

# *Sandridge Parish Council DRAFT*



## **COMMITTEE FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

- Present:** Cllr Jenny Roberts (Chair)  
Cllr June Reid  
Cllr Maurice Wells  
Cllr Mike White  
David Kealey  
Jim Watson (Friends of Jersey Lane)  
Philip Nalpanis (Sustainable St Albans)  
Mark Carter (Warden)  
Also in attendance were Parish Cllr Carol Chalkley, Tim Hill (Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust), Peter Block from Sustainable St Albans/St Albans Fixers, and two members of the public
- Officers:** Simon Thwaites, Clerk  
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk  
Rebecca Pannese, Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer (PACE)
- Absent:** Julian Thornton (Herts County Council)

### **922 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Debbie Chachulski, Cllr James Lambert and Cllr Mary Ternouth.

### **923 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

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

### **924 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024**

The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January meeting, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record. It was, unanimously;

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Committee for Sustainability Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

## **PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING NATURE**

### **925 WILDFLOWER INITIATIVE**

The PACE Officer updated members on progress preparing the ground for and sowing wildflower seeds in green spaces across the Parish. She reported on new beds dug in William Bell and Harness Way, St Leonards Open Spaces and Sherwood Park. Beds in the community garden have been dug over, with some intrusive

perennials removed, and reseeded. Advice was sought from and given by Tim Hill (Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust) on how best to propagate wildflowers.

**926 HERTS & MIDDLESEX WILDLIFE TRUST**

Tim Hill MCIEEM, Conservation Manager at the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust gave a presentation on the work of the organization and highlighted ways in which the Parish could contribute to its aims. Focus was given to the Hertfordshire State of Nature report, a copy of which can be found on the HMWT website and the preparation of the district's Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is a statutory requirement due for completion in 2025. Questions were asked by Members, and it was agreed that consideration should be given to some of the ideas raised at future meetings. Tim was thanked for his time and contribution to the meeting.

**927 COMMUNITY GARDEN INSTALLATION OF WATER BUTTS**

Two 1,000 litre water tanks have been installed at Marshalswick Community Centre to allow volunteers to maintain the Community Garden using rainwater (when available). Cllr Wells provided the Committee with a verbal update, explaining some of the initial problems experienced with harvesting rainwater from the downpipes and remedial measures taken. The butts are now working well.

**IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS**

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

Julian Thornton was absent from the meeting. In his absence the Chair, Cllr Roberts, referenced the recent reopening of the Oaklands College footpaths, although some one-off, short-term closures may still occur for UK Power Network installations. Jim Watson reported that a local working party has been set up to consider extension of existing footpaths into the larger rights of way network. Additionally, David Kealey drew the Committee's attention to concerns around the Footpath 20 diversion and the condition of the stiles which have been reported to Julian Thornton. Members also expressed an interest in future updates on progress over the Taylor Wimpey paths linking to North Drive and Oaklands College to Central Drive.

**929 FOOTPATHS AT THE HARNESS WAY OPEN SPACE**

Members received a report by Cllr Chalkley, produced in consultation with Cllr Wells, to propose the enhancement of the Harness Way Open Space through the provision of a footpath, benches, and new planting. Some discussion followed, including concerns over costs, extent of the wet ground, and proposed route for the path. The Clerk suggested that funding may be available with the current year's budget for the Sports and Recreation Grounds Committee if an approach were made at the next meeting. It was;

**RESOLVED**

To make a proposal to the Parish Council Sports and Recreation Committee for funding for installation of a footpath within Harness Way. Further consideration will be given to estimated costs and whether these should be increased, and significantly the routes for the footpath.

**RECYCLING, REUSING, REPURPOSING, REPAIRING**

**930 INSTALLATION OF MIXED RECYCLING BINS**

The Parish Clerk provided an update regarding ongoing efforts to install recycling bins in two local parks. These include obtaining a quote from Veolia to collect recycling and corresponding with the District Council's Chief Executive to help facilitate the process. The Clerk continues to await follow up.

