

SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.30 pm for a meeting of The Council

PRESENT:

Councillors Julie Booth, John Newton-Davies, Jenny Roberts, Geoff Churchard, John Foster, Janet Churchard, Neil Harris, Claudio Duran, Graham Leonard, John Hale, James Lancaster, Jonathon Hegerty, Patsy Cann, Lyn Bolton

APOLOGIES:

None

OFFICERS:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Three members of the public

4801 TO ELECT A CHAIR AND TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Standing Chair, Councillor Janet Churchard, took this item as is required. Two nominations were made and seconded for position of Chair. Councillor's Bolton and Hale each accepted their nomination. A vote was taken by a show of hands and a majority for one nominee was achieved before it was;

Resolved

To elect Councillor John Hale as Chair for the coming year.

4802 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR AND TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Councillor John Hale took the Chair. Two nominations were made and seconded for position of Vice Chair. Councillor's Bolton and Roberts each accepted their nomination. A vote was taken by a show of hands with no majority being achieved. The Chair then exercised his casting vote, resulting in a majority being reached. It was therefore;

Resolved

To elect Councillor Jenny Roberts as Vice Chair for the coming year.

An Acceptance of Office for each position was signed.

4803 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

4804 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Lyn Bolton declared herself to be a committee member of the Jersey Farm Residents Association in respect of the later item on installing a skate ramp at the Jersey Farm Open Space.

4805 TO NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 10th APRIL 2019

These were noted without comment.

4806 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 10th APRIL 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th April 2019 were reviewed, following which they were agreed to be a correct record and it was:

Resolved

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

4807 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL TO OTHER BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Members reviewed membership of the various Parish Council committees. Committee membership was agreed, with councillors voting on membership where applicants exceeded places. Voting was required to establish membership of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee, the Combined Community Centres Committee and for a place on the HAPTC Executive Committee.

Membership of four of the Parish Council's working parties and one committee were deferred to a later meeting, at which time the continuation of each working party will be decided.

Councillor Foster was thanked for his long service to the Combined Community Centres Committee and Councillor Janet Churchard for her service to the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee in the role of District Council representative.

4808 TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEES

Members reviewed the TOR for committees and working parties as circulated with the agenda. It was raised by Councillor Bolton that, despite a recent review and standardisation exercise, there were some inconsistencies between documents. None of these were considered key however. Approval of these documents was deferred to the June meeting of Full Council to allow Councillor Bolton to identify and propose any amendments thought necessary.

4809 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (GPC) – ANNUAL REVIEW

Members reviewed the Parish Council's ability to spend money under the GPC. It was again noted that, in accordance with the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012/965, to hold this power, the following criteria needed to have been met;

- Two thirds of council members were elected
- The Council has a suitably qualified Clerk (CiLCA)

It was agreed that the criteria were satisfied and then unanimously;

Resolved

That Sandridge Parish Council re-adopts the General Power of Competence in 2019/20, for review at Full Council in May 2020.

4810 ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Public Participation

A member of the public raised the issue of the proposed skate ramp at the Jersey Farm Open Space, asking councillors to consider potential anti-social behaviour resulting from the installation. A discussion followed, during which it was agreed to bring forward item 5 on the Issues for Discussion. A report circulated with the agenda by Councillor Roberts was considered at length, following which it was;

Resolved

To continue with the installation, subject to permission being given by the District Council as landowner and the Planning Authority.

2. Questions to the Officers

A question regarding fly tipping on land adjacent to the Woodland Park was asked and responded to. The Clerk was asked to carry out a Land Registry search to try and establish ownership.

3. Monthly Accounts

The schedule of payments to be made for the period 11th April 2019 – 20th May 2019 was reviewed before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule for payment.

4. Report from 2018/19 year-end Internal Audit

Members noted an internal audit report from Green Biro Ltd. It was further noted that there have been no issues raised this year and that the low risk issues raised at the interim audit in the Autumn have all been satisfactorily addressed. The Clerk was asked to minute the thanks of The Council to all staff for another successful audit.

5. Skate Ramp Update

Please see item 4810 (1).

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hale updated Members on the progress of the Sandridge Parish Neighbourhood Plan, reporting that the draft Plan is now nearing completion.

7. Upcoming events update

The Project and Amenities Officer updated Members on progress relating to the recent successful Bees and Trees event, the upcoming guided walk (26/5), the upcoming Grow your Own presentation (30/5) and the Jersey Farm Woodland Park event (29/6). The Clerk was asked to minute the thanks of The Council for the great effort made by the Project and Amenities Officer to date.

8. Grant Applications

Members considered an application from the Holiday at Home initiative (St Mary's Church). Following discussion, it was unanimously;

Resolved

To award a grant of £1,200 under the General Power of Competence.

9. Meetings of Committees:

The following committee minutes were briefly reviewed and discussed.

- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 1st April 2019
- Planning Committee 2nd April 2019
- Planning Committee 23rd April 2019
- PEAP Committee 30th April 2019
- Planning Committee 14th May 2019

The Clerk was asked to send a schedule of future committee dates to all councillors.

4811 MATTERS OF NOTE

The remedial measures taken to improve vehicle access to the Marks and Spencer Food Hall and avoid verge damage have proved largely ineffective with deep ruts still evident.

4812 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

There were none.

4813 PLANNING MATTERS

Sandridge Parish Council's Planning Committee meets every three weeks 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.

4814 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Councillor Bolton requested that the matter of school drop off and pick up around Sandringham and Wheatfields Schools be on the next agenda and undertook to provide the Clerk with a report accordingly.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council will be held on Wednesday June 12th, 2019 at 7.30 pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28pm.

Chair

Date