



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm for a meeting of The Council

PRESENT:

Councillors John Hale (Chair), Neil Harris, Jenny Roberts, Janet Churchard, Geoff Churchard, Graham Leonard, June Reid, Jon Hegerty, John Foster, Claudio Duran, Lyn Bolton, John Newton Davies, Patsy Cann

APOLOGIES:

None

OFFICERS:

Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk
Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

5140 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Roberts declared herself to be a member of the Parochial Church Council. Councillors Geoff Churchard and Janet Churchard declared having family members at rest in the House Lane cemetery. (see Grants).

5141 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9th June 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th June 2021 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

5142 Questions to the Officers

There was none.

5143 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5144 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments due for the period 10th June 2021 to 14th July 2021. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve creditor payments as detailed on the schedule.

5145 Parish Projects

The Project and Amenities Office took questions from Members before her report was formally noted.

Note: Councillor Patsy Cann joined the meeting at this point.

5146 To ratify a £5,000 virement from the Parish Event budget to the Sports Court Enhancement Budget

It was noted that the Finance Committee has approved the release of £15,000 held in reserves for the purpose of enhancing one of the courts at Spencer Meadow by installing Astro-turf. Also noted was a resolution by that committee to vire (re-allocate budget) £5,000 from the Parish Event budget to this project (total refurbishment cost £20,000). It was unanimously;

Resolved

To ratify the virement of £5,000 from the Parish Event to the refurbishment of the Spencer Meadow sports court.

5147 Re-adoption of Standing Orders

Members reviewed the Parish Council's Standing Orders. It was;

Resolved

To re-adopt the Standing Orders for the forthcoming year with the stipulation that the Clerk reviews a number of points requiring clarification as raised by Councillor Leonard. The Clerk to then bring suggested amendments back to Full Council within this calendar year.

5148 Police Priority Setting Forum (PPSF)

It was noted that there are two regular PPSF meetings for Harpenden (Sandridge village) and St Albans (the rest of the parish) to which councillors are invited to raise local issues and help set priorities. Councillor Hale undertook to send the Clerk dates of future meetings for circulation. All councillors are encouraged to attend.

5149 Parliamentary Boundary Review

Members considered a summary of the key proposals contained within the Boundary Commission's consultation on parliamentary boundary changes. It was proposed by Councillor Jon Hegerty and seconded by Councillor Geoff Churchard before it being unanimously;

Resolved

To submit the following representation;

“Sandridge Parish Council strongly objects to the proposals as they impact this parish. Prior to the last change in constituency boundaries, the parish was entirely within one constituency. The parish considers that this would be a preferable outcome and could be achieved by including Sandridge ward within the proposed St Albans constituency. Residents of that ward, especially those within Jersey Farm, which is contiguous with the urban area of St Albans, consider that they live in St Albans and are not separate from St Albans.

Alternatively, should the commission decide to amend the constituency boundaries so as to reflect the recently proposed new ward boundaries for St Albans District, then both Marshalswick West and Marshalswick East and Jersey Farm should be included in the proposed St Albans constituency. While the parish believes including the entire parish within the St Albans constituency is preferable, this would at least bring the Jersey Farm area into the constituency”.

5150 Matters of note

- The broken Spinner within Sherwood Park playground has been replaced with a colourful new piece of apparatus.
- Fifteen hanging baskets have been installed throughout the parish as per the Grounds Maintenance Contract.
- Tree work has been completed in the car park adjacent to the Marshalswick Community Centre. The Clerk is in ongoing discussions with residents on Jersey Lane regarding responsibility for maintenance of the fencing between the housing and the Parish Council owned land.
- A letter was sent to Herts County Council on 5th July 2021 in respect of traffic calming on the St Albans Road and Sandridge High Street. A copy of this was forwarded electronically to councillors on the same day.
- It is likely the Sports and recreation Committee meeting scheduled for July 21st will now be held on July 28th.
- Investigative works are being carried out to the guttering and drains at Marshalswick Community Centre, which has identified a requirement for a replacement soakaway. This work will be completed in advance of additional groundworks on the grassed area, necessary before artificial turf is laid there.
- It was noted that the provision of a water fountain at Spencer Meadow is not being progressed currently due to concerns about the use of such facilities and COVID.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5151 Grant Applications

- St Leonard's Church

Following discussion, it was;

Resolved

To award St Leonard's Church the sum of £2,000 to be used towards the maintenance of trees and hedges in the House Lane cemetery. This award made using the General Power of Competence.

Note: The Clerk was asked to revisit the rules concerning parish councils making grant awards to churches

5152 Resident Survey

Councillors considered a report from Councillor Hale on the recently completed survey of resident's views on various aspects of living in the parish. The report was formally noted and Councillor Hale agreed to circulate details of comments received.

5153 PEAP Committee Virement Request

It was noted that the PEAP Committee has a funding shortfall for the construction of a granite pathway between Sherwood Park and Hazelmere Road (through Skyswood). Following a recommendation by Councillor Roberts it was unanimously;

Resolved

To vire the £1,750 budget from this year's Nomansland Quest budget to the PEAP budget to allow construction of the pathway to go ahead.

5154 Traffic Calming Working Party

Councillor Newton-Davies recommended to the meeting that the Traffic Calming Working Party be reformed to address issues on the B651 from the King William public house through the village centre and beyond. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To re-form a working party for this purpose. All councillors were invited to participate with an initial membership of Councillors Newton-Davies, Hegerty, Hale, Bolton, Reid, Duran and Churchard (Geoff).

5155 Cycle Trail at the Jersey Farm Open Space

Councillor Leonard gave a verbal update on the anticipated costs of providing this facility. It was noted that, because ecological and resident's surveys needed to be carried out and a planning application made, the project was likely to extend into next year. The budget for this year would be carried forward into 2022/23 with an additional sum requested in the next budget round, total costs to be in the region of £48,000.

Councillor Leonard explained that there may be sponsorship opportunities and grant funding to explore.

5156 Meetings of Committees:

There were no issues raised from the following draft committee minutes produced since the last Full Council.

- Planning Committee 10th June and 1st July 2021
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 5th July 2021
- PEAP Committee 6th July 2021

It was however noted that, for meetings held at the Jersey Farm Community Centre, the acoustics in the Hall made hearing discussions difficult. The Clerk to ask the Centres Manager to make tentative enquiries at the Village Hall as to the effectiveness of the absorptive ceiling panels installed there and then report to the Community Centres Committee in September.

5157 Planning Matters

No significant issues were raised. It was noted that the Planning Committee had objected to/commented on the following application since last Full Council.

- 5/2020/1555 - 57 Harness Way, St Albans
- 5/2021/1830 - Hardings, Nomansland Farm, Wheathampstead
- 5/2021/1680 - 12 Rose Walk, St Albans
- 5/2021/1663 - 9 Cromwell Close, St Albans

It was noted that Sandridge Parish Council is aware of a webpage promoting a speculative development of housing on the edge of Sandridge village. The Parish Council is not aware of any planning application having been made for such a development, nor of the land having been proposed to the district council as a development site following the recent call for such sites. Should any proposal be brought forward it would be contrary to the policies in the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan as the site is in the Green Belt. The Parish Council monitors planning applications relating to the parish and would strongly oppose any applications that were contrary to the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan.

5158 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Bike Trail
- 2022/23 Parish Event

5159 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There was none.

5160 Councillor Hale read a statement regarding civility in dealing with others in all aspects of public life. He undertook to circulate a copy of the statement to all members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, September 8th at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

Chair

Date

Cllr John Hale