



**SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm for a Meeting of the Parish Council

**PRESENT:**

Councillors John Hale, June Reid, John Foster, Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard, Jenny Roberts, Jonathan Maskell, Graham Leonard, Neil Harris

**OFFICERS:**

Emma Hostler, Deputy Parish Clerk, Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer, Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Stef Hayes, Community Centres Manager

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Sam Vosper

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

There were no members of the public present

**5401 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors Lyn Bolton, Jonathan Hegerty, John Newton Davies and Patsy Cann.

**5402 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There was none.

**5403 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were reviewed. They were agreed to be a correct record and it was proposed by Councillor Leonard, seconded by Councillor Roberts and unanimously;

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chair.

**QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

**5404 Questions to Officers**

There was none.

**5405 Public Participation – an opportunity for residents to raise issues or ask questions of Members**

No members of the public were present.

## CLERK'S REPORTS

### 5406 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. It was unanimously;

#### Resolved

To approve the payment of this schedule, due to be made on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### 5407 2022/23 Budgetary Control and 2023/24 Draft Budget

Members reviewed the draft budget for 2023/24 as circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the draft had been considered and approved by the Finance Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, since which a number of updates had been made (listed). The draft was reviewed in conjunction with the Reserves Statement and the Six year projection, also circulated. Also reviewed was the projected budgetary position in 2022/23, details of which were circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Geoff Churchard and unanimously;

#### Resolved

To approve the draft 2023/24 budget of £343,095 as circulated, subject to funding (see item 5410).

### 5408 Internal Audit

An internal audit was carried out by the Parish Council's new internal auditor on November 30<sup>th</sup>. There were several recommendations contained within the draft report which will be reviewed by the Finance Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### 5409 6 Year Model

Members considered a six-year financial model circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the model supports both the recommended draft budget at item 5407 and the recommended precept at item 5410.

### 5410 2023/24 Draft Reserves, Precept and Funding Requirement

Members considered the position on reserves and the budget funding requirement. It was noted that, with the larger tax base, this produced an annual increase on a Band D property of £1.07. It was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Janet Churchard and unanimously;

#### Resolved

To apply an increase of 4.5% on the 2022/23 precept to result in a precept request in 2023/24 of £304,001.

### 5411 Matters of Note

- **Earmarked Reserve for Astro-Turf Replacement**

At a meeting of the Sports and Recreation Committee held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Clerk was asked to include in the draft 2023/24 budget a request to transfer £2,000 annually from General Reserves to Earmarked Reserves in order to build a fund over ten years for the replacement of the Astro-Turf court surfacing at Spencer Meadow. This was approved by the Finance Committee and appears in the draft statement of reserves.

- **Grant Application to Cemex**

After fourteen months deliberation Cemex Ltd has decided not to award a grant to the Parish Council in respect of the Jersey Farm Open Space bike track.

- **Car Parks**

Drain clearance has been carried out in all Parish Council owned car parks. Extensive tree work has been carried out in the two car parks adjacent to Marshalswick Community Centre.

- **Pump Track**

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer is currently working through two objections raised via the planning portal. These will inevitably delay the project further.

## **COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **5412 Grant Applications**

There were no applications this month.

### **5413 Renovation of the St Leonard's Lychgate**

Councillors were taken through a report by Councillor Roberts in respect of renovation works to the Lychgate at St Leonard's Church. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hale and unanimously;

#### **Resolved**

To award the sum of up to £5,000, dependent on what funding is available from other sources. This award to be charged against the Grants Awarded budget and made under the General Power of Competence.

### **5414 Parking on The Ridgeway**

Members discussed a proposal by Councillor Harris to ask the Parish Clerk to write to the Head Teachers of Sandringham and Wheatfields Schools asking that further robust approaches be made to parents in respect of inconsiderate parking during school pick up time. It was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously;

#### **Resolved**

To request the Clerk to write to both Head Teachers as above.

### **5415 Cycle Lanes in Jersey Farm**

Councillor Maskell took Members through a report circulated with the agenda in respect of the cycle lanes through the Jersey Farm estate (Sandringham Crescent). After discussion it was unanimously;

#### **Resolved**

To ask the Clerk to write to Herts County Council (Highways) requesting that the white lines denoting the lanes and the cycle motifs are repainted at the earliest opportunity.

### **5416 Meetings of Committees**

The meeting took verbal reports by Chairs of Committees for Meetings held since last Full Council:

- PEAP Committee 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Planning Committee 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (see below)
- Sports and Recreation 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Combined Community Centres Committee 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (Cancelled)

### **5417 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA**

There was none.

### **5418 PLANNING MATTERS**

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 24th November 2022.

Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

- 6 Highfield Road – 5/2022/2259

**5419 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Councillor Roberts undertook to produce a report ahead of next year's Sustainability Festival and Big Green Week.

**Next meeting date – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36pm

**Chair** ..... **Date** .....

**Cllr Graham Leonard**