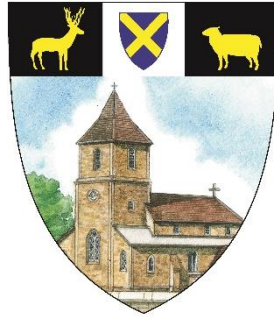


Sandridge Parish Council



Simon Thwaites
Parish Clerk

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26th March 2025

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), A representative of Sustainable St Albans, Jim Watson (Friends of Jersey Lane)

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 1st April 2025 at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**
- 2. Disclosure of interest and dispensations**

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025

Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of this committee meeting held on 21st January 2025.

4. Committee Budgets 2024-25 and 2025-26

Item	2024-25 Budget £	2024-25 Spend to date £	2025-26 Budget £	Notes
Sustainability projects (6665)	6,000	4,945	2,500	2024/25 spend gross of recharge for swift boxes (£1,550). Recycling bins partly charged here
Community garden (6659)	1,500	906	1,500	Planting to take place in spring
Wildflower/pollinator initiative (6654)	2,750	788	3,000	Sowing in spring
Tree planting (6653)	5,000	1,800	5,000	
Wild Bird initiative	0	0	3,500	To continue swift initiative

5. Matters of Note

- The four clothing banks continue to be very busy with collections almost reaching 3 tonnes in February. Income has continued to be earmarked for this committee and currently stands at £960.
- Councillor Wells and Councillor Chalkley have now completed construction of the bike rack/planter to the front of Marshalswick library. It has already been regularly used.
- John O’Conner Ltd have planted eight new trees on The Ridgeway, Barnfield Road and Highfield Road on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The community garden volunteers will soon start work on two new beds in the Parish Council car park, one next to the clothing banks and one by the shed.
- Councillor Roberts has recently given a bat talk to the local Friends of the Earth group.

Improving the Natural Environment for Residents

6. Update from Julian Thornton (HCC) on footpaths and rights of Way

7. Update from Councillor Mary Ternouth on Rights of Way

8. Community Garden

The volunteer gardeners have carried out routine maintenance of the garden over the winter months and will soon resume planting. Councillor Chalkley to update Members on the progress of an asset that has become an integral part of Marshalswick life for many local people.

Protecting and Supporting Nature

9. Wildflower Initiative

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer (PACE) to provide a verbal update on expected progress this spring.

10. Sandridge Swift Initiative (inc St Leonard's Church)

An expected 31 new nesting boxes will be installed throughout the parish this spring and it's hoped the majority will be up by the time of this meeting. Additionally, the Parish Council has installed a six home nesting box at St Leonard's Church, led by Councillor Wells. There is a budget of £3,500 in 2025/26 for wild bird initiatives and the Committee has previously indicated it would like to continue with this project. It is very likely the response to the new boxes being installed will be more interest from other residents. The budget in 2024/25 was originally to part fund 25 nesting boxes at £50 each (total £1,250). It is;

Recommended

That the Committee decides how much funding it wants to make available to continue with this project in 2025/26. It is anticipated that a second information evening would be helpful to inform interested residents about the issues being addressed.

11. Jersey Farm Woodland Park Pond

The PACE Officer and Deputy Clerk to provide an update on progress towards this project. It is;

Recommended;

That Members also consider contributing to the significant cost of this initiative from the Sustainability Projects budget (see item 4). The project is being led by the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee but is expected to benefit wildlife from a far greater radius.

Recycling, Reusing, Repurposing, Repairing

12. Installation of mixed recycling

The purchase of two dual (general waste and recycling) bins has been brought forward using available unspent budget in 2024/25 and they are now in the Parish Council garage awaiting installation. This will need to coincide with the commencement of the recyclables collection by Veolia. It is anticipated that they will be in operation well before the committee next meets in June. To remind Members, the bins will be situated in Sherwood Park and Spencer Meadow. This will be the first time any of the waste disposed of in our parks is put through the local recycling facility.

13. Repair Fair held on 15th February at Jersey Farm Community Centre

Councillor Wells assisted the St Albans Fixers for the first of our Repair Fairs, held at Jersey Farm Community Centre on 15th February. 70% of the items brought in were fixed or had the issue clearly identified with advice given on completing a fix. This resulted in 61kg of broken items avoiding landfill.

It's expected that, for the foreseeable future, the Parish Council acting as host to St

Albans Fixers is the best model to work to (as opposed to the Parish Council running a fair with its own fixers). The community centre at Jersey Farm proved a very good venue for the purpose and the entire experience was positive.

14. The Library of Things (Share St Albans)

The Committee is aware that Share St Albans has taken occupation of half the Parish Council's garage previously used in full by Greengrass Lawncare. The organisation plans to open to the public on Saturday 29th March following a campaign on social media.

It's hoped to have approximately 60 items in the library with the expectation of adding more as people offer donations. As a pilot they are focusing on two categories - DIY & Gardening and Home & Entertainment.

So far, stock includes;

A wheelbarrow

A lawnmower

Leaf blowers

A hand drill

A circular sander

Giant garden games

A foodmixer

A projector and screen

An ice cream maker

A gazebo

Clothes rails

Thermos pots

The model, which has worked very successfully elsewhere, is as follows. To borrow an item, residents need to join Share St. Albans for £10 a year. With an annual membership you can borrow as much as you need over the year. When you purchase your membership, there is also the option to 'pay it forward' and pay another £10 to donate a membership to someone who might not be able to afford it.

Once you have joined you can use the online loan system to check the availability of items and make a reservation. Most items will cost between £1 - £4 to hire per week. Depending on the size of the item it will be collectable from St. Albans Green House on London Road or from Sandridge Parish Council's storage behind Marshalswick Community Centre at the Quadrant.

The opening hours for London Road are 11 am to 2 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with an extra slot on Thursday evenings between 5 pm and 7 pm. The extra storage for larger items at the Quadrant will be open on Saturday morning between 9 am and 12 pm.

15. Items for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee for Sustainability will take place on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at Marshalswick Community Centre.