

**JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK
JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Met at 7.30pm at Sandridge Village Hall on
Monday 14th January 2019

Present:

Councillor Jenny Roberts – in the Chair

Councillors: Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard, John
Newton-Davies

Mark Carter, Mrs. Pat Forward, Tony Farnfield, Carrie
Sherriff, Sue Riley

Apologies:

Clyde Martindell

Absent:

District Councillor Frances Leonard, David and Jamie
Burrows, Sandridgebury Farm

Officer:

Rebecca Pannese (Project and Amenities Officer), Emma
Hostler (Deputy Clerk)

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

432 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee held on 10th September 2018, 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 10th September be approved and signed as a correct record.

433 MATTERS OF REPORT

- The Committee welcomed Emma Hostler, the new Deputy Clerk to the Parish.
- Two new benches have been purchased to replace those previously broken and removed by the Princess Diana Memorial Tree. The new ones are in the same style as the original ones, only the material is black recycled plastic. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Parish Council office team for undertaking installation of the benches themselves, thus saving the costs of outsourcing this task.
- Graffiti found on the Welcome Board at the Chiltern Road entrance and a memorial bench. Following efforts from the Office staff the Welcome Board is now largely clean.
- Clearance work has taken place on the bridleways all the way from the South West Plantation to Jersey Lane. The hedges have been trimmed and the ground growth cleared. The hedges along both service roads behind the South West Plantation and West Plantation have also been trimmed.
- The new leaflet holders have been erected, replacing the older design. It is hoped that they will be less susceptible to vandalism, being more robust and not having Perspex front panels.
- Quotes are being obtained to replace the broken bollards and if finances in this year allow, thin the trees in the East Plantation. So far two quotes have been received, and we are waiting on a final one. Once all the quotes are in, a contractor will be selected.
- Footpath 27 from St Helier Road to Sandringham Crescent through Jersey Farm Woodland Park is due to be repaired and resurfaced imminently.

- The owl box on the large Oak tree by Bill's Wood is due to be moved around the tree to face the opposite direction. It is thought that by facing the open fields, there will be a higher chance of a feathered resident making it their home.
- The Jersey farm Woodland Park parkrun has got off to a positive start, with a high turnout of numbers. The feedback from runners is very good, with the course proving to be challenging. They are currently on the "winter Circuit" which is two laps around the all-weather bridleway.
- The application for a Green Flag Community Award for 2019 has been completed. The Committee received a copy of the feedback from last year's report, along with responses.
- The hedge-laying volunteer mornings have been successful with good attendance and weather. The hedges between the West Plantation and South West Plantation and adjacent service roads, have been completed.
- The Committee discussed the events planned for Jersey Farm Woodland Park in 2019. Some ideas were proposed for the Sustainable St Albans Festival in May, including using materials from coppicing earlier in the year for a crafting demonstration, details tbc, and participation from the bee keeper who supported last year's event. Further 2019 events include another summer event, and a possible outdoor film evening, although details of this yet to be finalised.

434 MEMORIAL BENCH REQUEST

The Committee discussed a proposal for a memorial bench with a stated preference for positioning alongside Centenary Wood facing the East Plantation. The Committee agreed that this location is no longer available to memorial bench requests due to the number of benches already sited there and to avoid overcrowding. The Committee suggested alternative sites which include alongside the South West Plantation, where there are currently no benches, or in front of the bunds. The Project and Amenities Officer will follow up the original request with these suggestions. The Committee agreed that a map marking out positioning of current benches would be useful for future discussions.

Sue Riley joined the meeting at 8.05pm.

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

There is nothing new to report from the survey.

436 POND ON THE JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK

Following agreement that the Woodland Park would not pursue the dew pond initiative, the Committee discussed the proposal for an alternative more suitable water feature with a liner and wetland plants was discussed. Mark Carter suggested the best locations were in rough grassland possibly in the areas of either Millennium or Centenary Woods and that costs should be no more than those incurred for labour, liner and fencing to prevent damage from dogs. Carrie Sherriff kindly offered to provide initial water top up from the bore hole on her farm. It was agreed that Mark Carter will investigate costs and with a view to establishing feasibility of a water feature, dig a couple of exploratory shallow holes which can be viewed at the walkabout of the Committee at the next meeting on 1st April.

437 WORK STARTING ON BILL'S WOOD HEDGE

Mark Carter updated the Committee on the hedge trimming which has been undertaken opposite Bill's Wood with further trimming to be undertaken opposite the bench.

438 MOVING THE FLAG POLE

Feedback from the Green Flag Award mystery shopper noted that the Green Flag flagpole is not very visible. The Committee agreed to consider alternative sites at the walkabout at the next meeting of the Committee on 1st April and deferred the decision on relocation until that meeting.

439 MANAGEMENT PLAN/TASK FORCE DAYS

Winter tasks from the Management Plan are all in hand as follows;

- Furniture clean and repair (part volunteer task)
- Thinning in East Plantation (contractor task)
- Hedge management by Bill's Wood

440 FINANCE

The expenditure of £4,233 from mid-August 2018 to January 2019 was noted. The Deputy Clerk and Projects and Amenities Officer noted that a full breakdown of costs should be provided at future meetings.

441 MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE LAST AGENDA

The Officers discussed moving future meetings to the Parish Council Office at Marshalswick Community Centre, with access to facilities and to save on rental costs. The Committee deferred decision until the first meeting of the Committee after the May Council elections Monday 1st July.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman

Date