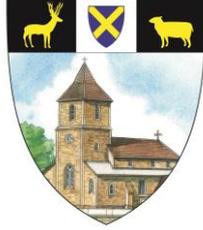


Sandridge Parish Council



THE COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Tuesday 16th September 2025.

Present: Councillors Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells (Chair), Carol Chalkley, James Lambert, Raihaanah Ahmed
Public Members David Kealey, Jim Watson, HCC Officer Julian Thornton, Sustainable St Albans representative Peter Block

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

Absent: Councillor June Reid

1023 To Receive and accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Debbie Chachulski, Warden Mark Carter

1024 Disclosures of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

There was none.

1025 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025, 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 24th June 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

1026 New Items

In July the Clerk met with a representative of Sustainable St Albans (SSA) and St Albans Fixers to discuss what new projects this committee might get involved in going forward. Subjects covered were as below, items 1034 & 1038.

1027 Committee Budgets 2025-26

Members reviewed the current year's budgets and expenditure to date.

1028 Matters of Note

- The projected balance in earmarked reserves relating to clothing bank income is £2,409 at 31st March 2026. This reserve is to be used at the discretion of this committee. The June collections totalled 2.2 tonnes of clothing & shoes.
- A second repair fair will take place in Spring 2026 at Marshalswick Community Centre.

IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS

1029 Update from Julian Thornton (HCC) on Footpaths and Rights of Way

Julian Thornton and Jim Watson briefed Members on issues around Jersey Lane such as replacement of access bollards, speeding cyclists, tree and land ownership and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan in relation to new developments.

1030 Community Garden

Councillor Chalkley updated Members on works to the Community Garden and the high levels of use throughout the spring and summer. She shared plans to enlarge and improve the existing pond.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING NATURE

1031 Wildflower Initiative

The PACE Officer confirmed that the wildflower beds had flourished this summer despite the prolonged dry weather. She informed Members that having the turf stripped and removed and the beds rotavated created ideal soil conditions for the annual seeds.

1032 Swift Initiative

The Clerk confirmed that Stage 2 of the Sandridge Parish Swift initiative is now underway with the date of November 5th in the diary for a public information evening. This will start at 7pm with both Tim Hill of the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust and Clive Flemming of Hertford Swifts in attendance. It was recommended to widen the distribution of posters for the event. It was;

Resolved

To subsidise the single and double boxes as per the table circulated (up to a ceiling of £1,400) and to consider using any excess in providing subsidised calling (song) boxes (to be researched).

1033 Jersey Farm Woodland Park Pond

The PACE Officer updated Committee Members on what form the new pond will take. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that some funding would be sought from Full Council and that some external third party funding has already been secured. The final cost is to be approximately £24,000.

RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING, REPAIRING

1034 Host a Restart Party or Café

Peter Block of St Albans Fixers kindly spoke to the meeting to explain the role of Restarters, a global community of people who run local repair events and campaign for the Right to Repair. There is an emphasis on educating individuals to carry out their own repairs with a global online forum to share knowledge. Restarters is the umbrella organisation of which the St Albans Fixers are an active group.

Peter undertook to send the Clerk details of how to run a Restart Café. The Committee can then consider running such an event itself. Councillor Wells suggested holding a one-off event to see how it went.

Post meeting note: Details were received and shared with committee members.

1035 Sustainable Market

This initiative, suggested by Peter Block, centred around holding a small 'market' featuring stalls from organisations promoting and selling sustainability and sustainable goods. This, it was suggested, could take place next Spring in the Community Garden. This idea was warmly received.

1036 Installation of Mixed Recycling Bins

The two bins have now been installed in Spencer Meadow and Sherwood Park with no issues reported.

1037 Tetra-Paks

The PACE Officer informed Members that the company recommended to provide Tetra-Pak recycling is not taking new clients while it starts to roll out a kerbside recycling programme.

CARBON REDUCTION AND CAPTURE

1038 Tablets for Council Members

The Committee discussed Parish and Town Councils in the UK no longer providing paper copies of agendas, minutes etc, opting instead to issue electronic tablets to Members. Councillor Lambert found some research strongly demonstrating that the quantity of paper printed in the production of agendas, minutes etc for this committee produced significantly less CO2 than the production of an electronic tablet, even when measured over a life of four years. It was unanimously;

Resolved

That Councillors Lambert and Wells and Jim Watson would receive future documents electronically as a trial. This would be using their own existing tablets/laptops. It may also be helpful to use the television screen on occasions. No report will be made to Full Council at this time.

1039 Purchase and Lend Out of an Infra Red Camera

It was agreed that there is no great need for the Parish Council to purchase a camera at this time when other providers exist. It was suggested that the Parish Council may play a role in promoting use of existing devices through noticeboards, the website etc.

1040 Travel and Transport

Councillor Ahmed updated Members on the proposed Chalk Walk in support of Sustainable St Albans' Travel and Transport initiative. The Chalk Walk will cover twelve stops around the parish on the theme of travel. A trail map and reward stickers will be given. The walk has however been postponed to 13th and 14th June 2026 as part of the Big Green weekend.

1041 Jersey Lane

Jim Watson of Friends of Jersey Lane gave an update on current issues including discord between some cyclists and walkers, trade vehicles on the lane, safer access to Sandridge village at the bottom of the lane and an upcoming volunteer day with the Countryside Management Service.

1042 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Moving to 100% renewable energy in Parish Council buildings by next spring.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm

Chair

Date