

Sandridge Parish Council



JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre
on Monday 1st July 2024.

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors - Jenny Roberts (Chair), Adam
Twidell, Maurice Wells, Mike White
District Councillors – Raj Visram
Warden – Mark Carter
Public Members – Frances Leonard, Anne
Thomas, Johanna Houlahan, Carol Higgins

OFFICERS:

Emma Hostler - Deputy Clerk
Rebecca Pannese – Project, Amenities and
Community Engagement (PACE) Officer

ABSENT:

Public Member Jamie Burrows

Some Committee Members met at the Woodland Park at 6.30pm to participate in a site walkabout prior to the meeting. They inspected both the proposed site for the avenue of trees and the hedgerow planting.

661. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jones, Cllr Chalkley, Cllr Oakley, Clyde Martindill, and John Forward.

662. TO ELECT A CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Twidell and seconded by Carol Higgins that Cllr Roberts be elected as Chair of the Committee. Cllr Roberts agreed to continue as Chair for another year. It was;

RESOLVED

That Cllr Roberts be elected as Chair of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee.

663. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Frances Leonard and seconded by Cllr White that Cllr Twidell be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee. It was;

RESOLVED

That Cllr Twidell be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee.

664. REAFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

The Public Members present reaffirmed their commitment to continue their membership of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee.

665. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Mark Carter declared an interest as a self-employed contractor for Sandridge Parish Council.

666. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th March 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

667. APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

It is a statutory requirement to review the Committee Terms of Reference annually. The Committee approved the current Terms of Reference for 2024-25. It was;

RESOLVED

To approve the current Terms of Reference for 2024-25.

668. MATTERS OF REPORT

- The Parish Council Summer Festival on the Woodland Park which took place on Saturday 1st June was considered a success. A combination of games activities, stall holders, a dog show, and musical stage acts provided entertainment for visitors throughout the day. Feedback has been very complimentary.
- On the evening of 6th June Sandridge Parish Council supported a beacon lighting ceremony on the Woodland Park, organised by local Cadet and Scout groups, as part of a national commemoration of the D-Day landings. The Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire also attended.
- The meadow grass opposite Woodland House was cut by John O'Conner, and again by Cllr Wells, in preparation for the summer event – this included cutting the area to the rear of the hedging to make provision for car parking.
- Cllr Wells installed cycle parking for up to 8 bikes on the Woodland Park at the entrance from Sandringham Crescent opposite Woodland House. These were well used at recent events on the park as well as by parkrun participants weekly. It was noted that some 20 bikes were attached to the stands at one point during the summer event.
- Parkrun switched from the winter to the summer course on Saturday 11th May.
- New battery-powered tools have been purchased to facilitate volunteers wishing to provide hands-on help with the upkeep of the park particularly during the vegetation growing season. These include a strimmer, a brush cutter, a pole saw, extension poles, batteries, a rake and a trolley for transportation.
- Additional wildflowers (primroses and wood anemone rhizomes) have been planted by volunteers in Pat's Wood.
- The final stage of resurfacing of the perimeter path adjacent to Sandringham Crescent to St Helier Road is completed.
- The Clerk has reported that SADC is hoping to complete the devolution of the Woodland Park and the Sandringham Crescent Open Space within 2024/25.

669. REPORT SEEKING AGREEMENT FOR A RIGHTS OF WAY MODIFICATION APPLICATION

Members reviewed a report from Cllr Ternouth seeking agreement to make a Rights of Way modification application to Herts County Council (HCC) on behalf of Sandridge Parish Council for the path running between Highfield Road through the privately owned woodland to the St Helier Road entrance. It was;

RESOLVED

That an application should be made on behalf of the Parish Council to HCC to modify the Definitive Map so as to make this route a Public Right of Way.

670. THE SOAKAWAY FP27/ST HELIER ROAD

Members noted that the Parish Council agreed at the April meeting to provide funding from reserves to bring the soakaway at the foot of the pathway leading from FP 27 to St Helier Road, which is currently silted up, back into operation. However, the two contractors who have viewed the site to date, have questioned whether the soakaway is a viable solution for the water run-off in the medium to long term. The Parish Clerk is liaising with these companies as to potential long-term solutions, including the option of diverting the water at a higher point up the path. Johanna Houlahan updated

the Committee on her plans to meet a professional contact with expertise in land water management and drainage who may be able to advise the Parish Council. She will report back in due course.

