

# SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL



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Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm

## PRESENT:

Councillors Jenny Roberts, John Hale, Graham Leonard (Chair), Mary Ternouth, Maurice Wells, James Lambert, Carol Chalkley, June Reid, Luke Sieger, Mike White

## OFFICERS:

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

## ABSENT:

None

## IN ATTENDANCE:

No members of the public were present

## 5891 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Raihaanah Ahmed, Adam Twidell, Julie Oakley, Debbie Chachulski

## 5892 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

## 5893 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 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.

## 5894 QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS

There was none.

## 5895 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none

## CLERK'S REPORTS

## 5896 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025, having been previously circulated. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To approve payment of this schedule on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**5897 New NALC Financial Regulations**

In October 2024 the Finance Committee resolved that Committee Members would review a draft of the Financial Regulations, amended by the Deputy Clerk to reflect the new updated NALC model and further amended to reflect changes previously made to the original model by Sandridge Parish Council. The Deputy Clerk and Councillor Hale then met separately to review the amendments. There was a Finance Committee meeting on 10th February 2025 when it was resolved to recommend the amended version to Full Council. It was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To adopt the Regulations as amended.

**5898 Finance Committee Terms of Reference**

Following review of the new draft Financial Regulations (please see above), amendments have been made to the Committee Terms of Reference to reflect the Committee responsibilities referenced in the Financial Regulations. Members received a copy of the amended document and it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

To adopt the amended Finance Committee Terms of Reference.

**5899 Committee Room Tables**

Details of the proposed replacement Committee Room tables were distributed to all Members. These are considered by the Centres Manager and Clerk to be suitable alternatives to those currently used but with the following enhancements;

- Able to be configured in a variety of ways depending on the occasion/meeting size
- Fully foldable
- Robust but more easily moved therefore reducing any risk of injury

The estimate for replacement tables (including corner units) was approved in October at £1,750, however the actual cost has now proved to be higher. The best quote received for tables of an acceptable quality is £2,582, negotiated down to £2,348. The Centres Manager reported that she had recently received an offer of £300 for the existing table (having contacted a large number of furniture dealers) leaving a net deficit of £298. Questions were asked following which it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

1. For Members to approve additional costs of up to £750 (from the 2025/26 budget)
2. To approve the furniture range attached with the agenda

**5900 Sandridge Village Finger Post**

Members were informed that the finger post at the junction of Sandridge High Street and House Lane has been removed following vandalism. This is likely due to someone hanging from one of the fingers, pulling the whole post over where there was rot at ground level. Two fingers have previously been broken off and replaced at great expense and some difficulty (the fingers are composite and are not designed to be replaced). The fingers pointed to Sandridge School, Sandridge Scouts, Spencer Hall and St Leonard's Church.

A quote of £1,327 (net) has been obtained to replace the post (excluding installation). It's unknown what agreements were in place with both Highways and the local Planning Authority when the post was first installed. Following discussion, it was unanimously;

**Resolved**

That the Council defers a decision on whether to replace the post until such time as it is raised as a request by residents.

## **5901 Matters of Note**

- The owners of Flowers Flowers are anticipating taking occupation of the allotted car parking space as previously approved in mid to late March.
- The swift box built by Councillor Wells has now been installed in St Leonard's church tower following a successful collaboration between the Diocese and the Parish Council.
- The Repair Fair hosted by the Parish Council on 15<sup>th</sup> February at Jersey Farm Community Centre was a great success with 61kg of landfill being saved through repair (24 items fixed). The Parish Office and Councillor Wells will liaise with St Albans Fixers to determine next steps. The next possible time the Parish Council can host is 2026.
- The Library of Things (also known as Share St Albans) will be using half of one of the Parish Council's two garages, the other half being used currently by the gentleman who maintains the Marshalswick Community Centre grass. The progress of this new scheme will be discussed further by members of the Committee for Sustainability at its April meeting.
- The Parish Council's internal auditor will be attending the Parish Office on April 28<sup>th</sup> to carry out the year-end internal audit.
- The four clothing banks collected a little short of three metric tonnes of clothing and shoes in January. The commission rate has, unfortunately, remained low (this is set nationally).
- The swift boxes ordered by householders as part of the Parish Council's subsidised swift box scheme are due to be fitted next weekend 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

## **COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **5902 Grant Applications**

There are no applications this month.

### **5903 Proposed Housing Development – North East St Albans**

A report and recommendation from Councillor Ternouth was distributed to all Members. This highlighted concerns about the extent to which the Parish Neighbourhood Plan is considered in discussions between Oaklands College, Taylor Wimpey and St Albans District Council on the proposed Oaklands College (East St Albans) housing development. Councillor Ternouth explained that since submitting her report, assurances have been received that SADC is taking the Neighbourhood Plan into account in discussions and therefore withdrew the recommendation.

Councillor Hale provided a verbal update of the recent meeting between Taylor Wimpey, Oaklands College and representatives of the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> March. This included outline details of the proposed development and timings. The planning application is expected to be submitted by the end of May, with another public consultation prior to that.

Members were informed that SADC are holding a pre-application councillor engagement meeting with the developers on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Councillors Leonard and White are to confirm who will attend as a representative of the Parish Council.

### **5904 Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association (SYSCA)**

Members received a verbal update on recent meetings of SYSCA from Councillor Hale. This included the ongoing need for a full financial plan in order to safeguard the future of the Association and its member organisations.

### **5905 MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:**

Committee Chairs briefed Members on meetings held since last Full Council

- Sports and Recreation 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – postponed until 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Planning Committee – see below

### **5906 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA**

Councillor Roberts extended an invitation to Members to attend a meeting held by St Albans Friends of the Earth on 14<sup>th</sup> March at which she will be giving a short talk on bats.

Councillors were reminded of the forthcoming St Albans Parish Conference on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Civic Centre and encouraged to attend.

**5907 PLANNING MATTERS**

The Planning Committee met on 24<sup>th</sup> 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;

- 49 St Leonard's Crescent 5/2025/0002

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.

**5908 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

An update from Councillor Hale on the recent meeting with Herts County Council Highways team.  
 A progress report from the Centres Manager on the implementation of parking spaces for Marshalswick Community Centre users.  
 An update on the SADC meeting with Taylor Wimpey/Oaklands Grange on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.  
 An update on the St Albans Parish Conference 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**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 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre (preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm).**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Chair .....**      **Date .....**