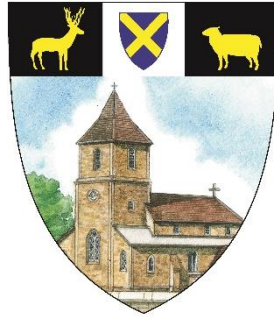


# *Sandridge Parish Council*



Simon Thwaites  
Parish Clerk

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11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

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

Public Members: Frances Leonard, David Kealey (St Albans & District Footpaths Society)

Julian Thornton (Herts County Council)

Mark Carter (Warden)

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

A meeting of the Committee for Sustainability is to be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**
- 2. Disclosure of interest and dispensations**
- 3. To elect a Chair**
- 4. To elect a Vice-Chair**
- 5. To approve the minutes of the PEAP meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of the final meeting of the

PEAP Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This Committee has now been reconstituted as the Committee for Sustainability.

## **6. Agreement of the Terms of Reference**

Members are asked to review a draft copy of the Terms of Reference for the new Committee which has been distributed to all members. Items for consideration are committee objectives and membership, including representatives from external organisations. Members are asked to note that the Parish Clerk has written to Sustainable St Albans to invite a representative to attend future meetings, either as an ongoing Committee Member or on an ad-hoc basis. It is;

### **Recommended**

That the Terms of Reference for the Committee for Sustainability are reviewed and a version agreed for approval at Full Council.

## **7. Budget 2023-4 and 2024-5**

Members are asked to note that the Committee budget for 2023-24 combines the former PEAP budget (£4,010) and the Sustainability Projects budget (£2,000). Current expenditure against each of these budgets is £25 and £808 respectively.

The budget for 2024-2025 will combine the following: Sustainability Projects (£6,000), Wildflower Planting (£2,750), Tree Planting (£5,000), Community Garden (£1,500), totalling £15,250. This draft budget is due to be submitted to the meeting of the Finance Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> October for initial approval.

## **8. Matters of Note**

- Cllr Lambert has been trained in facilitating sustainability workshops on behalf of Climate Fresk. He has kindly offered to host workshops for staff, councillors, and public members of Committees, the first of which is taking place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Cllr Chachulski and parish officers recently met with representatives from SADC to look at ways to enhance the natural environment at Bentsley Spinney.
- The Parish Council has awarded a £1,500 grant to assist with costs associated with the recently established Friends of Jersey Lane volunteer group concerned with safeguarding the green environment along Jersey Lane.
- Cllr Chalkley has promoted a ‘sponsor a tree’ scheme through an advertisement in the Neighbourhood News which enables residents to provide funding to plant a tree – either in a grass verge or elsewhere within the parish. Residents are asked to contact Cllr Chalkley in the first instance.
- The Parish Council has recently changed the supplier of the two clothing banks sited in the car park behind Marshalswick Library to The Salvation Army. These banks are now being emptied more frequently and there has been no occurrence of fly tipping. The Clerk is proposing new sites for clothing banks at the November meeting of Full Council.
- Cllr Wells is continuing discussions with Marshalswick Library regarding installation of bike racks outside the building.

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

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

### **10. Update from Councillor Mary Ternouth on status of the Rights of Way working party**

### **11. Summary Management Plans for Parish Open Spaces**

A summary of management plan activity for each of the parish green spaces has been distributed to members for their information. This work will largely be carried out by the Parish Warden Mark Carter assisted by the regular parish volunteers.

## **Protecting and Supporting Nature**

### **12. Wildflower Initiative**

The Projects, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer (PACE) will provide a verbal update on the Paradise for Pollinators initiative and plans for future planting and rewilding. As many of the seeds needed for early spring planting will need to be purchased within the 2023-4 financial year, Members are asked approve allocation of any outstanding PEAP budget for this purpose. It is;

#### **Recommended**

Any outstanding budget from the PEAP Committee for 2023-24 is allocated towards the purchase of wildflower seeds.

### **13. Community Garden installation of Water Butts**

The community garden is currently kept watered during drier periods from the outdoor tap fixed to the side of the community centre building. It is recognised that a more sustainable approach to watering is through use of water butts fed by rainwater from a nearby downpipe. It is therefore proposed that two water butts are purchased and installed in a suitable location for use by the community garden volunteers. It is;

#### **Proposed**

To purchase two water butts for installation in the community garden at a cost of approximately £100 (from the 2023-24 Sustainability Projects budget).

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

### **14. Installation of mixed recycling**

The Parish Clerk has provided a report on the installation of mixed recycling bins within the parish, previously distributed to all members. It is;

#### **Recommended**

That the Committee considers embarking on a programme of updating waste bins either by switching to dual bins or by adding an additional bin to one already in place, commencing in the busiest and highest profile locations. That an incremental approach be taken to gauge success.

## **15. Repair Workshops**

Members are asked to consider whether there is scope to organise repair workshop events in the parish. This will require recruitment of volunteers with specialist skills willing to provide their time to repair/make good items belonging to residents. Such skills might include bike repairs, woodworking, garden tools, needlework, IT etc. An initial advertisement in Neighbourhood News magazine to establish levels of interest from prospective volunteers is a recommended first step. It is;

### **Recommended**

That an advertisement is placed in Neighbourhood News magazine to establish levels of interest from prospective volunteers to the concept of repair workshops hosted by the parish.

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at Marshalswick Community Centre.