



**Minutes of the Sarratt Parish Council meeting held remotely at 7.30pm on
Tuesday 9 February 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: 4 members of the public

29/21 APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Apologies from the Clerk.

Cllr Dave Rees announced he was stepping down from the Council at the end of the financial year. Gratitude was expressed for the many years of devoted work Dave has contributed to SPC.

30/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Soothill declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Bucks Hill Farm planning application.

31/21 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 January 2021 were agreed to be a true record. There were no matters arising not already covered by the February agenda.

Proposed Cllr Mortimer, Seconded Cllr Bloom.

32/21 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

None.

ENVIRONMENT

33/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT (Cllr Mortimer)

- A new dog waste bin and bag dispenser have been installed on the corner of Deadman's Ash Lane and Dimmock's Lane.
- Deadmans Ash Lane – it was agreed the foliage on the corner would be trimmed to be in keeping with the rest of the hedgerow.
- Two instances of fly tipping have been reported to TRDC.
- Monitoring tree removal at the bottom of Red Lion Lane adjacent to a recent barn conversion.
- Dellfield House – damage by builders' vehicles to the grass triangle in front of the property is to be made good by the owners.
- The felling of oak tree 666 on The Green opposite The Boot is imminent.

From the Parish Warden:

Commonwood: I have taken pictures of rubbish which was thrown into the hedge, also I noticed piles of dumped potting soil which I have raked about and made good.

I have cleaned the rails round Sarratt pond making them clean. I would recommend we paint them in the Summer. I have tidied up the top of Deadman's Ash Lane trimming the hedges including getting rid of the waste.

I have cleared a couple of snapped out branches in Bottom Lane to make the road clear.

During my other walks I haven't seen anything apart from a bit of rubbish, all the footpaths are clear and safe.

34/21 WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Cllr Rugg)

We await replies from some of the potential attendees for a proposed Zoom meeting, which is replacing the Woodland Walk. We will go ahead with those who have indicated they wish to be involved. The meeting is primarily focussed on the plans to fell diseased trees, remove and thin out inappropriate growth to open up the canopy – all undertaken in order to qualify for a Forestry Commission Grant.

There has been some discussion regarding the proposed woodland 'ride' in Commonwood that forms part of the plan in line with Forestry Commission guidelines. It has already been suggested on any new ride we to continue to segregate the public footpath and the long established permissive bridleway with a more robust structure. There is also a need to ensure access is denied to motor vehicles at each end.

There are plans, when time allows, to translate the A.G.A incomplete Land Management Plan into a Hard Copy Manual for retention in the Parish Office.

The 100 whips obtained are apparently not suitable for planting in the woodlands although some could be used on the boundaries particularly for filling gaps in existing hedgerows. There is a need to identify other suitable

locations (maybe other field hedgerows in the Parish) and / or other small private woodlands – plus identify who is available to assist in planting them. We are awaiting a response from Herts County Council (HCC) confirming they will underwrite the £3.5K in the SPC approved budget regarding footpaths. We also await final payment from HCC of the outstanding SPC invoice for last season’s work on vegetation control (strimming). Gates renewal (HCC contributions) is on the agenda for a meeting with Rights of Way officers postponed due to lockdown.

POLICY & RESOURCES (Cllr Thorp)

35/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk continues her recuperation. All files and work documents have been returned to the SPC office to enable the year-end financial work to continue. The Clerk expresses her continued gratitude for the support shown by the Council.

36/21 UPDATE TO THE YEAR END FINANCIALS AND FURTHER FUNDING REQUESTS PRIOR TO YEAR END

Estimated spending until year end suggests a potential surplus in the region of £15-20K. Various proposals were made regarding the use of any surplus and the following were approved:

Woodland 10-year plan	£2,000
Work on gates	£2,000
Neighbourhood Plan	£3,000
2 new dog bins (20/21 schedule)	£500
Wheatsheaf road kerbstones	£3,500
All weather cricket pitch (KGV)	£2,000
Wildfowl nest box for Sarratt Pond	£500
Total	£13,500

Proposed Cllr Soothill, Seconded Cllr Diggins.

37/21 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Approval of internet banking transactions to the sum of £4,105.59.

Proposed Cllr Mortimer, Seconded Cllr Rugg.

38/21 REVIEW OF SPC POLICIES FOR ADOPTION

The following SPC policies were reviewed for adoption:

- Sarratt Green
- Document Retention
- Co-option
- Protocol for reporting of meetings
- Unreasonably persistent or vexatious complaints

All were adopted by the Council.

Proposed Cllr Gell, Seconded Cllr Diggins.

The policy relating to GDPR was omitted as further clarification is required as to the Council's exact responsibility. In the absence of the Clerk, the Chair is seeking guidance from HAPTC. It will be brought back to Council next month.

PLANNING (Cllr Soothill)

39/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

40/21 TRDC LOCAL PLAN

The indicative timetable for TRDC's new Local Plan is as follows:

- Additional Regulation 18 Consultation – May/July 2021
- Publication stage – November/December 2021
- Submission stage – August/September 2022
- Examination – Late 2022/Early 2023
- Adoption – Summer 2023

41/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE (Cllr Soothill)

Cllr Soothill to make a presentation next month to brief the Council on the draft policies ahead of the public consultation.

42/21 TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Beechwood, Dunny Lane, Belsize, WD4 9DQ. Application No: 21/0008/FUL

Demolition of existing garden store and erection of new garden store.

Recommend: No objection.

