

**Sampford Courtenay Parish Council**

Clerk to the Council: M.Pratt, Higher Town, Sampford Courtenay. 01837 82285

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017.**

- 1) **Present – Cllrs B & J Tucker, J.Friend, R. Bevis, C. Coleman & WDBC Cllr L. Samuel + 5 members of the public.**
- 2) **Public Participation** no items raised by the public.
- 3) **Apologies** - received and accepted from Cllr J Palmer.
- 4) **Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest.
- 5) **Minutes of Main Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 were agreed and signed.**
- 6) **Playground Report.** Jill Bevis – had already circulated her report. She noted her concerns re some of the capping stones on the church wall boundary. Clerk to inform PCC. Plus seat on picnic bench has swollen in damp weather. It was agreed that she should put seats in down position to prevent accidents to fingers. SCPC also actioned Mrs Bevis to purchase replacement tree for Village Green up to a maximum of £100 so as not to miss the best planting season.

**Repairs/Renewal of Play Equipment** – One builder has expressed an interest in this job and is coming to look at what is required on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.

- 7) **WDBC Report -** Cllr L Samuel wished everyone a “Happy New Year” and went on to report that new/return from maternity experienced staffing in the Planning Dept in February should hopefully lead to an improvement in that department. Health & Well Being Committee was able to report that WDBC has one of the lowest homeless records. Another large deficit in WDBC Funding will inevitably mean cuts across various departments. – It looks likely that the idea of charging for Garden Waste collection will be introduced. SCPC asked Cllr Samuel to reiterate their proposal to look at East Devon Council as a good business role model – they compost garden waste and sell it back to public at a profit. Cllr Coleman also suggested WDBC look at Selby Council, Yorkshire, as a council who are running at a surplus.
- 8) **Planning – to consider the following applications:-**
  - i) **4112/16/TCA – North Town Farm, Belstone Corner – Works to trees in a conservation area.**  
**SUPPORTED**
  - ii) **3950/16/PDM – Mrs L Wakley – Greenacres – Sampford Courtenay –Notification for prior approval of change of use from Agriculture building to dwelling.**  
**SUPPORTED.**  
Cllr J Tucker commented that it was nice to be able to support a compact development in this instance. Cllr Coleman added that SCPC’s policy to support sustainable development would encourage Planning Dept to reconsider not allowing pitch of roof to be realigned to allow solar panning
  - iii) Cllr Coleman wished Cllr Samuel to inform WDBC that the Planning Portal is still not working effectively. Downloads take over 90 mins (even with good Broadband coverage) and then PDF documents are unreadable with Windows software. Clerk is receiving one hard copy of relevant plans – and this is imperative until bugs with Portal are rectified.

**WDBC Decisions :-**

- iv) **2914/16/HHO - Mr Drew, Farfield Rd - Conditional Approval**
- v) **3231/16/HHO – Mr Moverley , Birchstream – Conditional Approval**
- 9) **Letter to WDBC re Recycling.** – Cllr J Tucker presented a further letter to WDBC regarding our suggestions for improvements to Recycling Collection. There has still been no acknowledgement to her email sent last March. Cllr Samuel suggested the new letter should be emailed to both Sophie Hoskins and Stephen Jordan pointing out that “this appears to fall outside the response performance criteria upon which WDBC pride themselves”.  
**Cllr Samuel said that she is happy that we keep her informed of our concerns so that she can follow them up with relevant Dept at WDBC.**
- 10) **Highways** – (Cllr A Thorley) – in absence of Cllr Thorley there was nothing to report.
- 11) **War Memorial** - Cllr J Tucker – has received the following quotes from the Stone Mason :-
 

Collect Stone and take to his yard	=	£300.00	
Deliver and fit stone at SC	=	£882.00	
Set bronze plaque in stone	=	£140.00	or stick plaque to face of stone = £30.00 all + VAT

Cllr Tucker had also been in contact with Architect Jeremy Chadburn re producing new/amended plans for this project. His opinion was that his involvement was unnecessary. He felt that Cllr Coleman (and staff) were perfectly capable of producing a photo montage from which to work. Jeremy Chadburn estimated his costs for this would be an additional £500.00.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr B Tucker produce a scaled drawing of proposed positioning of stone to submit to stone mason. (with prior approval of councillors)

Cllr Coleman offered to forward current photo montage for Cllr B Tucker to work from.

