

Sandridge Parish Council



COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

- Present:** Cllr Jenny Roberts (Chair)
Cllr Debbie Chachulski
Cllr James Lambert
Cllr June Reid
Cllr Mary Ternouth
- Officers:** Simon Thwaites, Clerk
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk
Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities and Community
Engagement Officer (PACE)
- Absent:** -

The Chair informed the Committee that Frances Leonard has resigned her Public Membership.

888 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Maurice Wells and David Kealey.

889 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

890 TO ELECT A CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Lambert that Cllr Roberts be elected as Chair of the Committee for Sustainability. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That Cllr Roberts be elected as Chair of the Committee for Sustainability.

891 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Lambert and seconded by Cllr Chachulski that Cllr Reid be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee for Sustainability. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That Cllr Reid be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee for Sustainability.

892 TO APPROVE THE PEAP COMMITTEE MINUTES 25TH APRIL 2023

The minutes of the final meeting of the PEAP Committee, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record. This Committee has now been reconstituted as the Committee for Sustainability. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the PEAP Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

893 TERMS OF REFERENCE

A draft copy of the Terms of Reference, having been previously circulated, was reviewed by the Committee. Following some discussion, in which amendments were suggested and agreed, it was;

RESOLVED

To approve the Term of Reference for the Committee for Sustainability. These will be submitted to the next meeting of the Full Council in November for ratification.

894 BUDGET 2023-24 AND 2024-25

Members noted that for the financial year 2023-24 the Committee budget comprises a combination of the former PEAP budget (£4,010) and the Sustainability Projects budget (£2,000). Current expenditure against each of these budgets is £25 (with a further £2,000 already committed for footpath installation) and £808 respectively.

Members also noted the proposed budget for 2024-25 which combines the following: Sustainability Projects (£6,000), Wildflower Planting (£2,750), Tree Planting (£5,000), Community Garden (£1,500), totalling £15,250. In response to a question raised by Mark Carter regarding funding for on-going maintenance work, the Parish Clerk clarified that there is always some level of fluidity between each of these budget headings within the overall Committee budget. This draft budget is due to be submitted to the meeting of the Finance Committee on 30th October for initial approval.

895 MATTERS OF NOTE

- Cllr Lambert has been trained in facilitating sustainability workshops on behalf of Climate Fresk. He has kindly offered to host workshops for staff, councillors, and public members of Committees, the first of which is taking place on Monday 23rd October.
- Cllr Chachulski and parish officers recently met with representatives from SADC to look at ways to enhance the natural environment at Bentsley Spinney.
- The Parish Council has awarded a £1,500 grant to assist with costs associated with the recently established Friends of Jersey Lane volunteer group concerned with safeguarding the green environment along Jersey Lane.
- Cllr Chalkley has promoted a ‘sponsor a tree’ scheme through an advertisement in the Neighbourhood News which enables residents to provide funding to plant a tree – either in a grass verge or elsewhere within the parish. Residents are asked to contact Cllr Chalkley in the first

- instance.
- The Parish Council has recently changed the supplier of the two clothing banks sited in the car park behind Marshalswick Library to The Salvation Army. These banks are now being emptied more frequently and there has been no occurrence of fly tipping. The Clerk is proposing new sites for clothing banks at the November meeting of Full Council.
 - Cllr Wells is continuing discussions with Marshalswick Library regarding installation of bike racks outside the building.

IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS

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

Julian Thornton informed the Committee that issues between HCC and the landowner which resulted in a temporary closure of FP 32 in Sandridge have now been resolved and this permissive right of way has been reopened.

HCC is in continuing discussions with the Woodland Trust and SADC regarding the installation of signage to provide direction to cyclists between Heartwood Forest and No Mans Land. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Woodland Trust to request that signage is provided.

Julian updated Members on the situation regarding closure of BW 51 which has been temporarily closed by Oaklands College under a temporary traffic regulation order valid for six months until February. Discussions are ongoing between HCC and Oaklands College. It is expected that either an alternative permissive route will be provided or that the BW will be reopened.

