

Sandridge Parish Council



THE COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

Present: Councillors Jenny Roberts (Chair), June Reid, Carol Chalkley
Jim Watson (Friends of Jersey Lane)
Julian Thornton (Herts County Council)

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

Absent: -

938 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Roberts was nominated by Councillor Reid and seconded by Jim Watson before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Roberts as Chair for the coming year.

939 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Reid was nominated by Jim Watson and seconded by Councillor Chalkley before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Reid as Chair for the coming year.

940 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Debbie Chachulski, Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells, James Lambert and Public Members Jill Watson, Mark Carter and David Kealey.

941 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

942 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2024

The minutes of the April meeting, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record.

It was;

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Committee for Sustainability meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

943 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed. They were agreed to be fit for purpose for the coming year and it was unanimously;

Resolved

To re-adopt the Terms of Reference for the coming year.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING NATURE

944 WILDFLOWER INITIATIVE

The PACE Officer updated Members on Year 2 of this project. Wildflower beds have produced mixed results so far this year for a variety of reasons including the wet weather. Lessons have been learned and the sites better suited to this project identified.

945 SANDRIDGE PARISH WILD BIRD INITIATIVE

The Parish Office team presented this new initiative to the committee following the popularity of the wildflower initiative. It was agreed that, as with the wildflower initiative, this project would exploit the Parish Council's unique position to act as a community hub. The Clerk informed the Committee that Sustainable St Albans, the Jersey Farm Residents Association, the Marshalswick North Residents Association and the Herts and Middlesex wildlife Trust are all keen to be involved. Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

That the Committee approves the initiative in principle with a provisional budget of £3,500 for 2025/26. It was noted that this might fund habitat (boxes/planting hedgerow), food (hedgerow), specialist talks for residents, a nest-cam or fencing to protect ground nesting birds and ponds. Members considered the current year's budgets and agreed that some expenditure within this financial year is probable, the precise nature of it being dependent on first taking specialist advice.

IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS

946 UPDATE FROM JULIAN THORNTON (HCC) ON FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Julian Thornton updated the meeting on various current works including;

B51 (Oaklands) - Due for resurfacing (no temporary closure notices in the pipeline)

BOAT 3 at Bentsley Spinney - Due for resurfacing

FP27 - Foliage due to be cut back

FP13 & 14 - Foliage due to be cut back

FP26 at Nashes Farm - Obsolete section due to close 4th July

947 FOOTPATH AT THE HARNESS WAY OPEN SPACE

This item was deferred pending a decision at the postponed Sports and Recreation Committee (re-scheduled to 28th June) on whether to fund the installation of a footpath at this site. If funding is approved the project may proceed ahead of the next meeting because of having to avoid softer ground conditions.

948 RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH WOODLAND ADJACENT TO THE JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK

Members considered a report and recommendation from Councillor Ternouth before the following was unanimously;

Resolved

That, subject to further agreement by the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee, an application should be made on behalf of the Parish Council to Herts County Council to modify the Definitive Map so as to confirm this route a definitive Public Right of Way.

RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING, REPAIRING

949 INSTALLATION OF MIXED RECYCLING BINS

The Clerk reported that the District Council, in liaison with Veolia and John O'Conner Ltd had finally approved a process whereby recyclable waste could be collected daily from two Parish Council owned parks and taken to the recycling depot for processing. The model now agreed in principle is as follows;

1. The Parish Council buys and installs two dual bins, one at each of the two sites.
2. John O'Conner Ltd empty the bins daily, taking the recyclables to the local Veolia depot.
3. The approximate cost of each dual bin, including installation, is £800.
4. The annual cost of collection from a dual bin is £1,179 but with the opportunity to offset the cost of collection by removing an existing general waste bin, dependant on precise location.

It was unanimously;

Resolved

1. To approve the purchase of two dual recycling bins, funded as below;
£400 remaining in the general budget for new bins
£500 from Street Scene Initiatives
£700 from the Sustainability Projects budget
2. To approve the funding of collection from two bins, one at Spencer Meadow and one at Sherwood Park for the second quarter of 2024/25 in the total sum of £589 with a new budget item in 2025/26 of £2,356 annually. As above, this may be reduced by being offset with the collection from existing general waste bins. This year's waste collection to be funded through the budget for new Grounds Maintenance items (i.e. not a cost to this committee). Bins will not be purchased until the autumn when Full Council approves next year's budget.

950 REPAIR WORKSHOP

It was noted that a date for the first Repair Shop is agreed as 15th February 2025 at Jersey Farm Community Centre. Residents responding to the Parish Council's call for volunteers have been successfully contacted by St Albans Fixers, inviting them to participate. Councillor Wells has joined the ranks of the St Albans Fixers and already participated in one event.

951 PARISH EVENT

The Parish Council's successful Summer Event took place on June 1st. The committee was pleased to note that, as organised, all food and drinks were served in recyclable/compostable containers with all waste separated at the venue in clearly

identifiable containers and disposed of through a licensed waste contractor. Although carrying a cost, this should now be the model for all future events.

CARBON REDUCTION AND CAPTURE

952 BIKE RACKS

Committee Members were pleased to note that the four bike racks installed last month on the Woodland Park were widely used for the summer event with twenty cycles attached at one point.

Marshalswick Library has not yet approved the placing of a planter/bike rack to the front of the building. The draft licence is still being processed by the HCC Legal Department.

953 MATTERS OF NOTE

- A fourth clothing bank has been installed at Sherwood Park. All monies received to date and ongoing have been earmarked for use by this committee.
- The Committee is reminded that the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee has resolved to plant a new hedgerow (1,800 whips) on the south bank of FP 27 from St Helier Road to Woodland House to provide further habitat for wildlife. This will take place in the early autumn with the help of regular parish volunteers, and hopefully recruits from the Parkrun community.
- The two water cisterns are up and running with no shortage of water available to water the community garden.
- The Woodland Park Committee has invested in a new range of battery powered tools to enable councillors/staff/volunteers to provide hands on maintenance/support on the park with no emissions.
- The Pace Officer is in discussion with the HMWT regarding how best to enhance the biodiversity of our outdoor spaces, beginning with Harness Way.
- The Parish Council took part in the Susfest Expo at the Alban Arena alongside the Friends of Jersey Lane. The event was a good opportunity to remind residents across the district to challenge their parish council on how sustainable their practices generally are.

954 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

There was none.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 15TH October 2024 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chair

Date