War Memorial Fund - **Balance** Total carried forward = £3,388.80  
 Donations this month. = Dec - Jan = 4 weeks @ £14.40 = £57.60

**12) Finance** (To consider payments to be made as per list below)

i) Clerk salary & Expenses =	= £ 127.20	
ii) Gold Coast Media – new Website =	= £ 720.00	
iii) <b>Total payments this month =</b>	<b>= £ 847.20</b>	
iv) Uncleared cheques & transfers from last month =	= £ 2597.79	
v) <b>Balance</b> (10.iii + 10.iv)	<b>= £ 3444.99</b>	
vi) <b>Income</b>	<b>= £ 0.00</b>	
vii) Current Balances = Reserve Account	= £15,722.23	( Calculated )
viii) Current Account (according to Statement –30.12.16)	= £ 3,611.38	
ix) Total Current Funds less agreed expenditure above	= £ 166.39	(10.viii – Balance)
x) To agree transfer of <b>£1,000.00 To Current</b> Account from <b>Reserve</b> Account		

13) **The Budget** prepared by Cllr Coleman was agreed with the precept set at **£5522.00** (a 2% reduction on last year) It was also agreed that any surplus in excess of predicted £4,449.00 at the end of 2016/17 should be put in a new earmarked reserve for Village Green/Playground.

14) **SNOW PLOUGH** – Cllr Coleman reported that he has possibly managed to source a second hand Snow Plough, + a qualified driver with suitable vehicle to attach this to. Plus, possibility of a gritter as well. SCPC agreed that Cllr Coleman apply to Cllr McInnes for some funding. If successful, it was suggested that this equipment will be added to Asset list, and also leased out to neighbouring parishes if required.

**15) Progress Reports** for information

- OkeRail Forum** – Cllr Bevis reported that there appears to be slow progress, but that things are moving behind the scenes. There is a lot of community support. Budget demands across the county have implications on progress.
- Footpaths** – Cllr Palmer had circulated his report. Cllr Coleman is actioned to complete draft of P3 application form and then arrange meeting to confirm with Cllrs Palmer and Friend.  
**Clerk** reported that she has received the **Formal notice of Confirmation regarding Footpath No 3.** – these details will be displayed on main Noticeboard in the Square.
- Clerk's Report** (anything not already covered by Agenda items)
  - Highway Maintenance – Community Enhancement Fund** – it was agreed to add this to next Agenda.
  - Clerk has received notice of the annual Buckingham Palace Garden Party** – Cllr Coleman & Friend expressed a wish to be entered into the draw for tickets for this event.
  - Clerk** informed meeting of a follow up meeting with Okehampton Mayor and fellow parish councillors on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Coleman volunteered to attend.
  - Short list of possible Broadband providers – it was agreed that the Clerk contact Connecting Devon and Somerset to see if the Deadline for using Broadband Vouchers could be extended. Meanwhile Cllrs would try various Internet providers to see if they could offer a Community Mesh Solution. Findings will be reported as first item of the February meeting so that parishioners who have been successful in obtaining a voucher can make the decision on how best to use them.**
  - An additional Open Meeting has been booked for March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall.**

16) **Date of next meeting.** To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at 7.30pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall. **IMPORTANT ITEM REGARDING BROADBAND VOUCHERS.**

Signed

*M. S Pratt*

Marion Pratt

Clerk to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Jan 2017.

**Members of the Public are cordially invited to attend all Parish Council Meetings and suggest items for the Agenda. (Please contact the Clerk at least 7 days prior to scheduled meeting re Agenda items)**

2016/17 Dates	Apr – 19th	May – 17 <sup>th</sup> AGM	Jun – 21st	Jul – 19th	Aug – 16th
	Sept – 20th	Oct – 18th	Open Meeting – Oct 25th	Nov – 15th	Dec – 20th
2017	Jan – 17th	Feb – 21st	Mar – 21st	Open Meeting – Mar 28th	