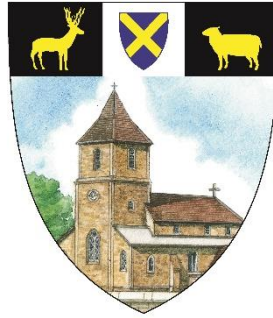


# *Sandridge Parish Council*



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19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## **TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Councillors: Jenny Roberts (Chair), Maurice Wells, Mary Ternouth, June Reid, Debbie Chachulski, James Lambert, Carol Chalkley

Public Members: David Kealey (St Albans & District Footpaths Society), Julian Thornton (Herts County Council), Mark Carter (Warden), Jim Watson (Friends of Jersey Lane), Representative of Sustainable St Albans

Officers: Simon Thwaites (Parish Clerk), Emma Hostler (Deputy Clerk), Rebecca Pannese (Project, Amenities and Community Engagement (PACE) Officer

A meeting of the Committee for Sustainability is to be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Election of Chair**
- 2. Election of Vice Chair**
- 3. To receive and accept apologies for absence**
- 4. Disclosures of interest and dispensations**
- 5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**  
Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee for Sustainability held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

Committee for Sustainability 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## 6. Committee Terms of Reference

To review and approve the attached committee terms of Reference as fit for purpose for the coming year.

## Protecting and Supporting Nature

### 7. Wildflower Initiative

Wildflower beds have produced mixed results so far this year for a variety of reasons. A verbal update from the PACE Officer.

### 8. Sandridge Parish Wild Bird Initiative

The parish office team would like to propose a new initiative to this committee. Following the success of the wildflower initiative there is an opportunity to support wild birds in the parish, many of which are in decline. The Parish Council manages over sixty five acres of open space, has the financial resources to support a project and, judging by the success of Paradise for Pollinators, has the support of residents in helping to protect local nature. As with the wildflower initiative, this project would exploit the Parish Council's unique position to act as a community hub.

In some ways a lot of what might be contained within the proposal is already happening or planned, i.e. hedge planting, pond development and 70/30 rewilding. The primary advantage then would be as follows;

- To create under a banner title such as the **Sandridge Parish Wild Bird Initiative** a medium term action plan through concerted working with outside organisations such as the RSPB and the HMWT.
- To request an ongoing budget, inflated in 2025/26, to support the action plan.
- To hold an information/educational evening(s) to involve residents.
- To participate and promote participation in nationwide initiatives such as bird counts through outside organisations such as Springwatch.
- To publicise, in advance of next year, the initiative through the Neighbourhood News.
- The promotion of safe and sustainable nesting boxes in residents gardens, possibly subsidised.
- New volunteer initiatives, e.g. annual nesting box cleaning.
- Seeking out external grant funding.

The parish office team will meet with Tim Hill, Conservation Manager at the HMWT and Trustee of the Herts Natural History Society/ Herts Bird Club. in advance of the next committee meeting in October when a firmer proposal of what the initiative would involve will be made. Initial enquiries with conservation professionals confirm that this project, properly managed, could carry value. For the time being it is;

### Recommended

That the Committee approves the initiative in principle with a provisional budget of £3,500 for 2025/26. For illustration, this might fund habitat (boxes/planting hedgerow), food (hedgerow), specialist talks for residents, a nest-cam, fencing to protect ground nesting birds and ponds. Members are reminded below of the 2024/25 budget for this committee.

Committee for Sustainability	2024/25 Budget
	£
Sustainability Projects	6,000
Old PEAP Budget	0
Community Garden	1,500
Wildflower/Pollinator Initiative	2,750
Tree Planting	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,250</b>

## **Improving the Natural Environment for Residents**

### **9. Update from Julian Thornton (HCC) on footpaths and Rights of Way**

### **10. Footpath at the Harness Way Open Space**

Further to a resolution made at the last committee meeting, a quote was obtained for the installation of a footpath on the Harness Way Open Space, the objective being to improve access in wet weather. Also, a request was made to the Sports and Recreation Committee at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June for funding from the committee's enhanced 2024/25 budget to complete the project (following cancellation of the pump track). The PACE Officer to give Committee Members a verbal update on the outcome of that meeting.