### 931 REPAIR WORKSHOP

The Parish office has compiled a list of six volunteers who responded to an article in the Winter edition of Neighbourhood News to support the concept of a repair workshop organised by the Parish Council. Skills on offer include electronics, woodworking, sewing and computer maintenance. Cllr Wells has also attended a workshop in Cottonmill to better understand what is involved. Peter Block, a member of Sustainable St Albans and St Albans Fixers, kindly attended the meeting to provide background on previous events held, and useful tips on how to go about setting up a workshop event. Questions were asked and further discussion followed. Both Peter and Philip Nalpanis offered their support should the Parish proceed to host an event.

### 932 PARISH EVENT

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on efforts to ensure the Parish Council's Summer Event takes place sustainably. Successes so far include:

- The Green Man Public House will use compostable glasses at its bar.
- Food vendors have confirmed that no food will be sold in plastic containers.
- Rubbish collection has been outsourced to a national company which guarantees zero waste to landfill.
- The ice cream van will not have an engine idling during operation.
- The Parish has invested in lights run from rechargeable batteries for use in the vicinity of the toilets.
- Parking will be kept to a minimum and cycle racks have been installed to promote sustainable travel to the event.

### 933 SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN SUSTFEST

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to a local photographer regarding making a short film on the Paradise for Pollinators project, but fees made this impractical in addition to concerns over whether there is sufficient material available. The Clerk suggested a Parish presence at the Susfest Expo festival at the Alban Arena (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June) in the form of a table with information leaflets and display panels may be the most practical. It was agreed by the Committee to consider further.

## CARBON REDUCTION AND CAPTURE

### 934 SOLAR ENERGY BATTERY AT JERSEY FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Wells updated the Committee on investigations carried out into the feasibility of storing solar energy at Jersey Farm Community Centre. Having established that issues prevail in adequately heating the building using the existing equipment Cllr Wells advised that further investment into energy storage at this stage was not appropriate.

### 935 COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024-25

Members were reminded of the Committee's budget for the coming year.

<b>Committee for Sustainability</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>
Sustainability Projects	6,000
Old PEAP Budget	0
Community Garden	1,500
Wildflower/Pollinator Initiative	2,750
Tree Planting	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,250</b>

### 936 MATTERS OF NOTE

- A fourth clothing bank will soon be installed at Sherwood Park. All monies received to date and ongoing will be earmarked for use by this committee.

- The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer was interviewed by Radio station Mix 92.6 on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to further discuss the expansion of the Paradise for Pollinators project. Another local organisation is this year following the model to produce a jigsaw of wildflower beds.
- There has been significant tree planting on verges in recent months. Some of these have been planted through the County Council and others through Cllr Chalkley's scheme for residents to sponsor a tree planting adjacent to their property. Some six residents took part with further interest registered for the current year.
- Councillor Wells continues to wait on a decision from Marshalswick Library regarding permission to install a planter incorporating bike racks outside the building. A meeting with the Estates Manager was held in February but a decision from their legal team is still awaited.
- The Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee has resolved to plant a new hedgerow (1,800 whips) on the south bank of FP 27 from St Helier Road to Woodland House to provide further habitat for wildlife. This will take place in the early autumn with the help of regular parish volunteers, and hopefully recruits from the Parkrun community.
- The Woodland Park Committee resolved to install cycle parking for up to 8 bikes on the south side of the Woodland Park. These have now been fitted.
- Additionally, the Woodland Park Committee is updating and overhauling the faded wooden information boards around the park. These pieces of artwork inform visitors of the landscape, bird life and other wildlife that may be found there.
- A new hedge has been planted alongside the footpath at St Leonard's Open Space.
- Wood Anemone rhizomes have been planted by volunteers at the Jersey Farm Woodland Park.

**937 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Harness Way enhancements.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

**Chair** .....

**Date** .....