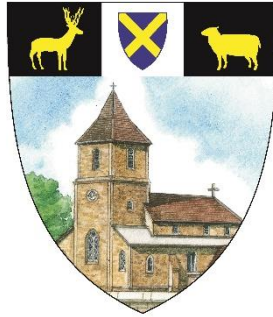


# *Sandridge Parish Council*



Simon Thwaites  
Parish Clerk

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17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

Councillors: Jenny Roberts (Chair), Maurice Wells, Mary Ternouth, June Reid, Debbie Chachulski, James Lambert, Mike White  
Public Members: David Kealey (St Albans & District Footpaths Society)  
Julian Thornton (Herts County Council)  
Mark Carter (Warden), Jim Watson (Friends of Jersey Lane)  
Representatives (2) Sustainable St Albans

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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**  
Councillor Mary Ternouth
- 2. To welcome new committee members from Sustainable St Albans and Friends of Jersey Lane**
  - Jill Watson and Philip Nalpanis
  - Jim Watson

### **3. Disclosure of interest and dispensations**

#### **4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Members are asked to review and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee for Sustainability held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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

#### **5. Update from Julian Thornton (HCC) on footpaths and Rights of Way**

#### **6. Written update from Councillor Mary Ternouth on progress of the Rights of Way working party**

### **Protecting and Supporting Nature**

#### **7. Wildflower Initiative**

To consider the future seeding requirements of existing and new wildflower beds within both this financial year and the next (please see item 16 for budgets).

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

At the last meeting of the Committee for Sustainability Members approved £100 towards the purchase of two water butts for the community garden. However, having undertaken further research, Councillor Wells proposes increasing that amount to enable the purchase of two 1,000 Ltr IBC tanks, pumps and other accessories which will provide a significantly increased water capacity more suited to the needs of the community garden as well as demonstrating a commitment to investing in repurposed equipment.

Please visit [www.directwatertanks.co.uk/ibc-containers/ibc-containers-reconditioned](http://www.directwatertanks.co.uk/ibc-containers/ibc-containers-reconditioned) - photographs will be available at the meeting. Members should note that the appearance of each tank may differ from those shown. The tanks would be situated adjacent to the power supply on the exterior wall of Marshalswick Community Centre. The cost, depending on availability, would be approximately £550 including £60 delivery charge. It is;

#### **Proposed**

To increase funding for two water butts from £100 to £550 to purchase two 1,000 Ltr IBC tanks including pumps and accessories from the 2023-24 Sustainability Projects budget (please see item 16 - budgets).

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

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

Following a resolution at the last meeting, the Clerk has investigated the feasibility of installing dual bins (separated recyclables and general waste) at two of our parks.

The two District Council sites using this model rely on employed Park Rangers to remove the sacks and check for contamination of the recyclables. These are then taken to the John O'Conner depot to be stored and collected periodically by Veolia for recycling. It is unlikely the Parish Council could use this model for several reasons.

The Clerk has twice contacted Veolia to ask the feasibility and cost of having recyclables collected directly from designated bins in the two parks (probably Spencer Meadow and Sherwood Park). It's hoped that, given the proximity of these sites to the Veolia depot, an arrangement is possible. No reply has yet been received but attempts will continue and the committee kept informed of progress.

## **10. Clothing Banks**

A third clothing/shoe bank has been installed in the Spencer Meadow car park. This follows the success of the two banks in the Parish Office car park (1,470 kg collected in October and November). The income received to date from the provider, the Salvation Army, is £165 and this is expected to increase to £350 by year end. Sandridge Parish Council has resolved to use income from the banks towards sustainability projects. It is therefore;

### **Recommended**

That this committee considers a suitable use for these funds and then makes a recommendation to Full Council in February. The recommendation could also be to carry the earmarked funds forward into next year towards a bigger project.

## **11. Repair Workshop**

An article in the Winter edition of Neighbourhood News invited residents to come forward with their practical skills to help establish a Repair Shop through the Parish Council. To date we have six interested volunteers. It is hoped a member of Sustainable St Albans will be able to advise the committee on how best to move this initiative forward.

## **12. Parish Event**

The Parish Council is due to hold a Community Event in June 2024. A budget of £15,000 has been set aside and a working party formed. This committee may want to consider ways of eliminating waste/pollution during the event and to promote the Council as an environmentally responsible organisation to members of the public attending. Suggestions to the working party could include;

- Only engaging food retailers serving food in paper-based containers.
- Purchasing purpose-built bins to encourage responsible disposal of general waste, tins, glass, paper. These would be reused at future events.
- Consider alternatives to an ice cream van running a diesel engine all day.
- Working with alcohol sellers to minimise the use of plastic glasses (e.g. bottles and cans only).
- Providing safe and easy storage facilities for bicycles to encourage cycling to the event.
- Using the occasion to promote sustainability through working with partner organisations, e.g. a St Albans Greenpeace stand, a HMWT stand (or a Repair Shop stand!).

## **13. SPC involvement in Sustfest**

An email from Sustainable St Albans was forwarded to committee members on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The email asked if the Parish Council would consider taking part in one of the panel sessions at next year's SustFest Expo, sharing our experiences with a wider audience.

One suggestion was to take part in a discussion about rewilding/nature projects or more generally in how to engage with local residents. Another was to exhibit as an information stall, sharing what we've done in the parish.

## **Carbon Reduction and Capture**

### **14. Electric Vehicle**

Please see attached a report from the Clerk and also a working paper from Councillor Twidell suggesting an alternative way forward.

### 15. Solar Energy Battery at Jersey Farm Community Centre

The Centres Manager has been looking at the feasibility of purchasing a battery to store solar energy at the centre. Currently we sell the solar energy to a third party as it's generated and buy from a standard provider as required. The price paid is higher than the price received and therefore it would be more efficient, if feasible, to install a battery, store the solar energy generated and use that instead. The Centres manager has not yet received a quote (which needs to come from the manufacturer of the panels) but will continue to chase. It is hoped that the Clerk can update committee members at this meeting.

### 16. Committee Expenditure 2023/24 and Budget 2024-25

The following budget for 2024/25 was approved for this committee at Full Council last month.

<b>Committee for Sustainability</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget</b>	<b>2023/24 spend to date</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Sustainability Projects	2,000	872	6,000
Old PEAP Budget	4,010	2,025	0
Community Garden	N/A		1,500
Wildflower/Pollinator Initiative	N/A		2,750
Tree Planting	0	0	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>15,250</b>

### 17. Matters of Note

- A number of timber posts have been cut from trees thinned on the Woodland Park. These were to replace rotten posts installed to prevent incursion. It was originally planned to purchase timber/recycled plastic posts and this is therefore seen as a more sustainable alternative.
- Three bird feeders have been purchased and installed in the community garden to help increase the diversity and number of wild birds.
- Following Councillor Chalkley's article in the Neighbourhood News inviting residents to sponsor a tree on or near their verge, six householders have expressed an interest with at least four able to proceed.
- Cllr Wells continues to wait on a decision from Marshalswick Library regarding permission to install a planter incorporating bike racks outside the building.
- Councillor Hale and the Clerk attended three course sessions entitled 'Carbon Literacy' in December. These are run by the Groundwork organisation and funded through the County Council.
- In November 2023 the Council formally pledged support for the draft Climate and Ecology Bill following a proposal by Councillors Lambert and Twidell. Both local MPs were written to, as was the local press.
- The Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee is looking at updating the faded wooden information boards around the park. These pieces of artwork inform visitors of the landscape, bird life and other wildlife that may be seen there.

### 18. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at Marshalswick Community Centre.

Committee for Sustainability 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024