### **11. Right of Way Through Woodland Adjacent to the Woodland Park**

Please see attached a report and recommendation from Councillor Ternouth.

## **Recycling, Reusing, Repurposing, Repairing**

### **12. Installation of Mixed Recycling Bins**

After first approaching Veolia and the District Council's Waste Department in October 2023, it is finally possible to progress this initiative. To remind Members, all waste from our open spaces currently goes to landfill. To address this, the Clerk sought to have dual bins (general waste and recyclables) installed in Spencer Meadow and Sherwood Park. These sites are the busiest and, in the case of Spencer Meadow, also have the most sports use. The model now agreed in principle is as follows;

1. The Parish Council buys and installs two dual bins, one at each of the two sites.
2. John O'Conner Ltd empty the bins daily, taking the recyclables to the local Veolia depot.
3. The approximate cost of each dual bin, including installation, is £800.
4. The annual cost of collection from a dual bin is £1,179. It may be possible to offset the cost of collection from an existing general waste bin (£214), dependant on precise location.

It is;

### **Recommended**

1. That the Committee approves the purchase of two dual recycling bins, funded as below;  
£400 remaining in the general budget for new bins  
£500 from Street Scene Initiatives  
£700 from the Sustainability Projects budget
2. That the Committee approves the funding of collection from two bins, one at Spencer Meadow and one at Sherwood Park for the second half of 2024/25 in the total sum of £1,178 with a new budget item in 2025/26 of £2,356 annually. As above, this may be reduced by being offset with the collection from existing general waste bins. This year's waste collection to be funded through the budget for new Grounds Maintenance items (i.e. not a cost to this committee).

### **13. Repair Workshop**

A date for our first Repair Shop has been agreed as 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Jersey Farm Community Centre. Volunteers responding to the Parish Council's call for assistance have been successfully contacted by St Albans Fixers inviting them to participate. Councillor Wells has joined the ranks of the St Albans Fixers and will provide a verbal update on a recent event held in the parish at St Mary's Church Hall.

### **14. Parish Event**

The Parish Council's successful Summer Event took place on June 1<sup>st</sup>. As organised, all food and drinks were served in recyclable/compostable containers with all waste separated at the venue in clearly identifiable containers and disposed of through a licensed waste contractor. Although carrying a cost, this should now be the model for all future events.

## **Carbon Reduction and Capture**

### **15. Bike Racks**

The four bike racks installed last month on the Woodland Park were widely used for the summer event with twenty cycles attached at one point.

Marshalswick Library has not yet approved the placing of a planter/bike rack to the front of the building. The draft licence is still being processed by the HCC Legal Department.

### **16. Matters of Note**

- A fourth clothing bank has been installed at Sherwood Park. All monies received to date and ongoing have been earmarked for use by this committee.
- The Committee is reminded that the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee has resolved to plant a new hedgerow (1,800 whips) on the south bank of FP 27 from St Helier Road to Woodland House to provide further habitat for wildlife. This will take place in the early autumn with the help of regular parish volunteers, and hopefully recruits from the Parkrun community.
- The two water cisterns are up and running with no shortage of water available to water the community garden.
- The Woodland Park Committee has invested in a new range of battery powered tools to enable councillors/staff/volunteers to provide hands on maintenance/support on the park with no emissions.
- The Pace Officer is in discussion with the HMWT regarding how best to enhance the biodiversity of our outdoor spaces, beginning with Harness Way.
- The Parish Council took part in the Susfest Expo at the Alban Arena alongside the Friends of Jersey Lane. The event was a good opportunity to remind residents across the district to challenge their parish council on how sustainable their practices generally are.

### **17. Items for inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting**

#### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee for Sustainability will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.