

# *Sandridge Parish Council*



Mr. Simon Thwaites  
Parish Clerk

Marshalswick Community Centre,  
The Ridgeway, St. Albans,  
Herts, AL4 9TU  
Tel: 01727 831871

[www.sandridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandridge-pc.gov.uk)

Email: [clerk@sandridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sandridge-pc.gov.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

## **To: Members of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee**

The Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee meeting will take place at 7.30pm on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025** at **Marshalswick Community Centre**. A walk about of the Woodland Park will take place before hand, *meeting at the picnic bench (nearest entrance Highfield Road)* at 6.30pm. Attendees will view the thinning in the North Plantation and the pond location.

Emma Hostler  
Deputy Clerk

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**
- 2. Disclosures of interest and requests for dispensations**
- 3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**
- 4. Matters of Report**
  - The blackthorn flailing has now been completed by the West Plantation, North Plantation and Southwest Plantation.
  - The hedge trimming is completed north of Woodland House.
  - A new interpretation board for the Chiltern Road entrance, and artwork panel for the board at St Helier Road entrance, have been ordered.
  - Cllr Wells has stabilised the welcome board at the Jersey Lane entrance.
  - The PACE Officer was saddened to report vandalism to one of the recently installed wooden leaflet holders (Highfield Road entrance).
  - The PACE Officer has submitted the Parish Council's Green Flag award application for 2025/26.

## **5. Update on the Pond Installation Project**

Those able to attend the site visit at 6.30pm prior to the meeting will have opportunity to view the location of the proposed pond installation and meet with one of the volunteers with relevant experience helping with the project. A verbal update will be provided by Anne Thomas on progress to date, and further steps to be undertaken prior to providing project costings at the June meeting.

## **6. Skylarks on the Woodland Park**

The Parish Office has received an enquiry from a local resident as to whether there are any plans to install fencing within the Woodland Park to safeguard any nesting skylarks from walkers and dogs. The resident had registered a skylark on their Merlin App. As Members will be aware, the presence of skylarks on the Park has diminished to the point of non-existence in recent years, despite efforts in the past to discourage visitors from encroaching on the meadow grass during the nesting season. Skylarks can more usually be found on neighbouring farmland or nearby Heartwood Forest. The Committee is asked whether it would like to reconsider the installation of fencing or other means of protecting nesting birds in order to encourage their return to the Woodland Park. It is:

### **Recommended**

That the Committee either continue to accept that the Woodland Park is no longer an appropriate environment for nesting skylarks due to the number of visitors and dogs or ask the PACE Officer to provide costs for installing fencing on a designated area of the Park or explore other means of protecting the birds.

## **7. Expenditure for 2024/5**

Total expenditure for the financial year 2024/5 was £22,622 against a budget of £24,000 – a breakdown is attached. Underspend is attributable to savings on works undertaken by volunteers (barrier posts, new picnic table, grass cutting) and not proceeding with a wooden sculpture to replace the lost Princess Diana tree.

## **8. Management Plan 2025/26**

Attached is a breakdown of the 2025/26 budget of £15,000 which comprises largely on-going maintenance work. Projects this year include continuing renovation of the interpretation boards and installation of a pond.

## **9. Matters Arising Since the Circulation of the Agenda**

## **10. Suggestions for the Next Meeting**

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

**The next meeting of the JFWP Management Committee will take place at 7.30pm on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Marshalswick Community Centre.**