Discussions are also ongoing between HCC and Taylor Wimpey regarding delivery of a S106 agreement to provide a new path linking the Oaklands Grange estate to BW 51.

Members noted that HCC will be undertaking scrub clearance on restricted BW1 from Fairfolds Farm along the Parish boundary.

Additionally, Julian is working with the Friends of Jersey Lane regarding the identification and maintenance of boundary trees.

Following requests from Committee members, Julian will look at the condition of drainage grips along BW8-9 and FP 29 from the Woodland Park onto St Helier Road.

897 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR TERNOUTH ON STATUS OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY

Members had previously received a report from Cllr Ternouth updating on the status of the Rights of Way working party, formed under PEAP, to secure public access to paths not yet designated as 'rights of way' or 'highways' on the definitive map. Two modification applications made by the Parish Council are still outstanding with HCC.

Cllr Ternouth informed Members that she has recently been contacted by local residents from Highfield Road seeking to safeguard a route through land adjacent to Jersey Farm Woodland Park (JFWP) which is under new

ownership. Discussion followed, after which it was proposed by Cllr Ternouth and seconded by Cllr Lambert, that Cllr Ternouth follow up with residents to establish whether there is sufficient evidence to make a modification application and if so, work with them to do so. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

That Cllr Ternouth would follow up with local residents, engaging their assistance as much as possible, to make a rights of way modification application to HCC on behalf of the Parish Council for the route through land adjacent to JFWP.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING NATURE

898 SUMMARY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PARISH OPEN SPACES

Members were asked to note the summary of management plan activity for each of the Parish green spaces. This work will largely be carried out by the Parish Warden Mark Carter assisted by the regular parish volunteers.

899 WILDFLOWER INITIATIVE

The PACE Officer provided a verbal update on the recent Paradise for Pollinators initiative and plans for future planting and rewilding. She explained that many of the seeds for early spring planting in 2024 will need to be purchased before the end of the 2023-24 financial year. The Committee agreed that any funds remaining in the PEAP budget towards year end could be used to purchase wildflower seeds. The PACE officer will present maps of proposed new planting sites to the next meeting. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

To continue to promote wildflower planting throughout the Parish in 2024, including digging additional wildflower beds in outdoor spaces, and using any unspent 2023-24 PEAP budget for the purchase of wildflower seeds.

900 COMMUNITY GARDEN INSTALLATION OF WATER BUTTS

Members noted that the community garden is currently kept watered from an outdoor tap but that a more sustainable approach would be the use of rainwater channelled and stored in water butts. It was agreed to purchase and install two water butts for this purchase at a cost of approximately £100. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

To purchase two water butts for installation in the community garden at a cost of approximately £100.

RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING, REPAIRING

901 INSTALLATION OF MIXED RECYCLING

The Parish Clerk provided a report to Members on the installation of mixed recycling bins within the Parish. Following discussion, it was;

RESOLVED

That the Parish will embark on a programme of updating waste bins, either by switching to dual bins or by adding an additional bin to one already in place, commencing in the busiest and highest profile locations. The Clerk will look at

the feasibility of an initial installation in Sherwood Park, and one other site. The draft budget to be put to Full Council in December will make provision for two new bins in 2024/5.

902 REPAIR WORKSHOPS

Members were asked to consider whether there is scope to organise repair workshop events in the parish. This will require recruitment of volunteers with specialist skills willing to provide their time to repair/make good items belonging to residents. Councillor Wells has notified officers that he is willing to become a repair volunteer. An initial advertisement in Neighbourhood News magazine was agreed as a first step to establish the levels of interest from further prospective volunteers. It was, unanimously;

RESOLVED

To place an advertisement in Neighbourhood News magazine to establish levels of interest from prospective volunteers to the concept of repair workshops hosted by the parish.

903 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

New sites for wildflower planting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chair

Date