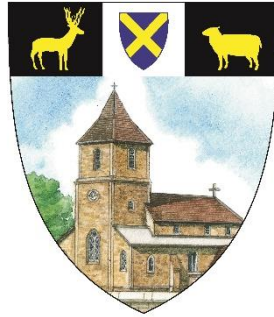


# Sandridge Parish Council



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)

10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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

Councillors: Maurice Wells (Chair), Mary Ternouth, June Reid, Debbie Chachulski, James Lambert, Carol Chalkley, Raihaanah Ahmed  
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 16<sup>th</sup> September 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 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of this committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### 4. New Items

In July the Clerk met with a representative of Sustainable St Albans (SSA) and St Albans Fixers to discuss what new projects this committee might get involved in going forward. Subjects covered were as below, items 1, 2 and 3;

### 5. Committee Budgets 2025-26

To note the table below in relation to ongoing and future initiatives.

Item	2025-26 Budget £	2025-26 Actual to date £	Notes
Sustainability Projects (6665)	2,500	0	£1,500 earmarked for JFWP pond
Community garden (6659)	1,500	197	£750 earmarked for JFWP pond
Wildflower/pollinator initiative (6654)	3,000	1,735	Sowing in spring 2026
Tree planting (6653)	5,000	0	Planting in winter
Wild Bird initiative (6652)	3,500 + 1,550	495	To continue swift initiative. (£1,550 is the income from residents having had boxes installed in 2024/25). £2,000 earmarked for JFWP pond

### 6. Matters of Note

- The projected balance in earmarked reserves relating to clothing bank income is £2,409 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. This reserve is to be used at the discretion of this committee. The June collections totalled 2.2 tonnes of clothing & shoes.
- A second repair fair will take place in Spring 2026 at Jersey Farm Community Centre.

### Improving the Natural Environment for Residents

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

### 8. Community Garden

The garden volunteers are keen to expand and at the same time naturalise the very small pond within the community garden. This will involve replacing the existing rigid plastic drum and steel grate with a more natural alternative, enhancing the pond's appearance and improving its accessibility to wildlife. A natural border will be installed and maintained to ensure children remain safe. Committee Members are invited to be involved.

## **Protecting and Supporting Nature**

### **9. Wildflower Initiative**

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer (PACE) to provide a verbal update on this summer's successes and challenges.

### **10. Sandridge Swift Initiative**

Stage 2 of the Sandridge Parish Swift initiative is now underway with the date of November 5<sup>th</sup> in the diary for a public information evening. This will start at 7pm with both Tim Hill of the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust and Clive Flemming of Hertford Swifts in attendance. Sample swift boxes have been purchased for display (and sale). The event has been advertised in the Neighbourhood News and will be posted on Facebook closer to the time.

We have stock of two double boxes and one single box. It's proposed that these are priced as below in accordance with last year's model;

<b>Single Box</b>	<b>Double Box</b>
Cost £86	Cost £105
SPC Contribution £56	SPC Contribution £65
Resident Contribution £30	Resident Contribution £40

Note: We only have two double boxes, one in terracotta and one white. Any further double boxes will be charged at £148 less £70 SPC Contribution = £78 Resident Contribution (proposed).

Participants will be offered a survey and installation service at a discounted rate of £20 (single) and £40 (double). These are both estimates to be confirmed. It is;

#### **Recommended**

That the above pricing structure is agreed with a ceiling for Council contributions of £1,400 (approx. 25 single boxes).

### **11. Jersey Farm Woodland Park Pond**

The PACE Office and Deputy Clerk to provide an update on progress towards this significant project.

### **12. Tablets for Council Members**

A number of Parish and Town Councils in the UK no longer provide paper copies of agendas, minutes etc, opting instead to issue electronic tablets to Members and either tablets or paper copies to Public Members. Agenda papers etc can then be simply emailed.

There are clearly benefits to having paper copies and the capital outlay to purchase up to 20 tablets would not be insignificant. Such a move would however save between two and three thousand printed pages annually, saving paper, water and the waste products of photocopying. It is;

#### **Recommended**

That Members consider taking a report to Full Council in October/November

recommending that councillors consider a move to electronic documents from April 2027.

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

#### **(1) Host a Restart Party or Café**

Restarters is global community of people who run local repair events and campaign for the Right to Repair. Restarters.net is a free, open-source toolkit. See more here:- [www.restarters.net](http://www.restarters.net) .

There is an emphasis on educating individuals to carry out their own repairs with a global online forum to share knowledge. Restarters is the umbrella organisation of which the St Albans Fixers are an active group.

Sandridge could host a Restart café/party although similarly with St Albans Fixers, it would be necessary to have several competent fixers available on the day. Please see the website for further details. Mr Peter Block, Trustee at Sustainable St Albans, hopes to attend for this item.

#### **(2) Sustainable Market**

This idea centred around holding a small 'market' featuring stalls from organisations promoting and selling sustainability and sustainable goods. This, it was suggested, could take place next Spring in the community garden.

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

The two bins have now been installed in Spencer Meadow and Sherwood Park with no issues reported.

#### **14.Tetra-Paks**

The PACE Officer has been informed that the company recommended to provide Tetra-Pak recycling is not taking new clients while it starts to roll out a kerbside recycling programme.

### **Carbon Reduction and Capture**

#### **(3) Purchase and Lend Out an Infra Red Camera**

SSA own and lend out an infra red camera(s) to allow residents to identify where their homes are losing heat. The Clerk's view was that the purchase price of almost £1,000 was too high and the taking of a deposit too time consuming to administer but Members may take another view. The Council is, of course, able to direct residents to SSA should they be interested in participating.

#### **15.Travel and Transport**

An update from Councillor Ahmed on the proposed Chalk Walk in support of Sustainable St Albans' Travel and Transport initiative

## **16. 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.