

# Sandridge Parish Council



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Parish Clerk

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14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **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)

*Councillors Maurice Wells and James Lambert and Mr Jim Watson to receive agendas electronically.*

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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of this committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

#### 4. 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	296	£1,500 earmarked for JFWP pond
Community garden (6659)	1,500	390	£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	199	To continue swift initiative. (£1,550 is the income from residents having had boxes installed in 2024/25). £2,000 earmarked for JFWP pond

#### 5. Matters of Note

- The projected balance in earmarked reserves relating to clothing bank income is £1,471 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. This closed reserve may be used at any time at the discretion of this committee.
- St Albans Community Pantry has taken occupation of part of Spencer Hall from which it will operate its charity aimed at supporting low income families with food donations and, significantly, reducing food waste.
- St Albans Share (library of things) now has full occupancy of the garage adjacent to the Parish Office. The roof has been overhauled to make good a number of leaks.
- The next St Albans Fixers event will take place at Jersey Farm Community Centre on 28th March 2026.

#### Improving the Natural Environment for Residents

#### 6. Update from Julian Thornton (HCC) on Footpaths and Rights of Way

#### 7. Jersey Lane

A verbal update from Jim Watson on the activities of the Friends of Jersey Lane.

#### Protecting and Supporting Nature

#### 8. Hedgerow at the Woodland Park

The newly planted hedge on the Woodland Park has survived the very dry spring and summer of 2025 with reportedly as little as 10% loss from approximately 1,200 whips planted. It is hoped this will provide habitat, food and protection for wildlife in the near future.

### **9. Sandridge Swift Initiative**

Stage 2 of the Sandridge Parish Swift initiative is now underway with another successful public information evening held on November 5<sup>th</sup>. A further 30 subsidised swift boxes were ordered by residents. 13 of these are double boxes so a total of 38 new nesting sites will be installed before spring when the swifts arrive. The total over two years is 71 nesting sites plus 6 at St Leonard's Church (plus 1 bat box!).

### **10. Community Garden**

The garden volunteers have successfully expanded and naturalised the small pond within the community garden. It is hoped this will increase accessibility for wildlife. A natural border has been installed and will be maintained to ensure children remain safe. Two unstable trees adjacent to the bug hotel are due to be removed to be replaced with a trellis and climbing plants.

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

The PACE Office and Deputy Clerk to provide an update on progress towards this ambitious project, aimed at increasing biodiversity on the park.

### **12. Damson Way Pond**

A project to revitalise the pond at Damson Way is hoped to commence in the late Summer after taking professional advice.

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

### **13. Sustainable Market**

At the last meeting it was suggested that the Parish Council could host a sustainability market, to include ethical goods stalls and promoting organisations involved in protecting the environment. This, it was suggested, could take place in the spring in the community garden. The next meeting of this committee is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and Members may therefore want to start planning/assessing interest now.

### **14. Recycling in Parish Council Car Parks and Community Centres**

Following the unfortunate removal of the four very busy clothing banks, Members may wish to consider offering other recycling services within council owned facilities.

### **Carbon Reduction and Capture**

### **15. Air Source Heat Pumps at Marshalswick Community Centre/Parish Office**

Work to install air source pumps in the Parish Office, Committee Room and Hall at Marshalswick Community Centre is complete. These have replaced the highly inefficient electric fan heaters in the Office and Committee Room and the two large gas warm air heaters in the Hall. The Centres Manager will ensure the electricity supply is only from renewable sources, thus ending the use of fossil fuels to service the building (other than the infrequently used kitchen hob).

### **16. Renewable Energy in Parish Council Buildings**

At the September meeting it was asked for this item to appear on this agenda for further discussion around sourcing sustainable power for Parish Council buildings.

## **17. 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.