671. AN AVENUE OF TREES – A REPORT AND PROPOSAL FROM CLLR WELLS

At the January meeting Cllr Wells presented a proposal to plant an avenue of trees on the Woodland Park, which the Committee agreed in principle but subject to further research regarding location, species of tree, quantity and cost. This information was provided as a written report from Cllr Wells and circulated to all Members. Discussion followed, which included some expressions of reservation regarding the loss of view across an open vista by planting along both sides of the path. A suggestion was made to place temporary poles in the proposed locations of each tree in order that Members can better understand the impact of the plantings. In light of these concerns, and following a suggestion from Cllr White, it was agreed to modify the original proposal to planting along one side (the south side) of the path only and to defer a final decision until the September meeting. This will enable Members to more fully consider the potential positioning of the trees, species and size, and maintenance requirements. It was;

RESOLVED

To modify the original proposal from planting down two sides of the path to just one side (the south side) and to defer a final decision until the September meeting when further consideration has been given by all members to the positioning of the trees, species and size, and ongoing maintenance requirements.

672. PROPOSAL TO FUND A DIGGER FOR THE HEDGEROW INSTALLATION

At the March meeting, it was agreed to plant a native hedgerow along the edge of the meadow adjacent to FP 27 with the help of volunteers. Rabbit guards and canes have already been purchased in preparation for the planting and are currently in storage. Since then, it has been recognised how difficult the task of hand planting up to 1800 whips will be on hard ground and the Committee was asked to consider funding the hire of a digger to prepare the ground in advance of planting. A quote for machinery and operator has been provided. Discussion followed, including a suggestion to appoint responsibility for scanning the underground services to the contractor at possible additional cost. Following a proposal by Cllr Twidell, seconded by Carol Higgins, it was;

RESOLVED

To fund the cost of a digger and operator, including a possible additional charge for scanning for underground services, to assist with the task of planting up to 1800 whips by breaking up the ground in advance.

673. PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PONDS ON THE WOODLAND PARK BY ANNE THOMAS AND MARK CARTER

Members received a written report from Anne Thomas and Mark Carter proposing the installation of new ponds on the Woodland Park as one of the best ways to help wildlife and boost biodiversity. The report provided information on general considerations when planning a pond, as well as suggested locations. Discussion followed, which included acknowledging the potential benefits of installing ponds towards alleviating problems with excess water flow during wet weather periods. Following a proposal from Cllr Twidell, and seconded by Frances Leonard, it was;

RESOLVED

To present further plans for the installation of ponds on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park at the September meeting of the Committee.

674. MEMORIAL BENCHES

Members were asked to formally note that the installation of memorial benches on the Woodland Park is now at capacity and the Parish Amenities and Community Engagement Officer (PACE) is not able to fulfil any further requests. No suggestions were forthcoming for alternative means of providing memorials on the Woodland Park and therefore, having thanked the PACE officer for all her work in installing benches to date, it was;

RESOLVED

That no further memorial benches would be installed on Jersey Farm Woodland Park.

675. MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-26

Members reviewed the draft management plan and associated costs for 2025-26 which was previously circulated. The Deputy Clerk was asked to add additional funds to cover any tree planting (see minute 671) or pond installations (see minute 674) that may be agreed. The warden also suggested additional funds for blackthorn clearance. The Deputy Clerk will also make an inflationary adjustment to be determined.

676. CURRENT EXPENDITURE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-25

Members were informed that final outturn for the JFWP Management Committee expenditure for 2023/24 is £19,765 of a £20,335 budget. Current expenditure for the year 2024-25 is £1,080 which includes the purchase of the bike stands and power tools.

677. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

The PACE officer updated the Committee on the green flag status.

678. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Further consideration of tree planting and pond installations.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the JFWP Management Committee will take place at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 16th September 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chair

Date