

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish office: Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt WD3 6AS

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Draft Minutes of the Sarratt Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 in the rear hall, at the Village Hall Sarratt, at 19:30 pm

Cllr Farman, Cllr Coakley, Cllr Lowry, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Diggins, Cllr Zerny, Cllr Alder – all present
District Cllr Ciaran Reed - absent

Also present : Lena Mortimer Clerk to the Council. 8 members of the public

26/931 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive and accept apologies for absence, and any announcements

Cllr Diggins informed the Clerk that he would be 15 minutes late to the meeting

26/932 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION none

26/933 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Brenda Harold and Dawn Pitts, representing the Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Volunteers, came to speak about the Green and the incorrect planting of daffodil bulbs at the pump-end of the Green. This is a Conservation area, nurturing rare species of plants. There has been a separate mowing regime in this area, for over 10 years. Over the following days and weeks, the volunteers will be digging up the erroneously planted bulbs, with the understanding of SPC.

26/934 MINUTES OF THE LAST FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 10TH MARCH 2026

To consider the approval of the minutes of the last meeting of the council.

Proposed AC seconded DZ

26/935 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF SPC

Cllr JA attended a meeting with the residents of Dimmocks Lane and developers who hope to build houses on the site of Ferndale. Up to 54 houses, with access and egress at a point opposite Deadmans Ash and along the cycle path at Church Lane.

Cllr DZ attended a meeting of the Dawes Lane Action Group where many residents were able to question politicians about the effects of planning proposals and legislation on the Village. Steven Giles Medhurst (SGM) and answered questions about whether the lack of a Local Plan from TRDC has implications for Sarratt and whether the Greenbelt designation, still applies.

It was felt that Sarratt is still in peril of speculative applications, and that concerted opposition is required by residents.

Cllr PM accompanied Patrick Stileman Arboricultural Consultant on some of his assessment of trees within Sarratt, for safety and health. We await his report to direct works. There will be an update at the next Parish Meeting.

Cllr PM consulted with Harbro, about compiling a schedule of assets which can be used to promote Sarratt with the Hertfordshire Film Hub – possibly cost £400.

Although Miss Deacon has submitted a planning application to TRDC, her contract with SPC will not affect the progress of this.

Carried unanimously.

Cllr PM met with Prof Brenda Harold, Dawn Pitts and Andrew Taylor around tree management grants and planting guidance. Although a 'living memorial' was allowed on The Green, this should be monitored carefully, so as not to allow unmonitored planting of trees on the Green. Prof. Harold would like an informative board to be situated at the pump

end of the Green. The design was considered previously by Mike Edmund and he will be asked to liaise with Brenda and Andrew Taylor for content.

The meeting thanked the Councillors for their work.