Sarratt Hall, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6BS. Application No: 20/2533/FUL & 20/2534/LBC

Part change of use of paddock and installation of 92 PV panels and construction of pool house and 4.no air source heat pumps.

Recommend: No objection but request condition that all contractors' vehicles are parked within the curtilage of the property and not on the Green.

The Orchard, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6AT. Application No: 21/0199/CLED

Construction of a veranda enclosed by brick-built columns with a glass roof.

Recommend: Noted.

Bucks Hill Farm, Bucks Hill, WD4 9AP. Application No: 21/0038/FUL

Erection of 20m high telecommunications column, satellite (sic) dish with foundation, cabinets and associated ancillary works including fence, gate and grasscrete access track.

Recommend: Objection. This application appears to contravene TRDC Policies (DM11 & DM12) on maintaining leisure and recreational facilities and places a rural business in potential jeopardy. The application incorrectly states that no observations were provided by the Parish Council. In fact, the Council has proposed relocating to an alternative site 20m away that would appear to

protect the rural business and be suitable for the prescribed purpose. If the Officer is minded to approve, we respectfully request that this is called into Committee.

43/21 TO NOTE TRDC PLANNING DECISIONS

Barley Cottage & Honeycomb Cottage, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6AY.

Application No: 20/2558/FUL

Conversion of two existing dwellings into one single dwelling including associated external and internal alterations and demolition of existing rear extension and construction of a new single-storey rear extension.

SPC: No objection.

Decision: REFUSED – would result in the loss of a two-bed dwelling within Sarratt which would conflict with the Council's requirement to increase housing supply across the District.

Petherick Pastures, Bucks Hill, Kings Langley. Application No: 20/2233/FUL

Demolition of existing buildings and manege (sic) and erection of a 3-bedroom detached single storey dwelling with associated landscaping.

SPC: Objection as it represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt with no special circumstances demonstrated to justify a new dwelling. SPC respectfully request that this is called into Committee if the planning officers are minded to approve.

Decision: REFUSED – inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Hartfield, Fir Tree Hill, Chandlers Cross, WD3 4LZ. Application No: 20/2351/FUL

Two-storey side extension.

SPC: No objection.

Decision: REFUSED – disproportionate additions.

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

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

SPC: Objection, in support of the Conservation Officer's comments.

Decision: REFUSED – [uPVC windows are] detrimental to the building's special interest and result in harm to the significance of the Listed Building.

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).

SPC: Objection.

Decision: Advised in January as REFUSED, now showing on TRDC site as APPROVED.

HIGHWAYS (Cllr Diggins)

44/21 LEAD COUNCILLORS REPORT

The owner of Coltspring Farm on Sarratt Road has contacted SPC for help with the road outside the farm which has been the scene of several bad accidents. Cllr Diggins is in contact.

45/21 WHEATSHEAF ACCESS ROAD

Legal advice suggests those householders using the access road are responsible for the upkeep of such and SPC is responsible for repairs to The Green. SPC will look into the possibility of collaborating with the householders to find a single contractor to complete the repairs to both the access road and the Green.

46/21 QUIET LANES

Moor Lane, Sarratt Bottom and Dawes Lane - HCC Highways to offer possible signage from their 21/22 budget.

Red Lion Lane - no further progress.

47/21 FINGERPOSTS

Following decisions made last month 4 replacement fingerposts have been ordered, we are awaiting a delivery date.

48/21 KGV HALF PIPE (Cllr Rugg)

Two constructors have been invited for site visits and estimates.

SCCP have been invited to represent the project on behalf of the community, they are pleased to accept.

A management committee will be formed comprising SCCP, SPC, KGV and some younger members of the community (male and female).

49/21 VE DAY AND VJ DAY COMMEMORATION (Cllr Diggins)

Proposed:

- Plant two substantial oaks on Sarratt Green, close to War Memorial one each for VJ and VE Day.
- Plant trees along Commemorative Ride on Commonwood: one tree for every known casualty of WW1 and WW2; ideally planted by schoolchildren/scouts.
- Working with Sarratt School to develop a Peace Garden (a 'physic' sensory and herbal garden) to demonstrate the 'fruits of peace'.
- Commemorative Ceremony - small ceremony (Royal British Legion, School, Scouting Movement, Residents, with bugler) to mark events. Dates tbc: possibly w/end closest to Armed Forces Day (23 June); VJ Day (15 August); or combined with Remembrance Day.

The 'Peace Garden' would cost in the region of £1500 - though it could be scalable - and we would not have to, necessarily, spend all the monies this year.

50/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The May Fair has asked to use The Green on the first Bank Holiday in May. This was agreed but will be a provisional booking for the time being, with a final decision made nearer the time depending on the COVID restrictions in force in May.

The Chair advised the BT telephone box in Belsize had been removed on 2 February. The application to TRDC by BT was only for the removal of the pay phone equipment, not the box itself. SPC objected strongly due to no / limited

mobile reception in Belsize, but TRDC approved the request. However, BT's contractors have now removed the box as well as the pay phone equipment. The Chair has written to TRDC requesting BT re-instate the box as they did not have permission to remove it. The request has been supported by three District Councillors and TRDC have now passed it to their Enforcement Team who have been in touch with BT. We await further updates.

51/21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Councillor Butler said Abbots Langley PC had bought an outdoor table tennis table which was proving popular. She is going to make further enquiries as to how it was financed.

52/21 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Cllr Rugg said the KGV National Lottery application to replace windows and doors had been sent to the Chair of the KGV Management Trustees to complete final details and submit the application.

53/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS REQUESTED TO BE PUT ON NEXT AGENDA

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

Meeting ended 21.53