



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm for a meeting of The Council

PRESENT:

Councillors John Hale (Chair), Neil Harris, Graham Leonard, John Newton-Davies, Jenny Roberts, Julie Booth, John Foster, Claudio Duran, Patsy Cann, Jon Hegerty

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Geoff Churchard, Janet Churchard, James Lancaster

ABSENT:

Councillor Lyn Bolton

OFFICERS:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

There were two members of the public present

4897 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

Councillor Hegerty joined the meeting at this point.

4898 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8th January 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2020 were reviewed. An amendment was made, following which they were agreed to be a correct record and it was:

Resolved

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

4899 QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

1. Public Participation

There was none.

2. Questions to the Officers

A question was put to the Clerk regarding verge damage in Sandridge village and this was responded to.

CLERK'S REPORTS

4900 Monthly Accounts

A schedule of payments for the period 9th January to 12th February 2020 was reviewed. Questions were asked and responded to before it was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the schedule for payment.

4901 Project and Amenities Officer's Report

The Project Officer updated the Council on ongoing projects including the community garden, the Summer Event on Jersey Farm Woodland Park, the water fountain installation in Sandridge and tree planting in Marshalswick. Questions were asked and responded to.

4902 Instagram

It was agreed that opening an Instagram account would provide another means to promote and report on Parish Council activities, potentially to a wider sector of the community. Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To ask the Clerk to open an Instagram account for Sandridge Parish Council.

4903 Sandridge Parish Council Annual Risk Assessment

Members reviewed a summary of the annual risk assessment completed on 3rd February 2020 by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. It was noted that there were no action points resulting from the assessment. Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To note and approve the annual assessment.

Note: Members are able to view a copy of the full assessment at the Parish Office

4904 Amended Terms of Reference – Jersey Farm Woodland Park Joint Management Committee (JFWPJMC)

Members were asked to approve the following amendments to the JFWPJMC Terms of Reference;

- To act on any recommendations or issues arising from St Albans District Council's annual tree survey
- To undertake a safety survey of all trees on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park on an 18-month basis
- To clean and maintain all furniture

It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve these amendments.

4905 Matters of Note – the following points were noted;

- Financial Management System – the Parish Office is currently reviewing the use of Sage as its Financial Management System (FMS). If, following this review, there is a clear preference for the alternative FMS currently being considered, a recommendation will be made to the Finance Committee later this month. It was reported at the meeting that the recommendation to be put to the Finance Committee was to retain Sage
- The Parish Office is working with Sandridge Cricket Club to secure funding from Sport England for replacement cricket nets at Spencer Meadow.
- Legal and General has confirmed that the insurance policy to protect this council against the costs of future ill health retirement will commence from April 1st. The policy includes an employee assistance programme (legal advice etc) of which staff have been made aware.
- The basket swing at the Jersey Farm Adventure playground has again been set alight. It has been removed by the Parish Council's contractor. The Parish Office is in contact with Zurich Insurance Ltd.
- Projected outturn in 2019/20 is £289,000, being a saving on budget of £14,689. This will be discussed at the Finance Committee on February 17th.

- Building work to rebuild the damaged wall at Sherwood Park will commence soon. The contractor employed by the residents' association responsible for the work will access the site from the flats and not through the field.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

4906 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hale updated Members on the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan. Following discussion, Councillor Hale requested approval to submit the draft plan and supporting documents to the District Council. It was then unanimously;

Resolved

To submit the Draft Plan and supporting documents to St Albans District Council for examination, prior to a referendum.

4907 Litter Pick

Councillor Roberts proposed a litter pick in the parish (location to be agreed). A date of March 29th was agreed and the Clerk was asked to register the event on the Great British Litter Pick website. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To proceed with the event.

4908 Symondshyde

Councillor Hale submitted a report to Members on the agreement of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to remove this development from its Local Plan. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve the following statement;

Sandridge Parish Council remains of the view that developing this site would be contrary to the rules protecting the green belt and there are no exceptional circumstances justifying the development. The development would not be sustainable and should not proceed.

The Parish Council welcomes the decision of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to seek to remove the Symondshyde site from its draft local plan.

4909 Grant Applications

Members considered a grant application from Sandridge Cricket Club for assistance with grounds maintenance. After discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To award the sum of £1,025 for this purpose.

4910 Meetings of Committees:

There were no issues raised from the following draft committee minutes produced since the last Full Council. Committee Chairs briefly summarised each meeting to Members.

- Planning Committee 9th January 2020
- Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee 13th January 2020
- PEAP Committee 28th January 2020
- Planning Committee 30th January 2020

4911 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- Councillor Newton-Davies informed the Council that a new Ranger with responsibility for Nomansland had been appointed.
- It was noted that, following consultation, Hertfordshire County Council would not be making the current reduction in the speed limit on Sandpit Lane between Beechwood Avenue and Barnfield Road permanent.

4912 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.

There were no planning applications discussed at this meeting.

4913 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

It was requested that the proposals for changes to the existing political boundaries appear on the March agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council will be held on Wednesday March 11th, 2020 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Chair **Date**

Cllr John Hale