



SANDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Met remotely via video conferencing on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm for a meeting of The Council

PRESENT (VIA VIDEO):

Councillors John Hale (Chair), Neil Harris, Graham Leonard, John Newton-Davies, Jenny Roberts, Claudio Duran, Patsy Cann, Jon Hegerty, Lyn Bolton, John Foster, Janet Churchard, James Lancaster, Geoff Churchard

APOLOGIES:

There were none

OFFICERS (VIA VIDEO):

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

4989 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

4990 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9th SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2020 were reviewed. They were agreed to be a correct record and it was unanimously;

Resolved

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

4991 QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

1. Public Participation

No members of the public were present (via video). Reference was made to an email received from a resident about issues relating to Jersey Farm Open Space and the skate ramp. It was noted that several of the issues raised are already in hand. Councillors concerned with the email's contents were asked to speak to the Clerk in the first instance.

2. Questions to the Officers

Two points were raised regarding councillor visits to the office and remedial work to a tree to the front of Marshalswick Community Centre.

CLERK'S REPORTS

4992 Monthly Accounts

Members reviewed a schedule of creditor payments due for the period 10th September to 14th October 2020. Questions were asked and responded to. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To approve creditor payments as detailed on the schedule.

4993 Projects

The Project and Amenities Officer updated councillors on ongoing projects in the parish.

4994 Christmas Tree

Councillors further discussed potential locations for a Christmas tree in proximity of The Quadrant. The discussion was inconclusive, however Councillor Hale agreed to speak further to traders to see whether a consensus could be reached.

4995 Matters of Note

- Following the decision of the successful candidate not to take up the position of councillor for Marshalswick North (West), the co-option process will begin again, and a public notice is on display until 14th October advising electors of the casual vacancy. It is hoped to select a new candidate at the November meeting of the Full Council.
- The Clerk is pleased to report that a last-minute application for £10,000 of discretionary grant funding to compensate for business interruption due to Covid-19 lockdown has been successful and the funds have now been received.
- On September 14th the Clerk reported to the Finance Committee that, whilst there had been a significant fall in community centres income this year, the projection was that this was largely offset by reductions in expenditure and increases in income elsewhere in the 2020/21 budget, and more recently the £10,000 discretionary grant highlighted above.
- Utilising savings on the original budget, additional sound proofing measures on the skate ramp structure at Jersey Farm Open Space have now been successfully implemented.
- We have received notice from SADC that Sandridge Village Hall has successfully been listed as an Asset of Community Value for a period of 5 years from September 2020.
- The PEAP committee has requested 105 free saplings from the Woodland Trust with the intention of planting in the wild area on Harness Way in a dense 'mini-forest' formation as part of a scheme believed to boost bio-diversity. The saplings will be available from November onwards.
- The Rights of Way Working committee held a meeting on 18th September to continue its work temporarily suspended due to Covid-19.
- A number of bat boxes have been purchased for installation in the Woodland Park, and potentially other sites within the parish.
- Due to recent increased restrictions on social gathering within the UK, Parkrun is not now planning its national return at the end of October as originally announced.

COUNCILLOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

4996 £3,000 Bequest

Members considered the allocation of a bequest by a late resident. A schedule of suggested uses was discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Jenny Roberts, Councillor Geoff Churchard and District Councillor Frances Leonard would further consider the options available and report back to Full Council in due course.

4997 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor John Hale gave a verbal update on the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan, noting that the consultation period had ended on September 21st, responses were being considered by the District Council and that following this, an inspector should be engaged by the end of October.

4998 Grant Applications

There were no grant applications this month.

4999 Meetings of Committees:

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

- Finance Committee 14th September 2020
- Planning Committee September 17th and October 8th 2020

5000 MATTERS OF NOTE ARISING SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA

- It was noted that the Sandridge Youth and Sports Community Association (SYSCA) had contacted the Parish Office regarding historic electricity charges incurred by the Association for energy used by the Parish Council’s sports courts floodlighting.
- The community garden behind the doctor’s surgery in Hopkins Crescent has been used during recent months and positive feedback had been received. Members will be aware that the Parish Council contributed to the garden’s initial cost.
- Councillor Harris raised the issue of inconsiderate parking on The Ridgeway in the vicinity of Sandringham and Wheatfield schools during drop off and pick up. Councillor Hale informed the meeting that additional enforcement officers were currently being recruited by the District Council.

5001 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. The following application has been objected to since the last Full Council;

Planning Application 5/2020/1785, 159a St Albans Road, St Albans

5002 SUGGESTIONS AND/OR MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandridge Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 at 7.30pm. It is anticipated that this will be held remotely via video conferencing but this will be confirmed in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

Chair **Date** **Cllr John Hale**