.
- b) The Council were asked to consider a motion that the Delegated Decision Committee is immediately disbanded. The motion was proposed by Cllr M Forster and seconded by Cllr C Ives. The reason for this motion was that whilst this decision-making process was needed in COVID it is not longer needed and that decisions should be taken by the Council in full meetings in order to be transparent to residents.
- c) An amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr N Allen, to immediately disband the Delegated Decisions Committee and to replace with an Urgent Decisions procedure in Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr D Birch. The reason for the amendment was that there was never any intent for the Delegated Decisions to be a committee and



did not operate as such. The first mention of the word “committee” appears in the January 2022 Full Council minutes – by which time the delegated powers procedure had been in place for 21 months. The aim of this amendment is to fix that error. Urgent decisions will need consideration on occasions and a mechanism to allow that is needed. Further to discussion the amendment became the substantive motion. It was proposed by Cllr N Allen and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
3026**

that the Delegated Decisions Committee is immediately disbanded and is replaced with an Urgent Decisions procedure in Standing Orders. The Urgent Decisions paragraph in Standing Orders will read as: Decisions which require to be taken as a matter of urgency, and which cannot wait until the appropriate Council/Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, may be exercised by the Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairs of the Environment, Leisure and Strategy and Policy committees, provided that the action conforms with the approved policy and is within budget limitations. A report on the decision must be made to the first available relevant committee meeting together with an explanation for the urgency. The scope of the Urgent Decisions will be considered by the Strategy & Policy Committee and the amended Standing Orders will be presented to the Town Council for approval in the next meeting.

ACTION: EO

During the discussion a point was raised about Standing Orders section 1 paragraph F being incorrect. As this could not be resolved during debate Cllr R Mossom suspended Standing Orders.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS (Agenda item 12)

Cllr P Bettison informed the Council that after the Town Council meeting on 18/5/23 an official complaint was made to the monitoring officer by another Councillor concerning Code of Conduct. It was claimed that Cllr P Bettison had not declared an interest in a debate. This was not upheld by the Borough Solicitor.

The reason it was not upheld was that although Cllr P Bettison had been a director of IESE since 2004 and was elected to the Chairman of the board from Southeast he was not in those positions following the local elections. This was because he represented BFC on the board and when he lost his seat, he also lost his position on the board. Cllr P Bettison never represented STC at IESE. IESE is a not-for-profit organisation and Cllr P Bettison confirmed that he was totally unpaid until the end of this position on the board.

Due to a large number of people on the board at IESE losing their seats, the organisation approached its members (of which STC is one), for nominees. STC nominated Cllr P Bettison and he confirmed that he is now Chairman of IESE Transformation. This is recorded on his register of interests.

Cllr M Brossard informed the Council that he had attended a Biodiversity Workshop at BFC on behalf of STC. The main topics discussed were the decline of hedgehogs and the recommendation for access points in gardens and wildflower meadows. Cllr M Brossard also informed the Council that



developers will be required to demonstrate how they will enhance biodiversity by 10% on future Planning applications.

Cllr M Forster informed the Council that BFC are holding Thames Water accountable for the sewage being put into Horseshoe Lake. All of the Council leaders in Berkshire are working together to stop the sewage going into lakes and rivers.

Cllr M Butcher informed the Council that the Sandhurst Day Centre held a team building event and raised funds for the minibus. A quiz night has been arranged and the funds are growing. The shop takings are increasing and three new volunteers have joined.

Cllr M Butcher informed the Council that the Ringmead Medical Practise have had IT issues which have now improved and no one should wait more than twelve minutes when trying to contact the practise by phone.

Cllr D Birch informed the Council that the Neighbourhood Plan working group will be meeting soon. A planning officer has been delegated to STC. Cllr D Birch expressed a concern that STC has no representation on planning at the Borough and has asked that a Borough Councillor take this matter up.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT (Agenda item 13)

The Executive Officer's report was received for information.

BALANCE AT BANK (Agenda item 14)

The balances of the Council bank accounts as at 31st July 2023 were as follows:

Current Account	£2,000
Business Reserve	£987,177
Capital Reserve	£379,107
Mayors Charity	£0

ACCOUNTS (Agenda item 15)

It was proposed by Cllr N Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and the following was

**RESOLVED
3027**

that the payments for June 2023 (60 payments totalling £44,316.10) and July 2023 (61 payments totalling £53,903.20) and receipts for June and July 2023 be received.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 21)

The date of next meeting was confirmed as 2nd November 2023.

**SIGNED AND DATED BY
MAYOR**

