

Sandridge Parish Council



THE COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Tuesday 1st April 2025.

Present: Councillors Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells, James Lambert, Jenny Roberts (Chair), Public Member Jim Watson, Councillor Mike White (not on the committee)

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

Absent: Warden Mark Carter, Julian Thornton (Herts County Council)

990 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs June Reid, Carol Chalkley, Debbie Chachulski, Public Member David Kealey, Philip Nalpanis (Sustainable St Albans)

991 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

992 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the 21st January 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 21st January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

993 COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2024-25 AND 2025-26

Members reviewed draft outturn for 2024/25 as well as discussing future spend for 2025-26, as shown below. Members were encouraged to consider ideas for future projects.

Item	2024-25 Budget £	2024-25 Spend to date £	2025-26 Budget £	Notes
Sustainability projects (6665)	6,000	4,945	2,500	2024/25 spend gross of recharge for swift boxes (£1,550). Recycling bins partly charged here
Community garden (6659)	1,500	906	1,500	Planting to take place in spring
Wildflower/pollinator initiative (6654)	2,750	788	3,000	Sowing in spring
Tree planting (6653)	5,000	1,800	5,000	
Wild Bird initiative	0	0	3,500	To continue swift initiative

994 MATTERS OF NOTE

- The four clothing banks continue to be very busy with collections almost reaching 3 tonnes in February. Income has continued to be earmarked for this committee and currently stands at £960.
- Councillor Wells and Councillor Chalkley have now completed construction of the bike rack/planter to the front of Marshalswick library. It has already been regularly used.
- John O’Conner Ltd have planted eight new trees on The Ridgeway, Barnfield Road and Highfield Road on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The community garden volunteers will soon start work on two new beds in the Parish Council car park.
- Councillor Roberts has recently given a bat talk to the local Friends of the Earth group.

IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS

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

Julian was unavailable for this meeting.

996 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR MARY TERNOUTH ON RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Ternouth updated Members on discussions held with Taylor Wimpey and Oaklands College. Jersey Lane was discussed with input from Jim Watson as was the outstanding modification order relating to the woodland to the top of Highfield Road.

997 COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Committee discussed what hardware/tools are needed for the forthcoming year. The PACE Officer updated the Committee on the involvement in the community garden of the Ollie Foundation, a St Albans based charity established to engage with young people contemplating self-harm. The foundation will hold regular art sessions in the garden and will work collaboratively with our volunteers to share the maintenance tasks.

Councillor Roberts updated Members on maintenance works to the Sandridgebury Lane island garden.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING NATURE

998 PARISH WILDFLOWER INITIATIVE

The PACE Officer provided an update on wildflower planting across the Parish including the creation of new beds. She explained the issues around getting the soil in a fit state to be seeded, highlighting the dry weather which very much exacerbates the task. There was a general consensus that given

the current need to turn over the soil and the fact that this issue will arise every year, the purchase of a rotavator would be a good idea. Councillor Wells agreed to research a suitable model with the Clerk.

999 SANDRIDGE SWIFT INITIATIVE (including St Leonard’s Church)

Members were informed that 33 new nesting boxes have been installed throughout the parish in collaboration with residents. Additionally, the Parish Council has installed a six home nesting box at St Leonard’s Church, led by Councillor Wells. It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Jim Watson and unanimously;

Resolved

To continue the model used in 2024/25 with funding for up to 30 additional boxes.

1000 JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK POND

The PACE Officer updated Committee Members on progress towards confirming the feasibility of a second, larger pond on the park. Members agreed in principle to provide funding from the Sustainability Projects budget managed by this committee once the cost becomes clearer.

RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING, REPAIRING

1001 INSTALLATION OF MIXED RECYCLING

The Clerk confirmed that two dual (general waste and recycling) bins have been delivered. The Clerk will now co-ordinate their installation with John O’Conner Ltd collecting and taking the recyclables to the Veolia depot. This will be the first time any of the waste disposed of in our parks will be put through the local recycling facility.

1002 REPAIR WORKSHOP

Councillor Wells assisted the St Albans Fixers for the first of our Repair Fairs, held at Jersey Farm Community Centre on 15th February. 70% of the items brought in were fixed or had the issue clearly identified with advice given on completing a fix. This resulted in 61kg of broken items avoiding landfill.

It’s expected that, for the foreseeable future, the Parish Council acting as host to St Albans Fixers is the best model to work to (as opposed to the Parish Council running a fair with its own fixers). The community centre at Jersey Farm proved a very good venue for the purpose and the entire experience was positive.

1003 THE LIBRARY OF THINGS (Share St Albans)

The Committee was reminded that Share St Albans has taken occupation of half the Parish Council’s garage previously used in full by Greengrass Lawncare. The organisation opened to the public on Saturday 29th March following a campaign on social media. Members were given details of opening hours, items available, fees etc.

1004 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Lambert suggested assessments of the carbon footprint of the two community centres. He will liaise with the Parish Office in this regard.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chair

Date