

JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Met at 7.30pm at Sandridge Village Hall on Monday 1st April 2019.

A site inspection was undertaken by Committee Members at The Woodland Park from 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillor Geoff Churchard – in the Chair (meeting only)
Councillors Janet Churchard, John Newton-Davies
District Councillor Frances Leonard
Tony Farnfield, Clyde Martindill (site inspection only)

Apologies:

Sue Riley, Pat Forward

Absent:

Councillor Jenny Roberts
David and Jamie Burrows, Sandridgebury Farm
Carrie Sherriff

Officers:

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

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

442 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee held on 14th January 2019 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 14th January be approved and signed as a correct record.

443 MATTERS OF REPORT

- Footpath 27, from St Helier Road to Sandringham Crescent, has been repaired and a new surface laid. Additionally, new bollards, using durable sweet chestnut, have been installed along the same.
- Tree thinning has been undertaken in the East Plantation. Mark Carter explained the process of marking up a selection of individual trees across a variety of species, and clearing other trees in the immediate environs, thus reducing competition for light and nutrition and encouraging strong future growth. Samples of wild garlic and wood anemone have also been sighted, a sign that the plantation is functioning well. Trees include birch, beech, ash, oaks, conifers, and hornbeam. The felled logs are being recycled for other outdoor projects within the parish or left to rot down within the plantation.
- Several bird boxes have been installed by Mark Carter around the Park.
- Steve Gibson, our resident coppicing expert, has successfully worked the hazel coppice to optimise the cycle of light and shade, thus fulfilling the purpose of the Plantation.
- The Green Flag Award judge will be visiting JFWP on 24th April for a walkabout and inspection, accompanied by Cllr Roberts and the Projects and Amenities Officer.
- As part of the Sustainable St Albans Festival a Bees and Trees Event will be taking place on the Woodland Park on 18th May from 12-2pm.

- The Woodland Park Summer Event is taking place on 29th June and in preparation the grass will be cut prior to this, as we did last year. It is hoped that the Committee will provide support both in the lead up and on the day for this event.

444 HERTS MAMMAL, AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE ATLAS (MARA) SURVEY

- The Projects and Amenities Officer reported that David Utting, from the Hertfordshire Natural History Society, will be carrying out an overnight small mammal survey at the end of March/early April using Longworth Live Traps.

445 POND ON JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK

Mark Carter has dug two trial sites for the proposed pond. During the site inspection prior to the Committee Meeting, Members viewed the site Mark considers the more successful of the two, adjacent to Millennium Wood and close to the Time Capsule. This site has retained some water, probably due to the higher clay content of the soil. Following discussion, it was unanimously;

RESOLVED

To proceed to dig out a pond in the Woodland Park, using the scheduled volunteer day on Sunday April 7th, with dimensions of approximately 3sq metres. In addition, to construct a chestnut paling fence, comprising approximately 12 m and 4 face posts. It is expected costs to be less than £300.

446 MANAGEMENT PLAN: BRIDLEWAY DRESSING

Members discussed recommendations in the Management Plan 2019/20 to top dress and/or repair part of the bridleway between St Helier Road and Highfield Road, and it was unanimously;

RESOLVED

To proceed with top dressing or repair of the bridleway between St Helier Road and Highfield Road, as appropriate.

447 MOVING THE GREEN FLAG AWARD FLAGPOLE

Having viewed both the existing position of the Green Flag Award flagpole and an alternative site between the bunds and adjacent to Sandridge Crescent the Committee discussed the options, including repositioning, purchasing a new flagpole, or not moving the flagpole due to associated costs. It was agreed that the Projects and Amenities Officer would research the options in more detail, with costs attached, for discussion and decision at the next meeting of the Committee.

448 FINANCE

The expenditure, circulated with the Agenda, of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee from 1st April 2018 – March 31st 2019 was noted.

449 SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for future meetings in 2019/20 were noted:

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| Monday 1 st July 2019 | meeting at 6.30pm at Woodland House |
| Monday 2 nd September 2019 | meeting at 6.30pm at Woodland House |
| Monday 13 th January 2020 | meeting at 7.30pm at Sandridge Village Hall |
| Monday 6 th April 2020 | meeting at 6.30pm at Woodland House |

450 MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- An update on the volunteer day 7th April, digging the pond.
- To discuss a plan for planting more wild flowers in the Woodland Park, possibly immediately after thinning activity.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1st July meeting outside Woodland House, Jersey Farm Woodland Park at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman

Date