

JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Met remotely via video conferencing on Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Jenny Roberts –Chair
Parish Councillors – Geoff Churcard, Claudio Duran, John Newton-Davies,
District Councillors - Clare Julien, Frances Leonard
Warden – Mark Carter
Public Members – Tony Farnfield, Clyde Martindill, Sue Riley, Carrie Sherriff

Apologies:

There were no apologies received

Absent:

Public Members David Burrows, Jamie Burrows,

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.

495. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee held on 13th January 2020 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 13th January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

496. MATTERS OF REPORT

- The committee was informed of the recent passing of Public Member Pat Forward after an extended illness. Memories were shared of past services to parish council and local community.
- Covid-19 related government restrictions on public gatherings and other social distancing legislation has impacted on scheduled activities for the woodland park including the requirement to cancel the June summer event and the monthly volunteer programme. The Green Flag 2020 application also remains on hold.
- Visitors to the woodland park have reported on increased activity at the woodland park as residents make use of the available green space during the weeks of lockdown and unseasonably good spring weather.
- Despite signage alerting the public to nesting birds in the long grass on the meadowlands, reports indicate that this has not been sufficient to deter visitors from encroaching on these areas. Ideas were discussed to address the problem, including more information through signage on the ground nesting habits of skylarks to raise public understanding of the need to keep away, and placing signage at the main entrance points.
- Cllr Jenny Roberts has cleaned the memorials monuments at the Chiltern Road entrance and placed a new wreath on the monument to the Royal Navy and Landing Craft Association to mark the 76th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Mark Carter has also twice cut the grass around the monument site.
- Mark Carter has been providing regular on-going general maintenance of the woodland park including: cutting back overgrown vegetation at certain pinch points on the peripheral bridleway, particularly in the south east corner and on the path around the Woodland House garden; opening up the path adjacent to Woodland House on west and north side; cleaning of the

- benches and oiling of the boards; filling up the map boxes and general litter picking.
- The grass in front of Woodland House has been cut by Jamie Burroughs of Sandridgebury Farm.
- Tree thinning in the West Plantation was successfully undertaken following agreement at the last committee meeting.
- Cllr Jenny Roberts has been making use of the SPC bat detectors and reports sightings of bats from the bridleway between Highfield Road and Jersey Lane. Cllr Francis Leonard also used the detectors to report bats in the Damson Way green space.
- Public member Clyde Martindell has spotted badgers adjacent to Reynolds Crescent.
- There have been further reports of 'campfires' started on the woodland park and other green spaces within the parish. It is advised that the police are called if future fires are seen and Cllr Jenny Roberts has spoken with community police officers to report the problem. Public member Carrie Sherriff recommended the use of the 'what3words' app which is a useful free tool for specifying rural locations when reporting incidents to the police which can be downloaded via: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/what3words/id657878530?mt=8>

497. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Follow the suspension of the requirement to hold an Annual Meeting of the Parish Council due to the current pandemic, it was unanimously resolved at the 13th May meeting of the full council to postpone the election of a Chair, Vice Chair and members of Committees and Outside Bodies until next year's Annual Meeting in June 2021. Therefore, existing positions on the JFWP committee will remain until next year. However, following the recent passing of former Vice Chair Pat Forward, the committee agreed to elect a new Vice Chair. It was proposed and seconded that Geoff Churchard be nominated as the Vice Chair for the ensuing year and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Geoff Churchard is elected as Vice Chair of Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee for the remainder of the year.

498. BUDGETS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

A 2019/20 outturn of £7441 against an annual budget of £8777 for the JFWP Joint Management Committee was reported at the recent meeting of the SPC Finance Committee. This underspend was expected and formed part of the case for increasing the 2020/21 budget to fund the scheduled bridleway resurfacing (see item 499).

The 2020/21 budget has been agreed at £10,075. An updated copy of the 20/21 Management Plan with estimated costs against each activity was circulated to members. Cllr Leonard expressed some confusion over the dates of scheduled activities. The Deputy Clerk agreed to reconfigure the current management plan so that it better corresponds with the annual budgets and meeting calendar.

The Deputy Clerk reported expenditure to date of £137 for warden duties.

499. TOP DRESSING OF THE BRIDLEWAY

The Project and Amenities Officer provided a summary of the three quotations received for resurfacing works to the bridleway between Footpath (FP) 27 St Helier Road to Bridleway (BW) 53 Highfield Road. She explained that an allocation of £4,000 has been made in the 20/21 budget for these works with an additional £1,000 in P3 funding carried over from 2019/20. All the quotations exceeded the current budget, from £700 to £3,300. Members expressed some concern over the suitability of surface material proposed following problems with earlier resurfacing works on downhill stretches of paths and it was agreed to revert to the contractors to request whether a material comprising larger particles would be suitable and could be provided. The Project and Amenities Officer will liaise with contractors and update the committee by email with a view to proceeding with the works towards the end of the summer as originally proposed.

500. ENCROACHMENT/GROUND DAMAGE

The committee was notified of vehicular encroachment and ground damage on the top field between St Helier and Woodland House earlier in the year. This has since been dealt with and reassurances made that it will not reoccur. In addition, contractor access during periods of particularly wet weather and soft ground also resulted in tyre welts in the ground. Further damage has been caused at points along the woodland park paths attributable to Parkrun activity and general increased traffic due to Covid-19 lockdown circumstances. The committee agreed that more consideration should be given to weather and ground conditions when granting access to contractors undertaking works on the woodland park, and to consider suspending Parkrun activity more frequently during periods of wet weather when the ground is vulnerable to wear and tear. This will be discussed further once Parkrun begins operating again.

501. MEMORIAL TREES

Members were notified that a bench memorial plaque has recently been agreed for a fee of £100 towards the cost of future maintenance. A further request has been made for a memorial tree. The committee briefly discussed whether memorial trees should be made available on the woodland park but agreed that this should be for discussion at a future meeting at more length.

502. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The committee is required to undertake a review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) on an annual basis. Due to having only recently reviewed the existing ToR, and the exceptional circumstances of a remote meeting, it was agreed that the review is deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

503. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

All volunteer activities have been suspended due to Covid-19 related government legislation.

504. FUTURE MEETINGS

It is hoped that future meetings will be held at Sandridge Village Hall but this will be dependent on current government guidelines regarding Covid-19 and social distancing.

494. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Claudio Duran enquired about ownership of the plot of land on the woodland park subject to (possible) fly tipping. The Project and Facilities Officer advised that following enquiries ownership had been established and therefore the parish council could not involve itself further with the land.

Clyde Martindell raised the matter of continuing drainage issues and water run off on to St Helier Road. Mark Carter will ensure the drains are cleared and asked that any future problems be directed via the parish council office to him and he will investigate without delay.

The problem of overflowing dog waste bins was raised. Any reports should be forwarded to Cllr Clare Julien (Marshalswick North) and Cllr Francis Leonard (Sandridge).

494. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Terms of Reference
- Maintenance and 'look' of the Chiltern Road entrance
- Wildflowers (including Daffodils)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 7th September at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman

Date