



## **SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm for a meeting of the Parish Council

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors Jenny Roberts, Graham Leonard (Chair), June Reid, James Lambert, Mary Ternouth, Rehana Ahmed, Debbie Chachulski, Maurice Wells, John Hale, Carol Chalkley, Julie Oakley, Luke Sieger, Mike White

### **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:**

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### **5596 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Adam Twidell.

### **5597 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There was none.

### **5598 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 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**

#### **5599 Questions to Officers**

There was none.

#### **5600 Public Participation**

There was none.

### **CLERK'S REPORTS**

#### **5601 Monthly Accounts**

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. It was unanimously;

#### **Resolved**

To approve the schedule for payment on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## **5602 Clothing Banks**

Members noted that the provision of two Salvation Army clothing banks in the Parish Office car park has been very successful. They have been emptied regularly and there has been no fly tipping. Also noted was that there is no long-term commitment to retain a bank that's causing issues. It was however stated that each bank will normally take up a single parking space. Unlike the previous clothing bank provider, the Salvation Army pays a small commission to the land owner and the first payment has been received in the sum of £33. It was unanimously;

### **Resolved**

To apply to install a further Salvation Army clothing bank in the Spencer Meadow car park at the earliest opportunity. It was further unanimously;

### **Resolved**

That the commission payments are earmarked each year with Members then nominating a Parish Council environmental project to receive the funding in Spring (e.g. tree planting).

*Post meeting note: The Salvation Army has confirmed that Spencer Meadow is a suitable location and will provide a bin at the earliest opportunity.*

## **5603 Centres Manager Report**

The Community Centre Manager's report, produced in replacement of the discontinued Community Centres Committee, was reviewed before it was unanimously;

### **Resolved**

To formally note the report's contents.

## **5604 Committee for Sustainability - Terms of Reference**

After consideration it was unanimously;

### **Resolved**

To approve the draft Terms of Reference for this committee as circulated.

## **5605 Standing Orders**

Following the circulation of an electronic copy of this document, sent to Members by the Clerk on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, it was;

### **Resolved**

To re-adopt the Standing Orders for review in one year.

## **5606 Parish Event**

Members discussed holding a summer event next year. There was a consensus that an event should go ahead provided there were sufficient volunteers available prior to and on the day itself. The Deputy Clerk undertook to circulate some suggested dates for those interested to meet with the Project, Amenities and Community Engagement officer for preliminary plans to be made.

## **5607 Matters of Note**

- A Climate Fresk session led by Councillor Lambert was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nine councillors and staff members attended the session which was very informative and thought provoking. There is a waiting list of three for a second session which could be held if others come forward.
- Work on the Sandridge village public toilets commenced on October 30<sup>th</sup> and will last up to three weeks. Only one unit will be brought back into service at this time.
- Councillor Chalkley and the Project Officer recently met with a member of Wheatfields Junior School staff to discuss collaborative working in the community garden to educate the children and allow them to be involved in a community project.
- An insurance settlement of £850 has been received from Zurich Municipal Zurich in respect of repairs to the skate ramp.

- The Committee for Sustainability is exploring sites where dual bins can be installed in Parish Council parks (as per the Sustainability Policy). All waste is currently taken to landfill.
- Sustainable St Albans has kindly agreed to have a member sit on the Parish Council's Committee for Sustainability.
- An article will appear in the Winter edition of Neighbourhood News to promote a project initiated through the Committee for Sustainability. Members of the community will be asked if they have skills in repairing various everyday items such as garden tools, clothing and furniture. It's hoped that, with enough volunteers coming forward, it will be possible to organise a regular repair shop in support of the Parish Council's Sustainability Policy.
- Following Councillor Chalkley's article in the Neighbourhood News regarding residents sponsoring a tree on or near their verge, six householders have expressed an interest with at least four able to proceed.
- The draft 2024/25 Budget and recommended precept were presented to the Finance Committee on October 30<sup>th</sup>. These will appear on the December agenda of Full Council.

## COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 5608 Grant Applications

Jersey Farm Day Care Centre. After deliberation it was proposed by Councillor Jenny Roberts, seconded by Councillor Mary Ternouth and unanimously;

#### Resolved

To award the Jersey Farm Day Care Centre the sum of £2,000 towards hall hire charges.

### 5609 Proposed Climate and Ecology Bill

Members discussed a request of support for the Climate and Ecology Bill, due its second reading in Parliament later this month, the details of which were emailed to Members on October 18<sup>th</sup> and again on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The request to support the Bill came from an organisation called Zero Hour which is lobbying the Government to pass the Bill.

A motion drafted by Zero Hour was circulated with the agenda and it was proposed by Councillors Twidell and Lambert to show support for the motion as circulated. It was then;

#### Resolved

To support the motion and to;

1. Declare support for the Climate and Ecology Bill.
2. Inform local residents and inform the local press/media of this decision.
3. Write to our local MPs to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to support the Bill or thank them for already doing so.
4. Write to Zero Hour to express Sandridge Parish Council's support.

### 5610 Public Access through Oaklands College During Building Works

A report on footpath closure through Oaklands College was produced and circulated by Councillor Hale. After discussion it was unanimously;

#### Resolved

1. To write to the college expressing concern at the closure of the Definitive Right of Way and requesting that the routes are reopened at the earliest possible opportunity.
2. To write to the Rights of Way team at HCC noting the closures and requesting that the council opposes any extension to the temporary closure notices until such time as appropriate alternate routes have been established.
3. To request a meeting with the college to discuss the college's plans for their campus and future public access across the site.

**5611 Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Councillor Hale talked Members through a report, circulated with the agenda. It was explained that some aspects of the five year plan needed reviewing and that three small groups of members could complete this task. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To carry out a review as above, Councillor Hale to contact individual councillors regarding involvement.

**5612 Bus Services in the Parish**

Councillor Roberts talked Members through a report circulated with the agenda on the low standard of bus services in the parish. Following discussion it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To formally note the report as circulated.

**5613 Meetings of Committees:**

Members noted this month's committee meetings with updates from the Chair of each;

- Community for Sustainability 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Finance Committee 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Planning Committee – see below

**5614 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA**

Councillor Hale informed the meeting that he was involved with the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership in his role as County Councillor. He undertook to circulate meeting notes to other councillors.

**5615 PLANNING MATTERS**

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting were;

- 5 Ardens Way AL4 9UW 5/2023/2022

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.

**5616 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Next meeting date – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.23pm

**Chair .....**

**Date .....**

**Cllr Graham Leonard (Chair)**