

# *Sandridge Parish Council*



## **JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Met at 7.30pm at Sandridge Village Hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 (following postponement of the 28<sup>th</sup> September meeting)

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors - Jenny Roberts (Chair), John Hale, Jonathan Maskell  
District Councillors – Lorraine Kirby  
Public Members - Carol Higgins, Frances Leonard  
Warden - Mark Carter

### **OFFICERS:**

Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk  
Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer

### **ABSENT:**

Public Members - Carrie Sherriff

### **590. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted for absence from: Councillors Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard and Elissa Da Costa-Waldman; and Public Members John Forward, Clyde Martindill and Jamie Burrows.

### **591. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Mark Carter declared an interest as a self-employed contractor for Sandridge Parish Council.

### **592. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was, unanimously:

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **593. MATTERS OF NOTE**

- The Parish Council has taken delivery of a new Kubota ride on mower which was part exchanged against the old Parish mower.
- The Jersey Farm Woodland Park has once again been accredited with a Green Flag Community Award for the 12<sup>th</sup> year running which was marked at the Hertfordshire Green Flag Award Celebrations at St Albans Museum in July.

- Two diseased ash trees along BOAT 3 will be included in the Herts County Council (HCC) autumn works schedule.
- The Parish warden Mark Carter has continued with maintenance tasks including strimming paths and memorial areas, removal of a dead tree branch on BW53, and cleaning of information boards. The Princess Diana memorial tree has been removed due to disease and the skylark fencing removed and stored.
- Signs appeared warning of CCTV cameras along the route between BW53 and House Lane. The signs along the stretch of BW53 have been removed by the Project and Amenities officer and replaced with a poster advising of the official route to walk for FP55.
- Cutting and baling of the meadow grass is due to be undertaken imminently.
- The installation of the Baha'i Faith bench was recently featured in the Herts Advertiser.

**594. BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION PROJECT ON JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK**

The Committee considered a report from Cllr Jenny Roberts following the first meeting of the Working Party to review and progress the butterfly conservation proposal first presented at the April 2022 meeting by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) and Butterfly Conservation (BC). The report concluded with a recommendation from the Working Party to the Committee not to proceed with building the butterfly mounds for a number of reasons cited. Copies of emails from both Malcolm Hull (BC) and Tim Hill (HMWT) responding to points raised in the report, having previously been sent to them, were shared with Members. Discussion ensued following which Members agreed to accept the recommendation not to proceed with the proposal but expressed a willingness to work with both HMWT and BC in the future to support their stated aims of increasing biodiversity in the district and butterfly conservation. It was, unanimously;

**RESOLVED**

To inform HMWT and BC of the decision not to proceed with the proposal to build a series of butterfly banks on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park but express a continued interest in finding other ways of working together within the Woodland Park in its entirety.

**595. REPLACEMENT OF THE PRINCESS DIANA MEMORIAL TREE**

Following the death, due to disease, and removal of the Princess Diana memorial tree on the Woodland Park, the Committee discussed an appropriate replacement. Discussion ensued, after which it was agreed to investigate the idea of commissioning a tree sculpture instead of planting a tree.

It was unanimously;

**RESOLVED**

To investigate the idea of a tree sculpture to replace the Princess Diana memorial tree. Cllr Jenny Roberts will present findings at the January 2023 meeting.

**596. FENCING TO PROTECT THE SKYLARKS**

Following a call to the parish office from a resident concerned that current signage is not effective in deterring visitors to the Woodland Park from walking across the meadow grass during skylark breeding season, Members were asked to review the current strategy for protecting the birds and whether to continue with the same. This was originally agreed in January 2021 and involves erecting fencing across footpath access points for the duration of the breeding season combined with polite signage. It was noted that skylarks have not been evident on the Park for at least two years, in part due to increased pedestrian traffic, and therefore measures to protect breeding

birds were not successful and should not continue.

**597. MEADOW MOWING**

The Project and Amenities Officer, having been in discussion with a resident regarding best practice for meadow maintenance, asked the Committee to reaffirm its commitment to cutting the meadow grass and removing the arisings annually. The Officer cited advice from Natural England: '*Allow your meadow to grow up and flower in the spring and summer. Take a late 'hay cut' after 15<sup>th</sup> July, removing the clippings to avoid putting too much nutrient back*'. There was some discussion, following which the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to managing the meadow grass in this way.

**598. RAMPS FOR THE PARISH TRAILER**

Following arrival of the new Kubota ride on mower it was reported that a set of ramps will be required to load the mower on to the parish trailer. Mark Carter informed the Committee that he has been in discussion with a local blacksmith who is able to fix an extension to the tailgate to allow the mower to be loaded on to the trailer. The cost will not exceed £300 and the Committee agreed to proceed with this.

It was, unanimously;

**RESOLVED**

To purchase a tailgate ramp extension custom built for the parish trailer at a cost of no more than £300.

**599. MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-23 AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee noted spend to date from the annual JFWP budget of £4,915 which includes purchase of the Kubota sit on mower and general warden maintenance duties (cleaning interpretation boards, mowing) as featured in the 2022/23 Management Plan.

Excluding the cost of the recently purchased mower, Members also noted that just £220 has been spent during April-August, against an intended spend of £4485 for this time period. It was reported that much of this intended expenditure remains committed, including £3,300 for the meadow cut and bale, but £850 will remain unspent largely due to reduced cutting requirements. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that it is very likely this money would be spent later in the year on items that have not yet been costed in the plan.

**600. BUDGET SETTING 2023-24**

Members had previously received and were asked to consider a proposed draft budget for JFWP Management Committee 2023-4 of £20,335, based on the 2023 management plan and other activities since identified following a meeting with Cllr Jenny Roberts, the Project and Amenities Officer and the Deputy Clerk. The proposed budget is due for submission to the October meeting of the Finance Committee as part of its annual budget setting process for the Parish Council. Additional items include a £12,000 allocation to complete top dressing of the peripheral footpath between St Helier Road and the Chiltern Road entrance, and laying a new footpath beyond the Chiltern Road entrance, past the Royal Naval Association memorial stone. Also, a £1,000 allocation to relocate this same memorial stone to the area adjacent to the Burma Star memorial stone. Members discussed the condition of the existing footpath and whether repair work was necessary at this stage but agreed that an allocation should be included and that the proposed budget request should be submitted.

It was, unanimously;

**RESOLVED**

To submit a budget request of £20,335 for the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee for 2023-24, based on the proposed schedule of activities previously distributed to Members.

**601. ANY MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee were notified of an expression of interest from a resident to join the committee as a Public Member which was welcomed.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the JFWP Management Committee will take place at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chair .....

Date .....