

SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL



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Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors Jenny Roberts, John Hale, Graham Leonard (Chair), Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells, Debbie Chachulski, James Lambert, Adam Twidell, Carol Chalkley

OFFICERS:

Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Stef Hayes, Community Centres Manager, Emma Hostler, Deputy Parish Clerk, Rebecca Pannese, Project Amenities and Community Engagement (PACE) Officer

ABSENT:

Councillors Mike White, June Reid and Julie Oakley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Five members of the public (see minute 5877) and County Councillor Allison Wren (arrived 7.45pm)

5872 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Raihaanah Ahmed and Luke Sieger

5873 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

5874 THE PASSING OF FORMER SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCILLOR JOHN NEWTON DAVIES

The Chair spoke of the recent sad loss of former parish councillor John Newton Davies, giving The Council's condolences to John's family and remembering his selfless duty to Sandridge village during his busy tenure as councillor.

5875 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11th DECEMBER 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th December 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

5876 Questions to Officers

There was none.

5877 Public Participation

The five members of public and County Councillor Allison Wren spoke to Members on the management of the allotment site off Woodcock Hill, Sandridge. The potential for Sandridge Parish Council to take over managing the site was discussed at length as was the formation of an Allotment Holders Association. The Chair stated that there was some interest amongst Members, in principle at least, to explore the matter further.

It was agreed that allotment holders and Councillor Wren would come to back to speak further on this once they had greater clarity over land ownership, access rights and are able to reference a similar model working successfully elsewhere.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5878 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 12th December 2024 to 8th January 2025, having been previously circulated. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To ratify payment of this schedule, made on 10th January 2025.

Members then reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 9th January 2025 to 12th February 2025. It was unanimously;

Resolved

That Members approve payment of this schedule on 14th February 2025.

5879 2024/25 Budgetary Control

A detailed budgetary Control Report was reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 10th 2025. Councillors noted the projected outturn to be £341,016 against the budget of £360,305 giving a projected underspend on budget of £19,289. Key contributors to this were identified as;

- An approved overspend on the Sports and Recreation cost centre (£12,300)
- An underspend on the Grounds Maintenance contract resulting from no asset transfers this year (£4,900)
- Increased community centres income (£24,000)
- Enhanced cleaning to both centres (£3,500)

It was unanimously;

Resolved

To formally note this projected financial position.

5880 Mobile food Vendor in the Village Hall / Spencer Meadow Car Park

Councillors considered a request by a mobile food vendor to pitch a fish and chip van at Spencer Meadow/Village Hall car park one evening a week (Thursday). It was unanimously;

Resolved

That, subject to the vendor securing a street traders licence, a two month trial would be approved.

5881 Parking Bays at Marshalswick Community Centre

Members considered a report circulated with the agenda recommending the two most cost-effective solutions to addressing misuse of the car park between the community centre and the Food Hall as; (a) to install signs at the back of five spaces informing drivers they are reserved for users of the Hall and (b) to mark the same bays with a strong colour to ensure they stand out and appear 'different' to drivers entering the car park. Estimates were given as £620 and £1,375 respectively (total £1,995). It was noted that a brief meeting of the working party produced a further option for consideration, that the three end spaces on both side of the car park are separated from the remainder by a 'barrier'. This idea will be progressed further by the Working Party and brought back to the Council at a later date.

In the interim, it was unanimously;

Resolved

To implement both of the above measures at the earliest opportunity in response to hirer's concerns.

5882 B651 Traffic Calming

County Councillor Allison Wren updated The Council on imminent traffic calming works near the junction of St Albans Road and Sandringham Crescent.

5883 Annual Parish Council Risk Assessment

On February 4th 2025 the Deputy Clerk and the Clerk worked through the Parish Council's Local Council Risk System (LCRS) for the coming year. After consideration it was unanimously;

Resolved

That completion of the assessment is formally noted. A full copy of the document is available on request at the Parish Office.

5884 Spencer Meadow – Advertising on the Perimeter of the Football and Cricket Pitches

Members were informed that an opportunity has arisen to erect advertising hoarding around the Spencer Meadow pitches and so raise funds for the clubs and the Sports Association. It was unanimously;

Resolved

That Members agree in principle to advertising being permitted around the perimeter of the pitches to raise funds for the benefit of the Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association. It was noted that views of other stakeholders would still be sought and planning permission may be required. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve payment of the appropriate planning fees should planning permission be required and if the consensus is to move forward. The Clerk undertook to come back to Full Council should planning fees be substantial.

5885 Matters of Note

- Staff appraisals were carried out in January 2025. These were taken to the HR Committee on 3rd February.
- The new planter/bike rack outside the library has been installed by Councillors Wells and Chalkley. It has been filled with compost donated by John O'Conner Ltd and filled with plants from a local nursery.
- The Parish Council will host its first Repair Fair on 15th February at Jersey Farm Community Centre. This will be subject to pre booked slots (via Eventbrite) with St Albans Fixers acting as our guests.
- All three Parish Council owned defibrillators have had their batteries replaced. These have a life of five years.
- On March 5th the Sports and Recreation Committee will consider the work of an alternative local street artist to complete the skate ramp artwork.
- The Parish Conference will be held in the District Council Chamber on March 18th in the afternoon. Details to follow but please pencil in the date and let The Clerk know if there is an agenda item you'd particularly like to see. Devolution is likely to feature strongly.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5886 Grant Applications

- Sandridge 10K Run

Members considered an application from Sandridge 10K. After consideration it was unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £750 for this purpose.

This award to be made using S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972

5887 MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:

Committee Chairs briefed Members on meetings held since last Full Council

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park 13th January 2025
- Committee for Sustainability 21st January 2025
- Human Resources Committee 3rd February 2025
- Finance Committee 10th February 2025
- Planning Committee – see below

5888 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There was none.

5889 PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 16th December 2024, 13th January 2025 and 3rd February 2025. The Committee meets every three weeks to review and respond to planning applications received from the Planning Authority, St. Albans District Council.

Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

- 40 Ardens Way 5/2024/2017
- Ardens Rise House 5/2024/1726
- 16 Chiltern Road 5/2024/1853
- 54 Barnfield Road 5/2024/2005
- Land Adjacent 38 House Lane 5/2024/2093
- 44 The Ridgeway 5/2024/1942

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.

5890 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There was none.

Note: In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council meeting will be open to the Public unless the Parish Council resolves otherwise

Next meeting date – 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04 pm

Chair **Date**