



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm for a meeting of the Parish Council. This followed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors Jenny Roberts, Maurice Wells, John Hale, Mike White, Carol Chalkley, Adam Twidell, Graham Leonard (Chair), Julie Oakley, James Lambert, June Reid, Luke Sieger

OFFICERS:

Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer, Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Stef Hayes, Centres Manager

ABSENT:

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IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillors Sharon Hollingsworth*, Raj Visram*, County Councillor Allison Wren, Work Experience Student Billy Boardman, PC Phil Burns*, PCSO Chris Stokes*

*left during the meeting

5698 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Raihaanah Ahmed, Debbie Chachulski, Mary Ternouth.

5699 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

5700 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 13th MARCH 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th March 2024 were reviewed. They were agreed to be a correct record and it was unanimously;

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chair.

QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

5701 Questions to Officers

There was none.

5702 Public Participation

There was none.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5703 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 14th March 2024 to 10th April 2024. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule of creditors for this month.

5704 County Councillor Allison Wren

Dr Allison Wren, County Councillor for Harpenden Rural (including Sandridge village) spoke to members on future planned works in the village in the context of reduced funding, remedial highway works around Langley Grove being a priority. It was suggested Sandridge Parish Council could alleviate some of the budgetary pressures by carrying out minor works such as street sign cleaning, thereby allowing more to be spent on priority issues. Councillor Leonard asked for the matter to be scheduled on the next Full Council agenda.

5705 Local Policing

PC Phil Burns and PCSO Chris Stokes attended the meeting to speak to Members about local issues and hear of any concerns. Several matters were raised which they kindly undertook to try and address.

5706 Sports and Recreation Committee - Retention of Reserved Funds for other Purposes

Following the abandonment of the Pump Track project at the Jersey Farm Open Space, it was proposed by Councillor Leonard, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the Sports and Recreation Committee's use of some or all of the sum set aside for the pump track, £50,000. All works excluding minor repairs to be notified to Full Council in advance of commencement.

5707 HAPTC Member and Officer Training

Members put forward ideas for inclusion in the upcoming HAPTC training afternoon for staff and Members.

5708 Wildflowers in Sandridge Parish

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement officer updated Members on year 2 of the Parish Council's successful wildflower initiative.

5709 Matters of Note

- John O'Conner Ltd have been planting trees on verges throughout the parish on behalf of the Parish Council. The County Council have also been planting at numerous locations.
- Bay marking has been completed at Spencer Meadow car park and the Parish Office car park.
- The Year-End Internal Audit will focus on the auditor attending the Parish Office on 25th April.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5710 Grant Applications

- Holiday at Home (St Mary's)

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Leonard, seconded by Councillor Roberts and unanimously;

Resolved

To award the Holiday at Home event the sum of £1,200, this award made under the LGA 1972 s.145

- Emergency pull-cord for elderly and vulnerable residents (St Mary's)
Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Chalkley and;

Resolved

To award St Mary's Church the sum of £400 towards the cost of this important safety initiative. This award made under s.137 of the LGA 1972

5711 D-Day 80 Commemoration – 6th June 2024 at 8.30pm

Councillor Twidell updated Members on progress made toward this public event. He confirmed the attendance of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the 4th St Albans Explorer Scouts, members of 220 Squadron Cadets and a piper. The event to take place close to the landing craft memorial on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park.

5712 Meeting with Members of Wheathampstead Parish Council regarding Parish Building Redevelopment

Councillors White and Wells informed Members of a meeting held at Wheathampstead Parish Council to inform future decisions on development of the current Marshalswick Community Centre and Parish Office. It was agreed they would jointly produce a written summary of the discussions held for councillors to digest.

5713 Parish Summer Event

Councillor Roberts gave a verbal update on plans for the Parish Summer Event to be held on 1st June 2024. All was seen to be progressing smoothly.

5714 Jersey Farm Woodland Park Drainage

It was reported that the soakaway at the foot of the pathway leading from the Jersey Farm Woodland Park onto St Helier Road has completely silted up. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Chalkley and unanimously;

Resolved

That the sum of up to £3,500 be made available from reserves to bring the soakaway back into operation (subject to a further survey).

5715 Bus Stop on The Ridgeway

Councillor Chalkley updated Members of progress on plans to install an enhanced bus shelter on the Ridgeway (opposite the library). The shelter will offer residents a range of enhancements, details to be finalised. She confirmed the initiative was moving forward.

5716 Oaklands College – public access

Councillor Hale confirmed all public paths on this site are now open. He informed members that he'll be liaising with other community groups next month to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed when future development works at the college take place.

5717 Meetings of Committees:

Members received a brief summary from the Chair of each of the following committees;

- 25th March 2024 Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee
- Planning Committee – please see below

5718 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- The Clerk informed Members that the Parish Office had applied for and received a framed portrait of King Charles III through a Government initiative. Following discussion, Members agreed the portrait will hang in the Committee Room.
- The Clerk informed Members, as required by Financial Regulations, that a replacement defibrillator case had been purchased for the Spencer Meadow/Village Hall defibrillator at a cost of £820 net.

5719 PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 8th April 2024. Planning applications commented on at that meeting to the Planning Authority were as follows;

5/2024/0459 The Queens Head PH AL4 9DL

5/2024/0527 The Queens Head PH AL4 9DL

5/20240306 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH

5/2024/0413 114 Osprey Drive AL4 0LU

Please note: Planning applications received at the Parish Office from the Planning Authority *after* the Parish Council agenda has been published may also be discussed at the meeting as may applications of complexity or applications likely to impact heavily on the Green Belt.

5720 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Charges for using Parish Council car parks
- Highways flooding in the parish

Next meeting date – 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chair

Date