



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm for a meeting of the Parish Council

PRESENT:

Councillors Jenny Roberts, Graham Leonard (Chair), June Reid, James Lambert, Mary Ternouth, Adam Twidell, Debbie Chachulski, Maurice Wells, John Hale, Rehana Ahmed, Luke Sieger

OFFICERS:

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

ABSENT:

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Two members of the public

5551 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors White, Chalkley and Oakley.

5552 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Ternouth declared herself a member of the Friends of Jersey Lane (see grant applications later in these minutes – 5562).

5553 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12th July 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th July 2023 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

5554 Questions to Officers

There was none.

5555 Public Participation – an opportunity for residents to raise issues or ask questions of Members

Mr Jim Watson indicated he would be happy to speak at item 5560 and this was approved.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5556 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 13th July 2023 to 9th August 2023. These accounts were paid on Friday 11th August following circulation of the schedule to Members. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To ratify the payment schedule as circulated.

Members also reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 10th August 2023 to 13th September 2023. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule for payment.

5557 Projects Update

Members heard a report by the Projects, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer with updates on various projects throughout the parish.

5558 Sandridge Parish Council's Risk Management Policy

The Parish Council's Risk Management Policy was created in July 2016 for annual review. An electronic version of the scheme was circulated to members on 22nd August and 12th September 2023. It was unanimously;

Resolved

That Sandridge Parish Council re-adopts the policy as circulated for review in September 2024.

5559 St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC)

Councillor Hale volunteered to be the representative for Sandridge Parish Council in this association.

Council Ahmed joined the meeting at this point and confirmed she had no declarations of interest.

5560 Combined Community Centres Committee

Members considered a report by the Clerk recommending the discontinuation of the Combined Community Centres Committee. Mr Watson, a public member on the committee, spoke in argument for retaining it. Following discussion it was;

Resolved

To discontinue the committee in favour of the Centres Manager reporting biannually to Full Council and carrying out a biennial user survey.

5561 Matters of Note

- It is expected that a first draft version of the Parish Council's new website will be presented to Members at the October meeting of Full Council.
- The Parish Council was unsuccessful in securing the purchase of woodland adjacent to the Jersey Farm Woodland Park in July, bidding having exceeded the sum approved at a meeting held on 12th July 2023.
- Officers at the District Council are assessing quotes to refurbish the toilet block in the car park adjacent to Sandridge Village Hall. The Clerk has asked whether the existing toilets may be made available in the meantime and the various options are now being explored by District Council officers.
- The clothing banks in the Parish Office car park will be replaced by new banks supporting the Salvation Army's community support initiatives. The Parish Council will receive some income for hosting the banks. The previous provider was unreliable in regularly emptying the banks, resulting in fly tipping.
- Members of London Colney Parish Council visited the community garden on August 29th and are discussing the feasibility of having something similar in their parish.
- The event planned to create street art on the skate ramp was twice delayed due to the weather. Some artwork has now been completed with more to be rescheduled at the first opportunity.
- There will be an internal audit carried out on November 20th. The external audit report from PKF is expected w/e 15th September for report to the Finance Committee on the 25th September.

Post meeting note: This report has now been received. It contains no areas of concern.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5562 Grant Applications

- Friends of Jersey Lane

Members reviewed a grant application from the Friends of Jersey Lane for various purposes including tools, a website and professional fees. Following debate it was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £1,500 under the Highways Act 1980 s.43.

Note: Councillor Ternouth did not participate in the vote, having declared an interest.

5563 New Bike Rack for the Community Garden and Library

Members considered a report and proposal by Councillor Wells for a combined planter/bike rack at Marshalswick Community Centre. Councillor Wells explained that he had not yet received permission from the Library Manager to site the rack in the vicinity of the building. It was;

Resolved

To defer approval of the design until a suitable location has been found.

5564 PEAP Committee

Councillors reviewed a report and joint recommendation by the Parish Clerk and Councillor Jenny Roberts in respect of expanding and renaming the PEAP Committee to Committee for Sustainability. The new committee remit to encompass 'Protecting & Supporting Nature', 'Recycling, Reusing, Repurposing & Repairing', 'Improving the Natural Environment for Residents' and 'Carbon Reduction & Capture'. The matter was discussed at length before it was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Lambert and unanimously;

Resolved

To adopt the new expanded remit for the committee and name change to the Committee for Sustainability.

5565 Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group presented an update and proposed timetable on the Sandridge Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan review. It was proposed by Councillor Ternouth, seconded by Councillor Hale and unanimously;

Resolved

To endorse the approach taken so far and agree the updated review timetable.

5566 Climate Fresk Training Opportunity

Councillor Lambert informed Members of an organisation called Climate Fresk from which he had received training to facilitate sustainability workshops. Questions were asked and responded to before it was proposed by Councillor Twidell, seconded by Councillor Wells and unanimously;

Resolved

To run training sessions for interested councillors, staff and public committee members in the first instance (up to eight participants in each), potentially then expanding the audience to include members of the public.

5567 Parish Council Response to the draft Local Plan for St Albans District

Members considered a draft response to the District Council's draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Lambert and unanimously;

Resolved

To submit the response as circulated with the agenda.

5568 Bentsley Spinney

Members considered a report and proposal from Councillor Chachulski recommending that members of the Parish Council meet with District Council officers to explore ways in which Bentsley Spinney could be managed more effectively for the community. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Chachulski, seconded by Councillor Sieger and unanimously;

Resolved

To request the Clerk to contact the District Council to arrange a meeting in this regard.

5569 St Leonard's Flower Festival

Councillor Jenny Roberts requested funding towards the creation of a flower arrangement for this festival on behalf of the Parish Council. The theme this year is weddings. It was proposed by Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Chachulski and unanimously;

Resolved

That the Parish Council contributes £100 towards the cost of this year's display.

5570 Meetings of Committees:

Members noted this month's committee meetings;

- Community Centres Committee – re-scheduled to October 2nd 2023
- Planning Committee – see below

Post meeting note: After a resolution made at item 5560 the Community Centres Committee meeting will not now be held.

5571 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

Members discussed the current closure of footpaths across the Oaklands campus.

5572 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 24th July, 14th August and 4th September. Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

- 8 Westfield Court AL4 9JN Application 5/2023/1522
- Menage to North of Sandridgebury Farm, Sandridgebury Lane Application 5/2023/1113
- 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH 5/2023/1682
- 13 Briar Road AL4 9TH 5/2023/1683
- Sandringham School & Wheatfields School 5/2023/1485
- 1 Runcie Close AL4 9AX 5/2023/1656
- 7 Downes Road AL4 9NS 5/2023/1623

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.

5573 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There was none.

Next meeting date – 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Chair

Date

Cllr Graham Leonard (Chair)