

SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 7.30 pm for a meeting of The Council

PRESENT:

Councillors Julie Booth, Claudio Duran, John Hale, John Newton-Davies, Jenny Roberts, Geoff Churchard, John Foster, Janet Churchard (Chair), Neil Harris, June Reid

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Bernard Roberts, Stefania Estacchini, Graham Leonard

OFFICERS:

Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk
Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martine MacRae, Centres Manager, and one member of the public were present

4780 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

4781 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9th JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was:

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council be approved and signed by the Chair.

4782 ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Public Participation

A member of the public was present and appealed to the Council for assistance in arranging the installation of a handrail on a short stretch of steep footpath between Jersey Lane and St Brelades Place. Members recognised the need for a rail and asked the Project Officer to make enquires with the company responsible for maintaining the retirement development to one side of the footway.

2. Questions to the Officers

The Clerk was asked whether Marks and Spencer had responded to a letter sent by the Parish Council regarding oversized lorries making deliveries to the Food Hall on The Ridgeway. The Clerk advised that no response has been received and undertook to follow it up.

3. Monthly Accounts

Questions were asked and responded to regarding the schedule of payments to be made for the period 10th January 2019 – 13th February 2019 before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule for payment.

4. Jersey Farm Open Space

Members noted that, following the unsuccessful exercise to designate the Jersey Farm Open Space a village green, application was then made to take ownership through transfer of the entire site from the District Council. It was further noted that sealing of the contract has been delayed because of maintenance issues around the 'lagoon', a small pond fed in part by excess surface water from House lane. The lagoon requires de-silting and the cost of removal and disposal of this is tens of thousands of pounds. Both Herts Highways and the District Council have been approached in this regard but

responsibility for maintaining the lagoon has not been established (Herts Highways has stated that its liability ends at the pipe feeding the pond from the road). It was unanimously;

Resolved

That the Parish Council withdraws any interest in taking ownership of this open space because of uncertainties relating to financing maintenance of the lagoon.

5. Local Bus Services

Councillor June Reid updated Members on a recent meeting between several bus service providers, District, County and Parish Councillors. Topics covered included withdrawal of subsidies resulting in cancelled services, timetabling and school transport. It was noted that a possible option for several local councils to subsidise certain routes was no longer considered viable but that efforts were continuing to press for the continuation of services under threat.

6. Parish Representative to attend the Jersey Farm Resident's Association AGM

Councillor Jenny Roberts was unanimously elected to represent the Parish Council at the upcoming Jersey Farm Residents Association AGM. John Hale confirmed that he will be there to represent the County Council.

7. House Lane Groundwater Consultation

Members noted a consultation notice regarding the management of bromide and bromate contamination in Sandridge. Councillor Hale explained the background to this issue and the ongoing treatment of water through 'scavenger' pumping, treatment and disposal via the foul water sewer. Following discussion, it was unanimously;

Resolved

That Sandridge Parish Council write to the Environment Agency to request that treatment continues beyond July 2019 when it is due to end.

8. Sandridge Parish Council Annual Risk Assessment

A summary of the annual Parish Council Risk Assessment, completed by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, was reviewed and the results were duly noted. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the document for the forthcoming year.

9. Review of the Parish Council's Lone Worker Policy

Members reviewed and, following a minor amendment, unanimously approved the Parish Council's Lone Worker Policy. This document was also reviewed by the HR Committee on February 4th.

10. Updating the Parish Council's Letterhead / Rebranding

Councillors reviewed a report asking them to consider updating the Parish Council's letterhead, crest etc. The consensus was for no change, however, following discussion it was unanimously agreed to refer this to the June meeting so that any new councillors elected in May could be involved.

11. A414 Corridor Consultation Meeting

Councillor Hale took Members through a report on this issue. Following discussion, it was;

Resolved

To write to Hertfordshire County Council in support of the proposal to install a cycle and footway infrastructure on Coopers Green Lane and that the route extends along Sandpit lane to provide safer journeys to St Albans city centre.

12. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Council Hale updated Members on progress. It was explained that a further update was not likely until the April meeting of Full Council.

13. Friends of St Leonard's

Councillors considered an appeal for board members to this charity. Members were reminded that they are at liberty to apply individually (i.e. not as Parish Council representative). It was thought prudent to wait until after the elections in May to further discuss having a Parish Council representative.

14. Project Officer's Report

The Project and Amenities Officer updated members on projects underway and planned for later in the year including;

a) Sustainable St Albans Parish Events

- 18th May, 'Bees & Trees' on Jersey Farm Woodland Park,
- 26th May, Walk for Sustainability, 6km, starting from Nomansland
- 30th May, 'Grow Your Own', educational evening at Marshalswick Community Centre

Councillor Duran raised with the Chair why a parkrun event had not been registered alongside the above. The reason was explained, and the matter discussed at length but without conclusion.

b) Car Park on The Ridgeway

It was noted that new bays have been painted, the recycling banks removed, and a new welcome sign is to be installed. The Project Officer was asked to meet with the Centres Manager and Chair of the Centres Committee to agree wording of the signage with any material changes to conditions of use being brought to the next Full Council. Councillor Harris tabled a report suggesting new regulations for car parking at Marshalswick Community Centre. This report was deferred until the March meeting of Full Council.

An animated discussion continued in respect of items a) and b). Councillor Hale called a Point of Order following repeated requests by the Chair that the Project Officer be allowed to speak uninterrupted. He proposed and it was resolved that the meeting moved to the next item on the report.

Councillor Harris left the meeting at 9.35pm

c) Skate Ramp on Jersey Farm Open Space Planning permission to be obtained

d) Trees on Verges

e) Grounds Maintenance by Volunteer Groups

f) Jersey Farm Woodland Park Summer Celebration

Members were reminded to speak to the Projects Officer with any thoughts/ideas. It was agreed that a meeting to brainstorm ideas would be held soon, with a provisional date of 29th June agreed for the event.

g) Outdoor Film Show

This was agreed in principle, subject to the District Council giving permission. It is likely this would form part of the Woodland Park Event, possibly over the full weekend.

h) Bolingbrook Roundabout

It was noted that permission to proceed is still being sought from Herts Highways officers.

15. Grant Applications

An application from Sustainable St Albans was reviewed and an award made under the General Power of Competence.

16. Meetings of Committees

Members noted the draft minutes of the following committees;

- Planning Committee 8th January 2019 and 5th February 2019
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee 14th January 2019
- PEAP Committee 29th January 2019

4783 MATTERS OF NOTE

- The Parish Council’s year-end internal audit will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019
- All staff appraisals were completed last month and reported to the HR Committee on 4th February

4784 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There were none.

4785 PLANNING MATTERS

Sandridge Parish Council’s Planning Committee meets monthly to review and respond to planning applications received from the Planning Authority, St. Albans District Council.

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.

- 49 Sherwood Avenue AL4 9QJ 5/2018/3233 – This application was referred to Full Council by the Planning Committee. It was;

Resolved

To object to the proposed amendments to the previously approved application because of the loss of vehicular parking and consequent loss of safe access/exit from the development.

4786 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There were none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chair

Date