

JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Met remotely via video conferencing on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Jenny Roberts –Chair
Parish Councillors –Claudio Duran, John Newton-Davies
District Councillors - Clare Julien, Frances Leonard
Warden – Mark Carter
Public Members – Tony Farnfield, John Forward, Clyde Martindill, Sue Riley

Apologies:

Public Members – Jamie Burrows, Carrie Sherriff

Absent:

Parish Councillor - Geoff Churchard
Public Member - David Burrows

Officers:

Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk
Rebecca Pannese, Project & Amenities Officer

A site visit to the Woodland Park took place at 4pm on Monday 12th April attended by Cllr Roberts, Mark Carter and the Deputy Clerk.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mark Carter declared an interest as he is working as a self-employed contractor for Sandridge Parish Council.

530. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee held on 11th January 2021 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee held on the 11th January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

531. MATTERS OF REPORT

- We are pleased to report that the red maple tree, chosen by John Forward and family in memory of their mother and former committee member Pat Forward, has now been planted on the Woodland Park adjacent to the Memorial Wood.
- Having erected a fenced area for skylarks on the meadow grass as agreed at the last meeting, concerns were raised that the area was too small to provide a viable nesting site and visitors were crossing the grass to take a closer look. Following a meeting between councillors, and having sought advice from the Park Manager of Richmond Park, 5m lengths of chestnut paling fencing have now been erected at entrances to paths crossing the meadow with signage requesting visitors to stay off the meadow grass.
- Additional wildflower plants and bulbs have been bought and have now been planted in the recently thinned plantations. These include primulas, violets, and wood anemones. Snowdrops and bluebells will be planted imminently.
- The rubbish reported on the Woodland Park, including shopping trollies and an illicit camp, have now been removed by John O'Connor at a cost of over £500 paid for out of Parish Council funds.
- The Parish Clerk has yet to receive an estimate of annual costs relating to the maintenance of the playground and green space between Wheat Close and the Woodland Park, with a view to taking freehold transfer of this land as reported at the last meeting.

532. MANAGEMENT PLANS AND BUDGET

Committee members received a breakdown of the final outturn of the 2020/21 budget which totalled £7021.40. The saving of approximately £3,000 against the original budget is attributable to the fact that the meadow grass was not cut.

The Committee noted that the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee budget for 2021-22 is £8,075. Members also received a copy of the 2021-22 Management Plan and a copy of the original illustrated plans from which this has been drawn up. Members were asked to note that the costs for implementing this current plan is estimated at £7,895 and therefore any additional works on the Woodland Park will need to be carefully considered.

533. BIENNIAL TREE SURVEY

Mark Carter provided Members with a copy of the biennial safety survey of trees on the Woodland Park and recommended works. Some discussion ensued regarding individual trees but in the main the Committee considered the report reassuring and thanked Mark for the work undertaken.

534. ADDITIONAL WORKS ON THE WOODLAND PARK

Having considered the financial implications of undertaking any additional works to those already contained in the management plan (see item 532 above), some discussion ensued regarding the £2,000 allocation for bridleway resurfacing, specifically the length of bridleway between Highfield Road and Jersey Lane (BW 53). Following the Woodland Park walkabout earlier in the day, Cllr Roberts also raised the need to consider works to repair and make safe the entrance to the Woodland Park from Jersey Lane. The Project and Amenities Officer will write to Julian Thornton at Herts County Council to request a site visit to scope out the extent and potential costs of undertaking these repairs and whether some financial assistance could be provided.

Members also discussed the matter of relocating the memorial stone at the Chiltern Road entrance given concerns raised at earlier meetings on the muddy conditions due to increased visitor numbers and recent wet weather over the winter months. Following the earlier site visit, Cllr Roberts proposed a position adjacent to the Burma Star memorial site and at the rear of the existing tree planting opposite the Chiltern Road entrance. Members requested another site visit to better understand the exact location and it was agreed that this would be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee, including whether the memorial should be raised from the ground by some means. These considerations coincide with early thoughts regarding a fitting memorial for the recently deceased Duke of Edinburgh. Cllr Jenny Roberts suggested planting a tree, specifically an oak tree, and/or renaming one of the plantations. A reduced grass cutting area around the memorial sites was also discussed.

In the meantime, the committee agreed to fence off the area around the memorial stone to optimise the opportunity for the grass to revive over the spring and summer months. It was also agreed to defer any plans to extend footpath surfacing from the Chiltern Road entrance as it would not be cost effective to do so on a stand-alone basis but should be incorporated into other works when a contractor is on site.

535. THE SANDRIDGE 10K 12th September 2021

Details of a request from the Sandridge 10K on behalf of Sandridge School event committee were distributed to Members and discussion ensued. It was agreed to request additional information from the committee including:

- Providing additional marshals
- Timing on the day and staggered starts
- Additional publicity to notify other Park others
- A copy of an event risk assessment

The Deputy Clerk will forward these details once received in order that a final decision can be made prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

536. REVIEW OF THE JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TITLE

Following a recent query regarding the use of 'Joint Management' in the Committee title now that the Woodland Park is entirely funded by Sandridge Parish Council on a 30-year lease, Committee Members agreed that it would be appropriate to amend the title to 'The Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee' going forward.

537. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

The Project and Amenities Officer informed the committee that future volunteer activities would continue on a low-key basis to ensure that the parish adhere with Covid safety guidelines.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.30pm. Venue to be determined. There will be a site inspection meeting at Woodland House, Jersey Farm Woodland Park, at 6.30pm, Government guidelines permitting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman

Date