



**Minutes of the Sarratt Parish Council meeting held remotely at 7.30pm on  
Tuesday 12 January 2021**

Present: Councillor S Dobson - Chair  
Councillor C Bloom  
Councillor J Gell  
Councillor N Mortimer  
Councillor D Rees  
Councillor J Rugg  
Councillor A Soothill  
Councillor P Thorp  
Councillor S Diggins

In attendance: 2 members of the public

**01/21 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Apologies from the Clerk.

**02/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Soothill and Rugg declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17/21, although this item was for information only.

**03/21 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Item 257/20 - Cllr Mortimer noted that a second bin had now been installed at Commonwood.

The draft minutes from the Council meeting held on 8 December 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Proposed - Cllr Mortimer

Seconded - Cllr Rugg

**04/21 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Soothill reported the Village Hall will remain closed under the current lockdown but the AGM will be held on 8 March, probably by Zoom, where an

agenda item relating to sustainability and recycling for the Hall will be included. Any parishioner is free to attend and express a view.

Cllrs Dobson and Soothill had a meeting with representatives from Sarratt Royal British Legion (RBL) and a potential developer for the RBL site on Church Lane. A meeting with a second developer is scheduled.

Cllr Dobson reported the successful opening of the new play equipment at KGV and recorded thanks to all those involved. A detailed report was provided in the January edition of Spotlight.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **05/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT (Cllr Mortimer)**

The new playground equipment at KGV is now 'open' and running well (see above).

Cllr Rugg advised KGV is looking into a National Lottery Grant to contribute to the repair / replacement of the dilapidated window frames and doors of the pavilion.

Council was advised KGV is also looking into the use of a gate to access the area behind the fence at the back of the football pitches to avoid holes being made in the fence to retrieve footballs.

Parking on the Green (opposite The Boot) has been reduced by the use of signs and a temporary fence made from tape and inserts. Parking on the Green opposite Mortons pond has now stopped.

The portaloos being used by the builders working at Ramilies, and the building materials, have now been removed from the Green.

A new dog waste bin and bag dispenser for the corner of Deadman's Ash Lane is being fitted this week.

Rural Watch – a COVID scam relating to the NHS vaccine has been highlighted and is now explained on the village website.

The Village Warden has been working on clearing trees, litter picking, fencing and signage round the Green.

### **06/21 WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Cllr Rugg)**

The planned woodland walk that was scheduled for January has been cancelled (Covid), it will now be a Zoom meeting between interested parties to discuss the way forward. Cllr Dobson to set up and host.

Cllr Bloom has 100 trees for planting, with the window of opportunity for planting approx. a month, Cllrs Bloom and Rugg to discuss possible locations for the trees offline.

**07/21 SARRATT POND DUCK HOUSE (Cllr Mortimer)**

It was agreed the existing duck house needs replacing. Debate took place as to whether SPC should fund a replacement or whether private funding should be sought. Cllr Thorp agreed to calculate any possible year end budget surplus and then add the duck house to the list of requests for any such surplus and potential Council discussion at the SPC meeting in February.

**POLICY & RESOURCES (Cllr Thorp)**

**08/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Thorp advised the new SPC website is now up and running ([sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://sarrattparishcouncil.gov.uk)). Councillors were reminded to submit a photo and a short biography for the website if they haven't already done so, and to start using their .gov.uk email addresses for Council business. These would be included on the website.

Cllr Rugg reported two quotes (both c30k) for the possible construction of a skateboard half pipe at KGV. Some private funding will almost certainly be required. Cllr Rugg to continue his enquiries and report back next month.

**09/21 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

Internet banking transactions to the sum of £8,741.56 were approved.  
Proposed - Cllr Rees  
Seconded – Cllr Rugg

**10/21 REVIEW OF SPC POLICIES FOR ADOPTION**

The following five policies have been reviewed and were presented for adoption:

- Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety
- Sickness & Absence
- Environment
- Sarratt Green

All were adopted (from 12 January 2021) except Sarratt Green where Cllr Diggins asked for a month to complete his legal enquiries. A decision will be made on the Sarratt Green policy at next month's meeting.

Proposed - Cllr Rugg

**PLANNING (Cllr Soothill)**

**11/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Soothill reported it had been a quiet month for planning with few applications received and corona virus restrictions inhibiting TRDC site visits.

**12/21 TRDC LOCAL PLAN**

No new information has been received from TRDC regarding any revised timelines for the new Local Plan. Their website still states a consultation will take place in November 2020 with a planned adoption date of Summer 2022, whereas it is known that revised dates that slip adoption to mid-2023 were presented to the TRDC meeting in December. We await further news.

**13/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 23 January, where it is anticipated that the impact of the continued delays to the TRDC new Local Plan will be discussed.

**14/21 TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were discussed:

**Overdale, Dunny Lane, Belsize, WD4 9DE. Application No: 20/2502/FUL**

Construction of three dormer windows and alterations to fenestration.

*No objection.*

**Hill Top, Penmans Hill, Chipperfield, WD4 9DJ. Application No: 20/2577/LBC**

Regularisation of replacement windows (part) and doors in existing openings.

*Objection, in support of the Conservation Officer, specifically that this is a retrospective application for the replacement of timber windows with uPVC.*

*Hilltop is a Grade II listed building dating from the seventeenth century. There is an in-principle objection to the installation of uPVC windows in replacement of timber windows.*

**The Old Cattle Shed, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6BN. Application No: 20/2802/FUL**

Erection of a multi-purpose agricultural barn.

