

SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 28TH MARCH 2017

1. **Present** – Cllrs C Coleman, J. Friend, B & J Tucker, R. Bevis + 10 members of the public and Sue Wonnacott from OCTG.
2. **Apologies** - from Cllrs J. Palmer and A. Thornley.



Cllr Coleman presented a cheque for £500 to Sue Wonnacott of OCTG – (Ring and Ride) which was the result of a successful TAP Fund application supported by Exbourne & Jacobstowe PC. SC has 26 regular users of the service along with 16 from our neighbouring parish. Sue said that the money will go towards arranging special subsidised outings in the coming year.

There is no age limit for users of the service, old or young. It can be used to get you to the shops or to medical appointments. If you know of anyone who would benefit from using this excellent service please look for more details on their [Website](#) or [Facebook page](#) or ring 01837 55000.

3. **War Memorial update** – Cllr J Tucker explained that we have a reserve of £3,504 for the project. This comprises a £3000 grant from “Devon Remembers” and Cllr Coleman’s donation in kind for his hours cleaning the Public Toilets.
 - The project costs we know about come to £3,320 – but that does not include any contingency money.
 - The bronze plaque has been commissioned
 - We have had confirmation that no other Planning or Listed Building Consent is required.
 - It will consist of an upright piece of local granite from Merryvale Quarry, with the plaque inset. The stone will be set into the cobbles beneath the existing plaque.
 - We have every hope that the project will be completed by Nov 2018 to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the ending of WW1.
 - Cllr Coleman again expressed the thanks of SCPC for the exhaustive research done by ex parishioner David Knights.
4. **Broadband** – Cllr John Friend, SCPC Community Broadband Facilitator, explained that [Connecting Devon and Somerset](#) CDS – had been charged with bringing superfast broadband into rural parishes.

In the past 2 – 3 months, SCPC, had tried to make as many parishioners aware of the CDS Voucher scheme, by publicity via the website, Minutes and leaflet drop. This culminated in presentations from South West Mobile Broadband and Bush Broadband at the February council meeting to try and give the 20 or so parishioners who had been successful in obtaining vouchers the necessary information to choose with whom to redeem the vouchers.

- **Deadline – if you still have a voucher** - the deadline has been extended to 30th June 2017.
- **SWMB** – has already connected about 12 properties in the parish, and on the whole, most are showing greatly improved Download and Upload speeds. There was a problem with an EE Mast going down, but this is hoped to be resolved in the near future.
- **If you have not got a voucher** – keep an eye on CDS website, SC Website and Noticeboards for information when the next scheme commences.

5. Telephone boxes – the majority of the parishioners present were from Sampford Chappel and they expressed a wish that, particularly the telephone box situated there, should be maintained in a fit state as a heritage landmark of the parish.

- Cllr Coleman suggested that SCPC serve notice on BT to meet their obligations to maintain all 3 phone boxes in a fit state of repair and appearance. If not SCPC (or parishioners) will do it themselves and send the bill to BT.

6. SCPC Recycling Scheme – Cllr J Tucker explained that now WDBC have decided to renew their current Waste contract for a further 2 years, SCPC will review their idea of setting up additional recycling services within the parish to recycle items not collected at the kerbside. It is hoped to have 2 sites one near New Inn and one near Sampford Station where Aluminium and plastic food containers can be taken to be recycled.

- **Garden Waste** – Cllr B Tucker also put forward an idea of setting up a village compost site for Garden Waste, which WDBC are now proposing to charge for. A member of the public expressed concern about the control of nuisance weeds such as bind weed and Japanese knot weed if such a scheme went ahead. SCPC will look into this further.
- **Fly Tipping** – another member of the public was concerned that WDBC charging for garden waste will lead to an increase in Fly Tipping. SCPC have recently had to make arrangements to have one such case of fly tipping removed. In this instance, WDBC have agreed to reimburse us for all costs incurred. Our local WDBC Cllrs L Samuel and L Watts are keen that we do not sit back quietly. They are happy to hear about our concerns so that they can raise them for us.
- **Fly tipping button** – please report any instances of fly tipping on the new [WDBC Website](#). Have a look at the “Report It” Tab – to report anything from dog fouling to pot holes, as well as Fly tipping.

7. Footpaths and Green Lanes – parishioners agreed that work on Bulland Lane to Peacegate Cross undertaken last year has improved the Green lane to make it accessible in sensible footwear for at least 10 months of the year.

- **SCPC** – plan to use P3 funds to similarly improve the Access to the Village Hall, and Peacegate Cross to Cliston lane this coming year.
- **Materials for Farm gateways** – Cllr Coleman wanted to inform any farmers who have footpaths across their land, with wet gateways, that SCPC would be prepared to provide materials if they would spread it themselves.
- **Franklyn bridge** – a member of the public reported a bridge in need of repair. Cllr Palmer is aware of this and it is on his to do list.

8. **Playground Equipment** - due to the failure of both swings at our Annual Inspection last Oct – SCPC are currently seeking options for repairing or replacing the swing equipment and finding funding for either option.

9. **Volunteer Spring Clean Day** – SCPC would like to organise a day when a gang of volunteer parishioners and friends do a litter pick, tidy the bus shelters and phone boxes, wash the signs and clear foliage from around shelters and toilets etc. It was decided that a Saturday, mid -morning would be a good time. Mathew Mcilwraith offered a free glass of cider at The Cider Farm to all volunteers when we have finished , and SCPC offered to pay for a pasty each. Look out for dates and come and join us. It is hoped that after this joint effort, some people may wish to keep their part of the parish “tidy” on a more regular basis. SCPC would be able to provide some sort of protective clothing etc.

10. **SCARF** – Devon Highways are currently conducting a speed survey on the road from The Country Man to Sampford Station. SCPC are concerned about excessive speed throughout the whole parish, but at least this is a step in the right direction.
 - **Reported Accidents link** - as part of this survey there is a link to [a map of the area](#) which shows reported accidents. It is well worth a look.

11. **Glebe House Scaffolding** – a member of the public asked if SCPC knew how much longer the scaffolding would be around Glebe House in the square. At present the school bus cannot go past it so has to turn dangerously at Sampford Chappel. He asked that this matter be put on the Agenda for the next parish meeting.

12. **Dog Bins** – another member of the public asked if there are any bins specifically for dog faeces in the parish. There are none, but you are allowed to put appropriately bagged faeces in any public litter bin.

Thanks to all who attended. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.