26/936

CLERKS REPORT

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>20 IS PLENTY</u>	These are not forthcoming from HHWs, as the process is too expensive and time consuming	AW has had works to catch up on, due to the extensive rain last month. I propose to purchase the signage and discuss with him, the posting required for the signs, now he has time to do the work.
<u>DAWES WOODS</u>	<u>BRIDLE/FOOTPATH SIGNAGE REQUESTED FROM HERTS ROW</u>	As above, this will be complete this month – along with the removal of impromptu equestrian jumps erected in the woods.
Sarratt Waste Bins	Bottoms falling out of bins as they are crammed full of rubbish	AW has replaced the bottoms of 6 bins and we wait to see if this is a successful intervention. New bins are very expensive
VILLAGE EMAIL	GAINED SOME ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS	Current number 138 This must be increased
TREES AT PENMANS HILL	SEE PHOTOS – TAKE DECISION ON NEXT STEPS	Arboriculturist has visited the sites and queried ownership of trees on unadopted land
INTERNAL AUDIT	BOTH SECTIONS COMPLETED	This was very successful. The report will be placed on the Website for residents to view.
FILMING – HERTS HUB AND POLICY	BEING ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A CONTRACTOR	Progress is being made in compiling a schedule of assets that would be of interest to film makers.
GRANT LETTERS	published	On website
KGV Playground	Inspection due	ROSPA 26 th May
VERGE AT SARRATT SCHOOL	Continued despoilment	HAVE CONTACTED THE CONTRACTORS WHO have promised to make good at the end of the works
PARKING	Inconsiderate and illegal parking	Thanks to residents who have photographed and spoken to drivers who are parking in a thoughtless manner in the Village
WHEATSHEAF COTTAGES	Discussion with residents about upkeep of the service road off The Green	SPC and HHWs are not responsible for the upkeep of the service road leading to Wheatsheaf Cottages. SPC favour a communal approach to this issue.
BT INTERNET SPEEDS	ALTHOUGH NOW DIGITAL, SPC INTERNET IS VERY SLOW	For around £10 extra – we can take our speeds from 100 to 700. I have a representative coming to speak to me if the meeting agrees.
THE CRICKETERS PUB	REQUEST FOR TABLES ON THE GREEN	I will investigate with Herts Highways, as I believe that tables next to a main road require permissions.
AFFINITY WATER	APOLOGISE FOR THE ONGOING WORKS AT CROXLEY GREEN/SARRATT	I reported the water leak in Church Lane – (again) and was promised prompt action
SARRATT MOTHER AND TODDLERS	GIVING PUBLICITY AND SUPPORT FOR THIS SERVICE WHEN IT RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER	Daphne Tyler who runs SMTs is very disappointed that more mothers from SARRATT itself, do not attend. Many child minders from neighbouring Parishes make use of it and she would like more advertising for the service.
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION	SATURDAY 18 TH APRIL	NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GREEN BELT. 11-30 FOR 12:30 ON SATURDAY 18 TH APRIL. BY THE FLAG POLE.

26/937

POLICIES FOR UPDATES

- Allotment Policy
- Allotment Tenancy Agreement
- Grants Policy

All last reviewed January and March 2024

These policies have been reviewed by the Clerk and deemed appropriate and current in legislation and content.

Carried unanimously

26/938

TO REVIEW COMMUNICATION PLAN ACTIONS

In order to update the website and make working and storing large quantities of documents, PM has been investigating Parish Online as a workspace and web site provider. He now awaits the prices of their services.

Other platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp are also being considered. WhatsApp offers a service of non-disclosure of contact details or personal contact details.

This was unanimously carried

26/939

PLANNING – CLLR FARMAN AND CLLR ALDER

a) **To receive report on recent planning decisions, enforcements and appeals**

b) **Planning applications to be considered**

- **4 Caroon Drive Sarratt WD3 6DD**

Demolition of existing conservatory and glass house, construction of single storey rear extension and outbuilding, installation of front solar panels and insulated render cladding, replacement windows, internal alterations and alterations to fenestration Ref.

No: 26/0504/FUL

Sub 40% increase.

No Objection – encouragement to be greener.

- **Sweetpea Smallholdings Adjacent To And Rear Of 76 Church Lane Sarratt**

They are using the method of giving more detail prior to an appeal. But there is nothing new here.

Noted.

Approval of Details: Details pursuant to Conditions 1 and 2 of Planning Permission 21/2896/OUT (Appeal Reference: APP/P1940/W/22/3300083) comprising layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of the residential development (20 dwellings) with new access to Church Lane and proposed pedestrian link to existing public footpath. Ref.

No: 26/0462/AOD

- **Land To The North And West Of Cottage Farm Redhall Lane Chandlers Cross WD3 4LT**

Prior Notification: Erection of tractor and equipment store, 2no. polytunnels, potting shed, agricultural building Ref. No: 26/0457/PDNA

The large equestrian barn now removed. Tractor and equipment store and a polytunnels – native hedge – this is a business. RRDC will look at the legality of this and then come back. Any local knowledge? Thin end of wedge? Why are they where they are?

- **Micklefield Hall Sarratt Road WD3 6AQ**

Erection of two padel courts with associated car parking and floodlights (Use Class F2(c)) Ref. No: 26/0384/FUL

Flood lighting – study on how far the lighting travels – does not affect local properties.

Access along the back drive. This is the most convenient entrance. Small scale rec facility adjacent to pav. Social benefit to the comm. No padel courts in TRDC.

