



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm for a Meeting of the Parish Council. This was preceded at 7pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors John Foster, Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard, Jenny Roberts, Lyn Bolton, John Hale, Neil Harris, Jonathan Maskell, June Reid, Graham Leonard, John Newton Davies

OFFICERS:

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

ABSENT:

Councillor Sam Vosper

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public

5472 TO RECEIVE AND FORMALLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received and accepted from Councillors Jon Hegerty and Patsy Cann.

5473 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Bolton expressed an interest in the Jersey Farm Day Care Centre grant application and Councillor Roberts declared an interest in the St Leonard's cemetery maintenance grant application. Each undertook not to vote on their respective application.

5474 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8th MARCH 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th March 2023 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

5475 Questions to Officers

There was none.

5476 Public Participation – an opportunity for residents to raise issues or ask questions of Members

The member of the public present asked to speak later on the agenda (item 5480) and this was agreed.

CLERK'S REPORTS

5477 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments for the period 9th March 2023 to 12th April 2023. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the payment of this schedule on 14th April 2023.

5478 Paradise for Pollinators – Wildflowers in Sandridge Parish

The Project, Amenities and Community Engagement Officer updated Members on the successful public information evening held recently and on the significant number of pledges received from residents, schools and churches to sow wildflower seeds in the parish.

5479 Locality Grant to Celebrate the Coronation and Volunteering

Following receipt of a £2,000 Locality Grant from County Councillor Annie Brewster it was agreed that Councillor Roberts will liaise with officers and Members in June to form a proposal on how the funds can be used in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III and also the work of local volunteers.

5480 Designation of Jersey Farm Open Space to become a 'Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space' (SANG)

Councillors discussed this initiative, noting that further information was available through the following link www.stalbans.gov.uk/news/significantly-improved-recreational-green-space-be-created-st-albans-district. Questions were raised by Members and also by the member of public present. It was recommended that the new Council (from May 9th) invites an officer of the District Council to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

5481 Award of Contract for the Jersey Farm Open Space Bike Track

Further to an internal audit carried out in March and, following the auditor's recommendation it was unanimously;

Resolved

To formally note the award made to JB Extreme for the provision of the Jersey Farm Open Space Bike Track, subject to contract and planning permission.

5482 Matters of Note

- Elections

It is anticipated that co-option to the vacant seats in Beech Bottom, Marshalswick West and Sandridge Village will be brought to Full Council on May 17th. The Clerk is currently taking advice on how soon these positions can be advertised.

- Lloyds Internet Banking

Following further issues with signatories having correct access to the Lloyds internet banking, the Parish Office has worked with the bank to find a resolution. Following negotiation a second compensation payment of £75 has been received. The recent amendment to Standing Orders has assisted this process.

- Marshalswick Community Centre

Work to repair and repaint the cladding to three sides of Marshalswick Community Centre has completed.

- CCTV

The CCTV cameras at each end of Marshalswick Community Centre have been fully upgraded through collaboration with the District Council.

- **Tree Work**
A significant broken bough has been removed from the Oak at Sherwood Park (by the youth shelter).
- **Internal Audit Report**
On March 28th, the Parish Council's internal auditor, IAC Ltd, carried out the first stage of a year-end audit. A summary will be circulated when the year-end process is complete and all audit checks have been carried out.
- **Bench**
The completely dilapidated bench to the southern end of the William Bell open space has been fully refurbished.
- **Recycling Centre**
Residents visiting the recycling centre at Ronson Way are now required to produce evidence of being a Hertfordshire or Essex resident.
- **Motion Sensor Camera**
A motion sensor camera has been purchased, primarily to identify wildlife on the Woodland Park.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

5483 Grant Applications

- St Leonard's Parochial Church Council.
It was proposed by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Bolton and;

Resolved

To award the sum of £2,500 towards cemetery maintenance.

- Jersey Farm Day Care Centre.
It was proposed by Councillor Geoff Churchard, seconded by Councillor Reid and;

Resolved

To award the sum of £2,000 towards hall hire expenses.

- Sandridge Cricket Club.
It was proposed by Councillor Bolton, seconded by Councillor Harris and unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £1,200 towards grounds maintenance expenses.

- Holiday at Home (St Mary's).
It was proposed by Councillor Janet Churchard, seconded by Councillor Harris and unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £1,200 towards the Holiday at Home initiative for elderly residents.

5484 Traffic Calming on St Albans Road (B651)

- Further to a report circulated with the agenda it was proposed by author Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Reid and unanimously;

Resolved

To contribute £2,000 towards a Highways study exploring the feasibility of traffic calming measures at the junction of Sandringham Crescent and the vicinity.

5485 Meetings of Committees:

The Chairs of the following meetings updated other Members on discussions held.

- Sports and Recreation Committee 16th March 2023
- Planning Committee 16th March and 6th April 2023 (see below)
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 27th March 2023

5486 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

The Clerk informed the meeting that the new Council forming on May 9th will no longer have a membership of two thirds of elected members and will not therefore hold the Power of Competence. This may impact decisions on future spending but is unlikely to be significant.

5487 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the Planning Committee met on 16th March and 6th April 2023.

Planning applications commented on since the last Full Council meeting are;

- 67 Harness Way 5/2023/0394
- Sandringham School 5/2023/0186
- 30 Elizabeth Court 5/2023/0480
- 51 Barnfield Road 5/2023/0513

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.

5488 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Councillor Geoff Churchard asked the new council to consider current levels of maintenance at Bentsley Spinney by the District and County Councils.

Councillor Leonard, in his capacity as Chair, thanked those councillors who will now be leaving the Council and wished them well for the future.

Next meeting date – 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm – Marshalswick Community Centre (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.31pm

Chair

Date

Clr Graham Leonard (Chair)