

# *Sandridge Parish Council*



## **JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Met at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (following postponement of January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting due to Covid restrictions)

### **Present:**

Councillor Jenny Roberts – Chair  
Parish Councillors – Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard,  
District Councillors – Frances Leonard, Raj Visram

Warden – Mark Carter

Public Members – Tony Farnfield, John Forward, Sue Riley

### **Apologies:**

Public Member – Clyde Martindill

### **Absent:**

Parish Councillor – Jon Hegerty

Public Members – Jamie Burrows, David Burrows, Carrie Sherriff

### **Officers:**

Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

### **Attendance:**

Two members of the public

## **559. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

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

## **560. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **561. MEMORIAL BENCH REQUESTS**

Due to attendance by two members of the public with interests in item 8 Memorial Bench Requests of the agenda, it was agreed to bring this matter forward to this point in the meeting for discussion.

The Parish Council has received a request for a memorial bench on the Woodland Park from the Baha'i Faith group. Due to the faith-based nature of the request it was agreed that this should be a matter for consideration by the committee. Members present agreed that it would be appropriate for the request to be approved. The two members of the public in attendance left the meeting at this point.

A further request has been received from a local resident to replace an existing bench they considered in need of repair and attach a memorial plaque. Discussion followed and it was agreed that it was not appropriate to replace the existing bench but that the resident could be offered an alternative site in the area of the Southwest Plantation where there is space available. This also prompted the committee to consider the need for a revised memorial bench policy as there is concern the Woodland Park is reaching maximum bench capacity. Thought should be given to possibly repurposing neglected benches or placing a timeframe on future bench requests.

#### **562. MATTERS OF REPORT**

- Mark Carter has been undertaking routine maintenance work from the management plan including, thinning of the South Plantation, bramble clearance around the memorial stone, cutting back the north hedge, cleaning of interpretation boards and bird boxes and tree inspections.
- Julian Thornton, Herts County Council, has confirmed that repair works to BW 53 and the entrance to the Woodland Park is due to start imminently.
- In collaboration with St Leonard's Church a small ceremony was held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate tree planting by volunteers in St Leonard's Open Space as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. The parish received a £350 grant from HCC towards the cost of the trees. The event was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Marion Brown and Herts County Councillors Annie Brewster and John Hale.
- Heidi Carruthers of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation were due to present a proposal to construct a butterfly bank on the Woodland Park but were not able to make the revised meeting date. They have confirmed they will present at the April meeting.
- The Parish Council has started planning for a summer event on the Woodland Park, with a provisional date of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the long bank holiday weekend.
- Parish Councillor, and committee member Claudio Duran resigned his position effective from end of 2021. Having posted a notice of election, but receiving insufficient responses, the vacancy for Marshalswick North (East) ward is now being advertised with a view to filling by co-option at the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 meeting of Full Council. The deadline for applications is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

#### **563. RELOCATION OF THE MEMORIAL STONE**

The Committee was informed that Mark Carter has not been able to move the memorial stone to the agreed new location due to size and weight of the concrete base. Whilst further consideration will be given to the task, Members were asked whether they felt a laying a hard surface path running adjacent to the stone might not provide an alternative solution to the problem of muddy ground conditions in the area. Following discussion, the Committee expressed a preference for continuing to try to relocate the stone, using professional help if necessary.

#### **564. EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET**

The Deputy Clerk reported that expenditure to date for 2021-22 is £5,712 of an £8,075 budget. Projected out turn is likely to be around £2,000 under budget as there has been no requirement for footpath repairs due to works being undertaken by HCC as part of earmarked Covid repair funding – see Matters of Report.

The Deputy Clerk also reported that the 2022-23 budget had now been agreed at £14,500 including a £5,500 allocation for a new mower. Some discussion ensued regarding budget setting and it was agreed that future budgets would be discussed against management plans at the July meeting.

**565. THE QUEEN’S PLANTINUM JUBILEE**

Having previously agreed to rename one of the existing Woodland Park plantations to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee year, the Committee discussed options. Additionally, following earlier discussions, it was also agreed to rename a Plantation in memory of the late Pat Forward, a long-standing former member of the Woodland Park Committee. Following a proposal by Cllr J Roberts, and seconded by Cllr F Leonard, it was;

**Resolved**

To rename the East Plantation ‘Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Wood’ to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee year.

Following a proposal by Cllr G Churchard, and seconded by public member Sue Riley, it was further;

**Resolved**

To rename the West Plantation ‘Pat’s Wood’ in memory of the late Committee Member Pat Forward.

**566. VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**

Members were informed that the March volunteer date will take place at Sherwood Park, preparing the ground for wildflower planting, and the skylark fencing on the Woodland Park will be erected by volunteers in April. Mark Carter reported that all the nesting boxes on the Woodland Park had been successful, but as yet no sign of bats.

**567. SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

To prepare a ‘walks and talks’ agenda

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the JFWP Management Committee will take place at Marshalswick Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. A site visit prior to the meeting will take place at 6.30pm meeting outside Woodland House on the Woodland Park.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chair .....

Date .....