



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm for a meeting of the Parish Council

PRESENT:

Councillors Jenny Roberts, Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells, John Hale, Mike White, Carol Chalkley, Adam Twidell, June Reid, Graham Leonard (Chair), Raihaanah Ahmed, Debbie Chachulski, Luke Sieger

OFFICERS:

Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer, Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Emma Hostler, Deputy Parish Clerk

ABSENT:

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IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public

5654 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Julie Oakley, James Lambert.

5655 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

5656 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 10th JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th January 2024 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

5657 Questions to Officers

There was none.

5658 Public Participation

There was none at this stage but some input at item 5669.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5659 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 11th January 2024 to 14th February 2024. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule for payment on 16th February 2024.

5660 Annual Risk Assessment

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had worked through the Parish Council's Local Council Risk System (LCRS) for the coming year in liaison with the Clerk. A summary was circulated with the agenda. No uncontrolled risks were identified during this year's assessment. Members were invited to view the full report at the Parish Office. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To formally note completion of the assessment.

5661 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

A draft policy document created by the Clerk was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that this was created to underpin the Council's approach to working with young people and so improving our sports and play areas, as currently being discussed by the Sports and Recreation Committee, in relation to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It will also inform future initiatives where there is some involvement with young or vulnerable people. It was noted that Councillors Ternouth and Chachulski have workplace experience in drafting similar documents. It was unanimously;

Resolved

That Councillors Ternouth and Chachulski review the draft and report back to next Full Council with any amendments.

5662 Income from Clothing Banks

Members noted that at a meeting held on the 23rd January 2024 the Committee for Sustainability was asked to consider recommendations it could make in using the clothing bank income towards a sustainability project. It was agreed the preferred option would be to create a reserve with unspent income earmarked and carried forward into 2024/25. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To create an earmarked reserve of all income received through clothing banks in 2023/24 and on into 2024/25.

5663 Christmas lights

Following a report from the Project and Amenities Officer it was unanimously;

Resolved

To supply and install new bright white LED lights with random twinkle in the tree to the front of Marshalswick Community Centre with a net cost of £1,830. It was further:

Resolved

To install a further four lights in the tree on the grassed area to the front of the Queens Head PH with a net cost of £1,236.

5664 Parish Van

It was noted that the Committee for Sustainability reviewed the use of the Parish Council's diesel van at a meeting last month. Committee Members discussed the merits of replacing the van with an electric vehicle, however, due to the low annual mileage it was agreed the preferred environmental option is to retain the existing vehicle for review in at least two years. After discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To set aside £2,500 annually toward the cost of a replacement vehicle in the future.

5665 Jersey Farm Open Space

Members discussed a short report detailing the history of this site and previous debates regarding the Parish Council making application to take ownership. It was noted that the District Council has some long term plans to further rewild and enhance the area and decided that the Parish Council could not add sufficient further value to justify the additional maintenance costs of nearly £10,000 annually. It was;

Resolved

Not to make an application for transfer of the asset at this time.

5666 Matters of Note

- Sandridge Parish Council hosted the January meeting of the St Albans District Association of Local Councils (SADALC).
- The Parish Conference will be held on Monday 11th March 2024 at Redbourn Parish Centre. Further details to follow.
- The Parish Office will be hosting a work experience pupil for two days over Easter as part of the school's Employer Contact Programme.
- The sink hole resulting from drainage works in the centre of the Parish Office car park has been repaired.
- A tree which fell across the alleyway to the William Bell open space during storms has been removed.
- The damaged lamp column to the entrance of the Parish Council's Ridgeway car park has been replaced by Ringway on behalf of HCC.
- Councillor Chalkley has recently completed the removal of basal growth on verge trees in Marshalswick and also secured with ties as needed. With support from the PACE Officer the removed growth has been collected and distributed within the Woodland Park.
- Budgetary Control – at a meeting of the Finance Committee held on February 12th, it was reported by the Clerk that projected outturn for 2023/24 is £303,356 against a budget of £343,095, representing a projected saving on budget of £39,739.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5667 Grant Applications

- Sandridge Primary School (Sandridge 10k). The Clerk was asked to write to the event organisers to ask for further detail on why funding is being sought.

5668 Community Bus Shelter Initiative

Councillor Roberts briefed Members on a meeting held on January 30th. It was noted that there is potential for a new shelter on the opposite side of the road to the library. Ideas discussed included a green living roof, replacement benches and timber planters. The Highways officer in attendance took some of the ideas away and undertook to speak to other local stakeholders before coming back to The Council.

5669 Oaklands College Rights of Way

County Councillor John Hale updated the meeting on discussions held with the college. He confirmed that discussions around the closure of the two drives were being held at the very highest level. It was noted that ongoing construction works were due to continue until October 2024, requiring an extension to the closure order. The college has been asked to publish a timetable of works going forward.

Post meeting note: A short term timetable and details of current issues/construction works still to come has been received from the college today, 15.02.2024.

5670 Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association

A report was circulated from Councillor Hale on recent discussions with Trustees of the Association. It was explained that a recovery plan is in place to address an ongoing issue with excessively high overheads at the sports hall and that a meeting with the Parish Office has taken place to see where assistance could be given. It was;

Resolved

To set aside a conditional grant of up to £10,000 to be retained by the Clerk and released as appropriate and in accordance with the agreed recovery plan.

5671 Parish Summer Event June 2024

Cllr Roberts provided a verbal update on plans for the Parish Summer Event on Saturday 1st June 2024. It was noted that the event was coinciding with an event at Oaklands college and, whilst concern was expressed by some Members, it was agreed through a vote to proceed with the original date.

5672 D-Day 80 Commemoration

This national event was discussed further to a report produced by Councillor Twidell in December when it was agreed in principle to participate in the D-Day 80 event on 6th June 2024 and to allocate a budget of up to £300.

The short ceremony will be held by the war memorial on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park with participation from the Scouts. An assurance was given that the small beacon would not damage the grass. Councillor Twidell undertook to produce a short report on what is proposed.

5673 Redevelopment of the Marshalswick Parish Office and Community Hall Site

Members discussed a proposal by Councillor Twidell for some Members to form a working party to discuss the viability of a rebuilt, fully sustainable community centre and office at the Marshalswick site. Interested councillors were asked to contact the Clerk.

5674 Meetings of Committees:

Members received a brief summary from the Chair of each of the following committees;

- 15th January 2024 Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee
- 17th January 2024 Sports and Recreation Committee
- 23rd January 2024 Committee for Sustainability
- 5th February 2024 Human Resources Committee
- 12th February 2024 Finance Committee
- Planning Committee – please see below

5675 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

5676 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 8th January 2024 and the 29th January 2024.

No comments were raised on planning applications reviewed since the last Full Council meeting.

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.

5677 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

The Clerk was asked to invite either one of the Sandridge PCSO's or the Community Sergeant to a future meeting.

Next meeting date – 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.36 pm

Chair

Date