

SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL



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Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

OFFICERS:

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

ABSENT:

None

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Mike Caddy, Woodcock Hill Allotment Holders Association

Please note: This meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting

5909 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors James Lambert, Adam Twidell, Julie Oakley, Debbie Chachulski

5910 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

5911 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 12th MARCH 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th March 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.

5912 QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS

There was none.

5913 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deferred to item 5915.

Councillor Ahmed joined the meeting.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5914 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 13th March 2025 to 9th April 2025, having been previously circulated. One question was asked and responded to before It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve payment of this schedule on 11th April 2025.

5915 Woodcock Hill Allotments

Mr Mike Caddy spoke to Members, informing them that an Allotment Holders Association has now been formed at Woodcock Hill as part of the National Allotment Society, creating an upsurge in interest from other allotment holders. He confirmed that County Councillor Allison Wren had requested a meeting with the relevant officer at Herts County Council to determine current levels of expenditure at the site and also the willingness of the Council to hand management to the Parish Council. Councillor Chalkley expressed an interest in attending. This matter to be progressed at a later meeting once the above has been established.

Councillor Sieger joined the meeting.

5916 Local Policing

PCSO Chris Stokes attended the meeting to update Members on current policing issues within the parish. A number of topics were covered following which Chris was thanked for his attendance.

5917 Library of Things (Share St Albans)

A member of Share St Albans was unfortunately unavailable to attend the meeting but expects to come to the next Full Council meeting on May 14th.

5918 A verbal Progress Report from the Community Centres Manager on the implementation of Reserved Parking Spaces for Marshalswick Community Centre Users

The Centres Manager confirmed that the five reserved spaces and signage are expected to be complete by the end of April. It is hoped this will allow users of the centre to park more readily.

5919 Wildflowers in Sandridge Parish

The Clerk read a statement from the PACE Officer regarding this year's wildflower beds at Harness Way open space, St Leonard's open space, William Bell open space, St Leonard's churchyard and Sherwood Park. It's hoped to produce a colourful display of annuals to support wildlife this year.

5920 Community Garden – The Ollie Foundation

Councillor Chalkley explained some of the constructive talks she's had with the Ollie Foundation CEO in respect of their involvement in the community garden. This includes volunteer days and Arts in the Garden events. The foundation's involvement in the garden was seen as very positive.

5921 Matters of Note

- John O'Conner Ltd have planted eight new trees on The Ridgeway, Barnfield Road and Highfield Road on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Office has had reinstatement valuations for the two community centres carried out. These have been forwarded to the Council's insurers to be applied to the existing policy but have not resulted in an increased premium this year.
- The Year-End Internal Audit will focus around the auditor attending the Parish Office on 28th April 2025.
- The Sports and Recreation Committee have engaged with a new street artist to finish the skate ramp on the Jersey Farm Open Space. This will be a collaborative event with the community encouraged to attend and join in. A poster is enclosed and Members are asked to encourage resident participation.

- Around 32 swift nesting boxes will have been installed within the parish by this meeting. The Committee for Sustainability will continue with the scheme in 2025/26 with many more residents expressing an interest.
- The Jersey Farm Community Centre will be decorated internally in August 2025.
- Work to repair the Tarmac surfacing around Spencer Hall will take place on Thursday 3rd April.
- Traffic calming works on the B651 have now been completed by Herts Highways.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5922 Grant Applications

- Holiday at Home (St Mary's)

Members discussed this grant application before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £1,200 towards the Holiday at Home event.

5923 VE-Day 80 Commemoration

Councillor Roberts updated Members on a VE Day event to be held at St Leonard's Church on May 8th when a beacon will be lit. Councillor Ahmed informed the meeting that a street party will be held on Sherwood Avenue, Marshalswick.

5924 A verbal update from Councillor Hale on the recent meeting with HCC Highways Team

County and Parish Councillor John Hale updated Members on issues relating to various addresses including Coopers Green lane, Chalkdell Field, Oaklands Grange and Barnfield Road.

5925 Red Eagle S6 Bus Service

Councillor Ternouth presented a report concerning issues with the S6 Red Eagle bus service. Following discussion, she undertook to draft for approval a letter to the County Council's Network Planners seeking a meeting.

5926 East St Albans Development – Interim Report

Members reviewed a report from Councillor Ternouth regarding the next Taylor Wimpey development. It was noted that Planners may not always fully consider the Neighbourhood Plan when assessing large applications. Also noted was that, at the Parish Conference, Planners specifically asked Parish Councils to inform them of what infrastructure they would expect to be conditional for each large development.

Two things were agreed: firstly the recommendations in the report were agreed for action with the proviso that the letters were to come from the Chair and the Clerk on behalf of the PC; secondly: it was agreed that a meeting be held at 2pm on April 24th at the Parish Council office for interested councillors to discuss a co-ordinated approach before attending the community engagement event at 3pm the same day.

(SPC has been invited to attend at 3pm, the general consultation event starts at 3.30pm).

5927 Parish Summer Event

Councillors briefly considered what event could be held this year. It was suggested that any ideas be brought to the next meeting.

5928 An update on the St Albans Parish Conference held on 18th March.

Attendees of the annual Parish Conference gave their views on the event. Over all it was felt to be useful.

5929 MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES:

Committee Chairs briefed Members on meetings held since last Full Council.

- Sports and Recreation 17th March 2025
- Committee for Sustainability 1st April 2025
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 7th April 2025

- Planning Committee – please see below

5930 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- It was asked when *Flowers Flowers* would be occupying their allocated space within The Ridgeway car park and the Clerk responded it will now be Good Friday (18th).
- Councillor Sieger informed the meeting he would be standing down due to work commitments and that this would be his last meeting.

5931 PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Committee met on 17th March and 7th April 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;

- 235/237 Sandpit Lane 5/2025/0018
- 38 Briar Road 5/2024/2212
- 114 Osprey Drive 5/2025/0264
- 1 Wycombe Place 5/2024/2225

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.

5932 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- Meeting with Taylor Wimpey regarding Oaklands Grange
- Co-option of new councillor

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 – 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chair **Date**