Low visual impact in green belt – glass and wire mesh sustainable development – Ricki school and Clem danes – support for sport and recreation. Benefits outweigh harm. 5m high lights. Green walls and hedgerows. Noise assessment – limited impact nearest 100m. public booking online.

No objection

c) Batchworth Golf Course

Possible impact – TRDC Local Plan – Sarratt Cllr David Zerny is in conversation with Cllr John Bishop who is a planning specialist from Chorleywood, so see how the distribution of numbers of potential houses is to affect Sarratt and to preview Regulation 20 which is coming up in 10 months time, as this is our last line of defence against the threat of large house numbers.

He asks SPC to consider accruing a fighting fund for legal representation.

26/940 HIGHWAYS – CLLR DIGGINS AND CLLR ZERNY

a) To receive lead councillors report

Cllr Diggins and Zerny commented that the fault reporting system at Herts Highways, is not fit for purpose and that reporting does not bring a quick response. The suggestion that close contacts with County Cllr Louise Price will probably yield greater results.

Wheatsheaf Cottages. The access from the Green to the cottages is an unadopted road. As such it is the responsibility of the homeowners to upkeep the road. Another example of this in Sarratt is the road at Rosehall Farm. SPC asks that the residents cooperate with each other to undertake the maintenance in their own interests.

b) To receive a report on meeting with Herts Highways 25-02-26

This is covered above.

26/941 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY – CLLR MITCHELL

a) To receive lead councillors report

Cllr PM has written a report for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 28th April. He is keen to investigate the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy to see if this yields any opportunities for improving the environment in Sarratt.

26/942 POLICY AND RESOURCES – CLLR LOWRY

a) To review and approve bank reconciliation and payments

Payments totalled £3,384.95 – these payments to suppliers and one salary, and auditors fees. One receipt of £120 was an early payment for renewal of allotment rental.

Current account balance £31,869.50

Co-Op reserve account balance £109,910.81

CCLA investment account balance £5,029.79

Co-op 95 days interest bearing account balance £10,502.47

SPC earmarked reserves are healthy as a credit balance of some £8,800 was carried over from last year. This means that SPC election expenses are mostly covered.

The audit was a success for SPC, and the AGAR will be signed off before the 12th May Annual Statutory Meeting and will be published on the website.

It was advised that KGV Pavilion works should be a standing Agenda item until completed.

b) To consider outstanding HMRC PAYE Payments

Cllr Lowry has managed to locate the payments made for incorrect amounts in past years, and SPC has cleared the balance owed.

c) KGV Pavilion Building Project

Renovation work commences at the end of this month. SPC will receive CIL funds from TRDC for the works. In order for SPC to be able to claim back the VAT component of the funds, certain assurances must be met in our deeds of ownership and charitable custodian status. Professional VAT consultants have been asked for their advice, as the VAT total reclaimable is around £60,000.

A photographic diary of the day to day works must be kept.

SPC is responsible for:

- VAT – properly establish the ownership of KGV for the correct handling.
- SPC take over the building maintenance KGV and the rest of the insurance.
- Set of actions to follow in terms of the project tranches
- Operational management.

26/943 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REED
Dist Cllr Ciaran Reed was absent from this meeting

26/944 TO CONSIDER RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE
Correspondence for information: To note any attached appendix of items which have been circulated or items that will be available for inspection at the meeting

SPC received a Freedom of information request re Fir Trees development in Dawes Lane, to which SPC responded. The request was formulated on incorrect information, however, SPC was happy to comply.

26/945 IDENTIFY AND SELECT ITEMS FROM THE MEETING AND OTHER RECENT ACTIVITY TO PUBLISH ON OUR PUBLIC CHANNELS

Highways – pothole precise

Audit – we are outstanding

Filming portfolio

Daffodils – digging

Local plan

20 is plenty

26/946 TO CONSIDER COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
there were none

26/947 TO CONFIRM DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING APRIL 28th, 2026

21:30 ended

Signed: 

Date: 14th April 2026

Lena Mortimer - Clerk to Sarratt Parish Council