*Objection. Given that permission under permitted development was only provided in 2017 for the change of use to a residential dwelling of an existing, supposedly superfluous, agricultural barn on the site, it is astonishing that a new agricultural need has been identified at the same time as the said converted property is nearing completion. In addition, it is unclear that the property is a registered small holding or agricultural unit, thereby questioning whether an agricultural barn should be permitted. In any event, the proposed*

*scale is considered too large for the purpose stated and its siting is inappropriate in a visible position off a country road.*

**13 Alexandra Road, Sarratt, WD3 6AX. Application No: 20/2824/FUL**

Two storey rear extension and alteration to fenestration.

*No objection.*

**15/21 TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Ramillies, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6AY. Application No: 20/2240/FUL**

Construction of front bay window and part single-storey part two-story rear extension.

*Decision: APPROVED*

**Sarum, Templepan Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4NH. Application No: 20/2276/FUL**

Demolition of existing garage and existing annexe and construction of replacement garage and annexe buildings.

*Decision: APPROVED*

**Sarum, Templepan Lane, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4NH. Application No: 20/2313/FUL**

Demolition of existing dwelling, annexe and garage buildings, and erection of replacement dwelling with linked annexe and garage, and associated works.

*Decision: REFUSED*

**West View, Bucks Hill, Sarratt, WD4 9AU. Application No: 20/2248/FUL**

Conversion, extension and alterations to existing garage for annex.

*Decision: APPROVED*

**Crestyl, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, WD3 6AR. Application No: 20/2442/PDT**

Enlargement of the dwellinghouse by the construction of one additional storey (2.74m in height) to result in an overall height of 8.14m (Class AA).

*Decision: REFUSED*

**Barn At Dellfield Farm, Plough Lane, Sarratt, WD3 4NL. Application No: 20/2266/FUL**

Change of use of land to residential and construction of single storey ground floor extension.

*Decision: WITHDRAWN*

**16/21 ENFORCEMENTS**

The status of all outstanding enforcement actions provided by TRDC were noted.

**17/21 EMERGENCY SERVICES MAST AT BUCKS HILL (Cllr Rugg)**

Comment had been made in writing by Cllr Rugg as part of the consultation, suggesting a site meeting and an alternative site for the mast. The alternative

site is very close to the original site, but in a position that would cause less disruption. This has been ignored and a planning application is to be submitted by 28 January based on the original location. Cllr Rugg and District Cllr Butler expressed disappointment in the lack of co-operation from the agent representing EE.

## **HIGHWAYS (Cllr Diggins)**

### **18/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Diggins reported that since the last Council meeting he had met Mr Yucelt, Herts Highways Officer, to discuss various issues. This was a constructive meeting and included discussion about the possibility of Quiet Lanes status for Moor Lane. Mr Yucelt explained it could take two years to secure a traffic regulation order and a quicker way forward was to add signage in the lane. County Cllr Williams has allocated £1,000 from his 2021/22 budget to assist with this.

There was discussion about HGVs using North Hill / Church Lane and causing obstruction and accidents. Mr Yucelt has said he would look into this.

Cllr Diggins shared the link to the Herts CC fault reporting portal;  
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-highway-fault/what-type-of-fault-are-you-reporting.aspx>

### **19/21 WHEATSHEAF ACCESS ROAD**

No further progress while Cllr Diggins completes his legal enquiries with TRDC regarding responsibility for the road. A decision to be made next month

### **20/21 QUIET LANES**

See 18/21 above

### **21/21 FINGERPOSTS (Cllr Gell)**

It was agreed to proceed with the quote for ca. £3,700 for four black & white wooden finger posts, plus the replacement of the brown Church sign. Cllr Dobson to contact the selected supplier to agree payment and delivery of the signs. It was agreed SPC would arrange the erection of the new signs locally. The other three signs will be replaced in the financial year 2021/22. Thanks were given to Cllr Gell for his research and work on this matter.

### **22/21 DEFIBRILATOR FOR CHANDLERS CROSS**

Cllr Diggins is still keen to look into this. It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas and Cllr Diggins will bring it back when he has made progress.

### **23/21 VE DAY AND VJ DAY COMMEMORATION**

Cllr Diggins advised there was nothing further to report.

**24/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**25/21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

District Cllr Butler said some marker posts were down in Commonwood Woods. Andrew Whitewood advised the marker posts would be repaired within the week. Andrew Whitewood also requested the purchase of more dog waste bags – action Cllr Dobson.

**26/21 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

Cllr Rees expressed concern at the number of visitors coming to Sarratt under the current Covid restrictions, with many not observing government guidelines. It was agreed that whilst this had caused concern among some residents, this was not the responsibility of SPC to manage.

Cllr Soothill confirmed he will be standing down from Council after 14 years' service. His last meeting will be April 2021. Thanks were expressed for everything he has done, there will be more formal thanks nearer the time

Cllr Dobson asked what the situation was regarding local elections in May. Cllr Soothill said the formal processes are continuing, although District Cllr Butler said it is uncertain whether they will proceed.

**27/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS REQUESTED TO BE PUT ON NEXT AGENDA**

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 9 February 2021, to be held via Zoom.

Sarah Dobson

**Chair, Sarratt Parish Council**

## **PART II**

**To pass resolution that the Press and Public may be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business under Section 1 Sub Section (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 from any items on the Agenda which are deemed to relate to exempt information**

Proposed - Cllr Mortimer

Seconded - Cllr Gell

### **28/21 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PARISH CLERK (Cllr Thorp)**

The Clerk is still unwell and unable to return to work. Cllr Thorp proposed SPC should continue to pay the Clerk her full salary until the end of March when the matter will be reviewed.

SPC work is up to date thanks, primarily, to the efforts of Cllrs Dobson and Thorp. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The meeting closed at 21.40