

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre
on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present:	Councillor Jenny Roberts (Chair) Councillor June Reid Councillor John Newton-Davies Councillor Geoff Churchard Councillor Janet Churchard Councillor John Foster Public Members - Frances Leonard Tony Farnfield, Mary Ternouth (Marshalswick Horticultural Society) Mark Carter (Warden) Julian Thornton (Hertfordshire County Council)
Apologies:	David Kealey
Absent:	Bernard Lusby
Officers:	Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer

855 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Jenny Roberts should be elected as Chair. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Jenny Roberts be elected as Chair of The Parish Environmental Assets & Paths Committee (PEAP) for the coming year.

856 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Janet Churchard be elected as Vice Chair. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Janet Churchard be elected as Vice Chair of the PEAP Committee for the coming year.

857 REAFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

The following Public Members re-affirmed their willingness to continue; Mary Ternouth, Francis Leonard.

Tony Farnfield declared that after many years of contribution, he will shortly be moving to a different area of the country and therefore leaving the Committee. The Committee would like to thank Tony for his commitment to this Committee and that of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee and wish him well in the future. He has attended almost all the volunteer days and will be sadly missed.

David Kealey and Bernard Lusby were not present at the meeting and thus will be contacted by the office to see if they wish to continue.

The Committee suggested approaching our volunteer group to see if anyone wishes to take up any Public Member vacancies.

858 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

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

859 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

860 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

As an annual requirement, the Committee Terms of Reference, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the Committee Terms of Reference be approved for the year 2022-23

861 MATTERS OF NOTE

- The repair and resurfacing works to the footpath between William Bell Open Space and The Ridgeway has been completed.
- A new Kubota ride on mower has been ordered for the Parish with an earliest delivery date of mid-July.
- The oak tree at Sherwood Park flagged in the SADC tree survey has been deemed safe following a decay detection investigation and report.
- A leaning lime tree in St Leonard's Churchyard has been removed having been deemed unsafe following an inspection.
- Further trees identified as unsafe in the SADC tree survey have been felled in Skyswood by Mark Carter, including a cherry and two hawthorns.
- Mark has removed a fallen tree limb in Harness Way pond, and has ensured that the new tree plantings, including those at St Leonard's, are well watered. Mark has also cleaned and varnished the interpretation boards at Skyswood and the village centre.

862 FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATES

Julian Thornton (HCC) provided a verbal update on footpaths and rights of way relating to the parish. This includes:

- Hertfordshire County Council are seeking to improve the surface of Bridleway 51 in collaboration with Oakland's and Taylor Wimpey.
- It has now been confirmed that the pond identified near to Byway Open To All Traffic 3 (BOAT3) is within the boundary of the byway and therefore under Hertfordshire County Council's ownership. There are several diseased Ash trees within this boundary that are due to be removed.
- At the other end of BOAT3 by Jersey Lane, Julian updated the Committee with regard to a failing soakaway within the BOAT3 boundary, resulting in excess water running off Jersey Farm Woodland Park into Belsize Close. Both Julian and Steve Dibben of SADC have met a concerned resident on site and responsibility of resolving the problem remains in question. Sandridge Parish Council have previously been made aware of the issue and Councillor Hale is investigating alongside Councillor Roberts. An update will be given to SPC and the PEAP and JFWP Committee when a solution has been sought.
- Footpath 55 from House Lane to Jersey Farm Woodland Park is now on the Definitive Map and has been waymarked. The Committee discussed how to encourage users to walk the definitive line now that it is a ROW, rather than the alternative route that has been in place for the last four years. One suggestion was to erect a sign at the Jersey Farm Woodland Park end

showing the definitive route. Julian will also contact the householders in joint ownership of the land to ensure that access remains for the public at all times.

- Bridleway 9 from Sandridgebury Lane to Cheapside Farm is on the winter schedule of works to be opened up. It is currently overgrown and passage by horse riders is particularly difficult.
- Julian confirmed he will circulate the Green Space Action Plan and the Highways Tree Policy document to members for their information.
- Footpath 24 off House Lane to Nashes Farm remains unofficially diverted. Julian is seeking to communicate with the owners to reinstate the original footpath line.

863 RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY

Mary Ternouth provided Draft Minutes from the Rights of Way Working Party meeting on 17th June, noting item 3 as the basis of discussion. Mary also tabled a map showing the most recent route currently having user evidence sought for by the working group in collaboration with the Projects and Amenities Officer. There were also questions from the working group relating to whether the PEAP Committee (representing Sandridge Parish Council) should be pursuing these routes at the risk of damaging relations with local landowners. After much discussion it was concluded that the Committee support the continuing work of the Rights of Way Working Party in securing the routes and members offered their support towards putting up signs or collecting user evidence.

864 A REPORT CONCERNING THE LOSS OF GREEN HABITAT ALONG JERSEY LANE

A report was circulated with the agenda from Mary Ternouth raising concerns about the encroachment of the built environment and loss of green space along Jersey Lane within the Parish. The following proposals were made;

1. That a meeting be held with relevant local District Councillors, to inform them of our concerns and enlist their support if possible.
2. That we seek a meeting with the relevant District Council Officer(s), possibly on site, to a) explore the Council's policies relating to trees and biodiversity gain and b) how these are applied/working in practice in relation to Jersey Lane.
3. That we engage with SADC Planning Officers to ensure that planning applications on properties adjacent to the lane do not infringe the 'Extent of Highways' boundary (this could be done via a check with HCC Countryside Management officers).

Following discussion it was;

RESOLVED

To pursue with the proposals above and report back to the Committee with progress.

865 EXPENDITURE, MANAGEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2022-23

The Committee was asked to note that expenditure to date from the 2022-23 budget is £3754 for the second phase of footpath surfacing works in Skyswood.

Members were asked to refer to individual management plans previously circulated for Harness Way, William Bell, Skyswood, and Damson Way to agree plans for future activity. Consideration should also be given to St Leonard's Open Space and Spencer Meadow although individual plans do not exist for these spaces. There remains £1,000 of discretionary spend from the 2022-23 budget.

Councillor Jenny Roberts and Mark Carter will arrange dates for any members wishing to join them on a walkabout of the parish open spaces to assist with future

planning and development of management plans. Dates to be circulated amongst members shortly.

866 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Suggestions for the upcoming winter schedule were made by Mark Carter, including hedge planting at St Leonard's Open Space to complete the hedge line previously started earlier this year. Mark Carter and the Projects and Amenities Officer will create a schedule and circulate it amongst members towards the end of summer.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chair

Date