

Present: Councillor Jenny Roberts (Chair)
Councillor John Newton-Davies
Councillor Jon Hegerty
District Councillor Frances Leonard
Mark Carter (Warden)
Public Members - Tony Farnfield, David Kealey, Mary
Ternouth (Marshalswick Horticultural Society), June
Reid
Mr. Julian Thornton (Hertfordshire County Council)

Apologies: Councillor John Foster

Public Member - Bernard Lusby

Officers: Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

812 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

813 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th January be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

814 MATTERS OF REPORT

- Over 70 native tree whips with stakes and guards, supplied by Bim Afolami's office courtesy of the Woodland Trust, have been planted on Harness Way, at the boundary with Jersey Lane, by a small group of volunteers.
- A further 70 native bare root shrubs, along with snowdrops and wood anemone wildflowers, have been planted in William Bell open space by a small group of volunteers, to supplement the planting undertaken earlier in the year.
- Some 16 trees have now been planted in grass verges around the parish, with funding provided by the Hillman bequest and the locality budget provided by Cllr John Hale.
- Wooden commemorative plaques to mark the planting of trees and shrubs by volunteers in both Harness Way and William Bell open spaces have been purchased and are awaiting installation.
- Mark Carter, warden, has undertaken additional cut back of vegetation on the bridleway between Sandringham Crescent and Jersey Lane, and the footpath parallel to the churchyard from Spencer Place and Langley Grove, to supplement the clearance works being undertaken on Jersey Lane by Herts County Council. Mark has also cleared the hedging around the Harness Way pond.
- Two field maple trees, funded by a local householder, have been planted on Jersey Lane.
- Two additional raised beds have been built in the community garden at the front of Marshalswick Community Centre. Fruit bushes have been planted. The picnic tables and seating continue to be well used.

- The Parish Council Sustainability Working Party has met remotely to discuss ideas for supporting this year's St Alban's SustFest taking place from 3rd May – 6th June. It has been agreed to support the Open Food Garden Celebration event on 23rd June.
- Cllr Roberts has yet to meet with the sawmill contractor regarding repurposing of the felled oak on Jersey Lane.

815 FOOTPATHS/RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATES

Julian Thornton, HCC, informed the Committee of the availability of an additional £1 million of Covid related funding earmarked for the repair of public rights of way adversely affected by recent increased usage, rainfall, and flooding. Two new short term contract officers have been appointed to assist with the allocation of this resource and it is hoped to get any identified works underway by the autumn for completion within this financial year. He asked Committee members for help in identifying potential routes within the parish that could benefit from this funding. The Project and Amenities Officer has already notified Julian of two such routes, BW 53 and FP 27, following a recent meeting of the Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee (see item 816). David Kealey also mentioned concerns over RB1 Hammonds Lane to Fairfolds Farm, and FP 27, and will provide further detail.

Cllr Leonard spoke with Julian about the possibility of formally establishing a walking route between Oaklands Grange via the Cemex site to Ellenbrook Fields and Colney Heath. David Kealey informed the Committee of his efforts to contact Cemex regarding its s106 obligation to reinstate a public right of way within the site but has not yet received a response.

Both Cllr Leonard and David Kealey remarked on the quality of the works undertaken by HCC on BOAT 3 adjacent to Sandringham School. Cllr Leonard will speak with St Albans District Council (SADC) regarding the potential for planting in the area.

Julian Thornton also reported on completion of the recent works along Jersey Lane generally agreed by the Committee to have provided helpful improvements along the route.

816 P3 FUNDING

Consideration had been given by the Project and Amenities Officer to apply for P3 funding to assist with repairs to BW53 and entrance from this route onto the Jersey Farm Woodland Park but this has now been superseded by discussion of the Covid related £1 million fund from HCC for rights of way repairs as discussed in item 815.

817 RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP

Mary Ternouth provided a Review Report on behalf of the Rights of Way Working Group summarising progress to date, matters outstanding, and a recommendation for future workings of the group. Due to the detailed and sometimes time-consuming nature of the work, it was agreed to continue its operations outside the main PEAP Committee, reporting back regularly, or consulting with Members as necessary.

818 EXPENDITURE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Committee noted year end expenditure of £2,136 against the 2020-21 budget of £4,500, with the underspend considered mainly attributable to curtailment of activity due to Covid related restrictions.

Members also noted the current year's budget of £4,000 and were provided with a schedule of committed activities for 2021-22 estimated at £2,455 and updated management plans. Given that much of this activity is now focused on maintaining works already undertaken on the Parish open spaces, Members were asked to

consider what future works the PEAP Committee could undertake. Mary Ternouth asked that some funding within the PEAP budget should be retained for any unexpected footpath repairs.

Some discussion ensued about potential areas for development, including St Leonards Open Space, Harness Way and the woodland adjacent to House Lane, but it was generally agreed a good idea for Committee members to revisit each of the sites to help generate new ideas. The Deputy Clerk will compile a schedule of visit dates, for circulation after 5th May when the new Committee membership of Parish Councillors has been confirmed.

819 SKYSWOOD PATH

Following feedback from Mark Carter, warden, the Committee was asked to consider whether a formal path through Skyswood should be installed. After some discussion it was agreed that Members will undertake a visit to Skyswood to consider the route and the Project and Amenities will provide information on quotations for surfacing with a view to making a formal proposal at the next meeting of the Committee.

820 SANDRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Committee was informed that the Sandridge Neighbourhood Plan is going to referendum at the local elections on May 6th. If passed, it was agreed that the Committee would ensure consideration of the contents of the Plan alongside any future planned activities.

821 VOLUNTEER TASKFORCE ACTIVITY

The Project and Amenities Officer provided a brief update on recent volunteer activities, remarking on how positive the initiative has proved to be and how friendly and capable individual volunteers have proved to be.

822 MATTERS ARISING

The Project and Amenities Officer informed the Committee of a recent meeting with Andrew Branch from SADC regarding the annual tree survey and works associated with that.

At Cllr Leonard's request, Mark Carter will survey some potentially sickly oak trees in Skyswood.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Tuesday July 6th 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chair

Date