

Sandridge Parish Council



JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community
Centre on Monday 7th April 2025

PRESENT:

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

OFFICERS:

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

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Jacob James – a member of the public
providing support on the pond project (minute
706)

ABSENT:

Public Member Jamie Burrows
Councillor Julie Oakley

Some members met beforehand at 6.30pm at the Jersey Farm Woodland Walk to view recent thinning works in the North Plantation and the site of the proposed pond installation.

702. TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

703. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

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

704. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

705. MATTERS OF REPORT

- The blackthorn flailing has now been completed by the West Plantation, North Plantation and Southwest Plantation.
- The hedge trimming is completed north of Woodland House.
- A replacement interpretation board has been purchased and awaits installation. Two new artwork panels for existing boards at St Helier Road and Chiltern Road entrances have been ordered and installed by Cllr Wells and Twidell.
- Cllr Wells has stabilised the welcome board at the Jersey Lane entrance with assistance from Anne Thomas.
- The PACE Officer was saddened to report vandalism to one of the recently installed wooden leaflet holders (Highfield Road entrance). The box has now been repaired and refitted by Cllr Wells.
- The PACE Officer has submitted the Parish Council's Green Flag award application for 2025/26.

706. UPDATE ON THE POND INSTALLATION PROJECT

A number of members met on site at the Woodland Park prior to the meeting to view the proposed location for the pond installation. Both Anne Thomas and Jacob James, a local resident with expertise in hydrology, provided a brief verbal overview of progress made to date both on site, and followed up with further information during the meeting. Visual plans of the pond prepared by Jacob were distributed to all members at the meeting. The update included decisions made around positioning of the pond, size, drainage, use of spoils and fencing. Anne explained that it was the aim of the small working group progressing the project to provide a fully costed plan for the next Committee meeting in June with a view to seeking final approval to proceed at this stage. This plan will also include potential funding sources, project management resource, timescales and community engagement. The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that the Parish Council Committee for Sustainability had expressed an in-principle commitment to making a financial contribution of £2,000 towards the pond, subject to receiving final costed plans. Questions were asked and responded to, following which the Committee expressed approval of progress so far and looked forward to receiving final plans in June.

707. SKYLARKS ON THE WOODLAND PARK

Members were informed of a recent enquiry made from a local resident regarding whether there are any plans to install fencing on the Woodland Park to safeguard nesting skylarks - the resident having recently registered a skylark on their Merlin bird monitoring app whilst walking on the Woodland Park. There has been no known presence of skylarks on the Park for a number of years believed to be due to the increase in visitor numbers and dogs, despite efforts by the Committee to deter encroachment on the meadow grass, thus disturbing the birds, through signage and fencing. Discussion followed as to whether there was any merit in trying to encourage the return of skylarks to the Park, but the consensus was that there is not. The Deputy Clerk will inform the resident of the decision. Mark Carter, Warden, referenced the success of bird boxes on the Woodland Park and consideration was given to installing more boxes. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

Not to undertake any measures to encourage the return of skylarks to the Woodland Park.

708. EXPENDITURE FOR 2024/25

A breakdown of final expenditure for the Committee for 2024/25 was distributed to all Members. This totalled £22,622 against an annual budget of £24,000. The Deputy Clerk explained that savings were made across a number of areas, not least the works undertaken by volunteers (including grass cutting, installation of barrier posts, renovation of the picnic bench), as well as activities not undertaken (installation of a wooden sculpture). It

was noted that these savings enabled the Committee to undertake a number of additional works throughout the year whilst remaining within budget.

709. MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025/26

A copy of the management plan and budget for 2025/26 totalling £15,000 was distributed to all Members for review. A number of items of unrequired spend were identified, including mower servicing (£300), additional cut and collect of meadow grass by Bill's Wood (£100) and Herts & Middlesex pond audits (£400) which have been funded from the 2024/25 budget. Members were asked to identify alternative use of these funds.

710. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

John Forward informed Members of the recent death of Eddie Roberts, one of the founding members of MOSPA, the group responsible for the original development of the Woodland Park. The Committee formally extended its condolences to the family.

Johanna Houlahan informed the Committee that Parkrun would be switching to the summer course from 12th April. Numbers attending the Jersey Farm course are slightly reduced since the introduction of a new course nearby.

The Committee discussed uses for the wood chip left over from the recent hedgerow planting. Suggestions included laying extra wood chip beneath the hedgerow plants as part of a volunteer activity, and laying wood chip at the recently cleared cut-through to Sandringham Crescent popular with Sandringham School students.

711. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

There were no suggestions made for the next meeting.

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 June 2025 with a prior walkabout on the Woodland Park at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

Chair

Date