***SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL***

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**SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL** Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors, John Hale, Maurice Wells, Julie Oakley, Graham Leonard (Chair), June Reid, Adam Twidell, James Lambert, Carol Chalkley, Debbie Chachulski, Anne Thomas

**OFFICERS:** Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Rebecca Pannese, Project Amenities and Community Engagement (PACE) Officer, Stef Hayes, Community Centre Manager

**ABSENT:**  -

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Two representatives of the Woodcock Hill Allotment Association

**5978** **TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Jenny Roberts, Raihaanah Ahmed, Mary Ternouth, Mike White

**5979 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There was none.

**5980 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11th JUNE 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th June 2025 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.

**5981 QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS**

There was none.

**5982 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At this point the agenda item regarding Sandridge Allotments was brought forward.

*Councillors Oakley and Reid joined the meeting*

Councillor Hale updated Members on a meeting held with the Clerk and a representative of Herts County Council’s Managing Agents from which several questions remained unanswered. He suggested it might be feasible for the Parish Council to taken management responsibility for the allotments themselves but not the access from Woodcock Hill to the allotment’s gate.

He pointed out that there is likely to be a new unitary authority in place within three years which could potentially override any arrangement in place. He told the meeting that County Councillor Wren was still in discussion with officers at the County Council regarding this site.

**CLERK’S REPORTS**

**5983** **Monthly Accounts**

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 12th June 2025 to 9th July 2025, having been previously circulated. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To approve payment of this schedule on 11th June 2025.

*There is one outstanding question to be responded to in due course*

**5984** **Creditor Payments in August**

There is no scheduled Council meeting in August. Creditor payments will therefore be made as usual by the Parish Office with the schedule emailed to Members on August 13th 2025 for payment on 15th August 2025 and ratified in September at Full Council. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

That the Council approves the creditor schedule being sent electronically in August before being ratified in September (this approval is an audit requirement).

**5985 Triennial Pension Fund Valuation**

As part of the 2026 Pension Fund re-valuation, the Parish Council is again being asked if it intends remaining in the pooled Herts Pension Fund for the next three years. There have been no changes to the circumstances in which Sandridge Parish Council first joined the pool.

The key benefit to remaining is that pooling with other employers (councils) with similar characteristics produces a stability that would be lost if the Council stood alone. HCC Actuaries have proven reliable in riding the volatility of recent years.

The current review of funding levels will allow HCC to re-calculate each employer’s contributions for the next three years (these fell in the last valuation). There would be fees payable should the Parish Council decide to leave. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

That Sandridge Parish Council will remain within the scheme for the next three years and will abide by the rules of the group for that duration.

**5986 Privacy and Cookies Policy**

Members reviewed The Council’s Privacy and Cookies Policy. Some minor amendments were agreed before it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To re-adopt the policy as amended.

**5987 Matters of Note**

* Members were encouraged to visit the enlarged wildflower areas at Harness Way, William Bell, St Leonards and Sherwood parks.
* The second skate ramp painting day will take place on Saturday July 12th. Residents are welcome to attend but should book a time slot on the artist’s website if they wish to participate.

**COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**5988 Grant Applications**

* St Mary’s Church – Access and Green Spaces.
* Community First Responders

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Lambert and;

**Resolved**

To award St Mary’s Church the sum of £1,500 towards the Access and Green Spaces project.

It was further proposed by Councillor Twidell, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously;

**Resolved**

To award St Albans First Responders the sum of £1,800 towards resuscitation equipment.

**5989** **Woodcock Hill Allotments**

Please see item 5982.

**5990 Housing Developments**

Councillor Leonard spoke to Members regarding recent meetings with potential developers within the parish. Some discussions were noted to be constructive in nature.

**5991 Storage on Jersey Farm Woodland Park**

Members discussed a report and recommendation by Councillor Wells to install within the Woodland Park a small steel container to house the Kubota mower currently stored at the Sherwood Park garage. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Chalkley, seconded by Councillor Thomas and unanimously;

**Resolved**

To proceed with the installation in accordance with Councillor Wells’ report within a budget of £2,202. This will be subject to the District Council giving consent.

**5992 Installation of Heat Pump for Office and Committee Room**

Members considered a report and recommendation from Councillor Wells regarding the installation of a heat pump(s) at the Parish Office and Committee Room. Following discussion it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

For Councillor Wells/Office Staff to obtain costings based on contractor site visits before reporting back in September.

**5993 2026 Summer Event**

Members discussed the establishment of a working group with a view to holding a summer event in 2026. It was proposed by Councillor Leonard and seconded by Councillor Reid before being;

**Resolved**

Not to establish a working group at this time because of potential resource issues.

**5994 Sandridge Youth Sports and Community Association**

Councillor Hale updated Members on efforts being made to bring investment to the Association.

**5995** **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:**

Committee Chairs spoke briefly on committee meetings as below.

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 16th June 2025

- Sports and Recreation Committee 18th June 2025

- Committee for Sustainability 24th June 2025

- Planning Committee – see below

**5996 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA**

There was none.

**5997 PLANNING MATTERS**

The Planning Committee met on 30th June 2025. The Committee meets every three weeks to review and respond to planning applications received from the Planning Authority, St. Albans District Council.

Planning applications objected to/commented on since the last Full Council meeting were;

* 13 Briar Road 5/2025/1066

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.

**5998 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

* EV Charging in Parish Council car parks
* The Oaklands Development (Stage II)

**Next meeting date – 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58pm

**Chair ………………………………………. Date …………………………......**