

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tues 21st Feb 2017.

- 1) **Present :- Cllrs J & B Tucker, J. Friend and R. Bevis + approx. 35 members of the public.**
- 2) **SPECIAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ITEM RE COMMUNITY BROADBAND & USE OF CDS BROADBAND VOUCHERS.**

Statement from Connecting Devon and Somerset Team – 1.2.17

We are looking to extend the voucher scheme for those who are not in line for a phase two deployment which has been contracted in some areas. This is getting final approval but for those who need there should still be a voucher scheme beyond March. We will announce this to all voucher holders as soon as all is confirmed.

Kind Regards, Dec The Connecting Devon and Somerset Team

Presentations were made by the following Broadband providers :-

a. Russell Baker – South West Mobile Broadband – offered a stand alone, individual 4G solution where an aerial/router is fitted free of charge to your property and then you are free to choose a Broadband Provider to purchase a SIM card to fit the device.

Russell Baker 01392349120/07776333691. russellsbaker@gmail.co

b) Tom Hills – Bushbroadband – offered a Community Line of Site 50 ghz solution – dependant on finding suitable high points to site masts throughout the parish, and purchasing spare fibre capacity from Openreach boxes in North Tawton and Exbourne. This would require at least 12 properties with CDS vouchers to combine to make it viable.

Bush Broadband 0757 656 4242 *“faster than the bush telegraph”* tom@bushbroadband.com www.bushbroadband.com

Members of the public put a variety of questions to the 2 gentlemen and after an hour of debate a show of hands indicated that at least 12 parishioners would consider combining CDS vouchers for a Community Solution. While others would prefer the individual solution of SWMB.

Anyone not at the meeting is welcome to contact either of the providers to discuss their own situation, however, if you have a CDS voucher and are considering the Bushbroadband Option could you please let the Clerk know. Thank you.

- 3) **Mayoral Award Nominations.** – the Mayor of Okehampton is seeking nominations for the annual Mayoral Awards. **Deadline for nominations is 3rd Mar 2017.** If you would like to nominate anyone in the following 3 categories please let the Clerk know as soon as possible:-
 - a) **Person Under 18** – who has done something particularly noteworthy within the Borough, or
 - Enhanced the reputation of the Borough on the national stage.
 - b) **Person over 18 or an Organisation** – who has done something particularly noteworthy within the Borough, or
 - Enhanced the reputation of the Borough on the national stage.
 - c) **The Mayor’s Green Award** - to recognize and highlight the work done by **individuals or groups** who have made a significant contribution to the conservation and protection of the natural environment of West Devon.
- 4) **Public Participation** a member of the public expressed concern regarding the Planning Application process and queried whether SCPC took into consideration comments made by the public. The Chairman explained the process SCPC has to follow:-
 - a) **WDBC publish and display all Planning Applications around the location of the said Application, inviting neighbours to make comments if they so wish.**
 - b) **WDBC – publish weekly Planning lists to inform local parish councils, and currently send out hard copies of planning documents, for the parish councils to consider. They too, are given a Deadline date for comments.**
 - c) **SCPC publish notices of which Planning Applications are to be considered at each meeting, (in some instances a special planning meeting as to be held to meet the given deadline for comments) These notices are published on the 3 noticeboards in the parish and on the website.**
 - d) **Prior to the meeting, councillors check the WDBC for any relevant comments made by the public. The Applicant is invited to attend the meeting, or send an agent, to answer any queries councillors or members of the public, who are free to attend any Parish council meeting, may have. If parishioners are unable to attend a meeting, they are always welcome to speak or write to either a councillor or the Clerk, who will put their concerns/support to the meeting.**
 - e) **SCPC has a policy to SUPPORT planning applications unless there is sufficient reason to OBJECT.**
 - f) **After discussion of all points a majority view is submitted to the WDBC.**
- 5) **Apologies** received from Cllrs Coleman, Palmer and Thorley and accepted.
- 6) **Declarations of Interest** – None.
- 7) **Minutes of Main Council Meeting held on 17th Jan 2017 were agreed and signed.**

- 8) **Playground Report.** (Jill Bevis) – no new areas of concern except the loose capping slate on church boundary wall. The PCC has been notified. Clerk was actioned to ask contractor to trim Beech hedge.
 A **Wild Service Tree**, native to Devon, a replacement for the diseased and felled Horse Chestnut, was funded and planted by SCPC on Sat 18th Feb.
- Repairs/Renewal of Play Equipment** – 2 quotations have been received. The Clerk is actioned to try and obtain a grant to fund the repairs.
Playground Inspection – Clerk awaiting response from ROSPA whether it would be best to wait until after repairs have been made.
Mowing Contract – it was agreed to continue with current contractor who has quoted the same rate as last year.
- 9) **Future of Village Green/Play Equipment.** – Deferred to Open Meeting on 28th March.
- 10) **WDBC Report** - (No WDBC councillors present)
- a) **Charges for Garden Waste** – a news release from WDBC reports that “Garden Waste Service will remain, but charges will be introduced for those people who would like to use it. Details of charges will be publicised well in advance of the service switching to a charged service. “
 SCPC have continuously expressed a view that this action will surely increase the incidents of Fly Tipping; and have queried why WDBC cannot collect and compost garden waste and sell it on at a profit, as other councils do.
If you wish to comment personally email communications@swdevon.gov.uk or their Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/westdevonboroughcouncil/>
- b) **Refusal of planning for Barn conversion at Greenacre** – Clerk to ask WDBC councillors for reasons for refusal.
- c) **Letter re changes to planning system** – the Clerk had received notification of changes being introduced to improve communications with Development Management in West Devon. This includes a Pilot Scheme for electronic consultations – SCPC have previously expressed an interest in this, but would like to stress that until effective Broadband is available at the Village Hall, and access to the WDBC Planning Portal is more reliable, hard paper copies of all planning will still be required.
- 11) **Planning – to consider the following applications:-**
- i) **0015/17/FUL - Appledore Hill, Sampford Courtenay – Mr Francis** – Proposed agricultural general purpose building.
Majority SUPPORT
- ii) **0238/17/PDM –The Barn, East of Beer Cross – Mr T Ash** – Prior Approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house.
NO COMMENT
- iii) **0410/17/PDM – Hayrish Farm, South Tawton – Mr B Walton** – Prior Approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2 no dwelling houses and for associated operational developments.
NO COMMENT
- iv) **0412/17/PDM – The Barn, Part Cricket Farm – Mr & Mrs Board** – Prior Approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house and for associated operational development.
NO COMMENT
- v) **0417/17/PDM – Barn, Chapel Moor Wood – Dr Almond** – Prior Approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house and associated operational development
NO COMMENT
- WDBC Decisions :-**
- i) **2773/16/TCA – Works to trees in Conservation Area – St Andrew’s Church- Permission Granted.**
- 12) **Response to Letter to WDBC re Recycling.** - a new letter to Steve Jordan and Sophie Hoskings regarding the lack of response to a letter sent last March prompted an immediate apology from S. Jordan plus triggered an automatic complaints procedure which has to have a detailed response from Jane Savage by 7th March, which will be reported at the next SCPC meeting.
- 13) **Highways – Fly tipping report** – there has been a serious Fly Tipping incident on a green lane in the parish. WDBC were notified and they sent an inspector to establish it contained no hazardous waste. SCPC were then told that WDBC contractors could not remove it, as it was not on a public highway. SCPC resolved at this meeting to instruct their own contractor to remove the rubbish (Friday 24th Feb) and submit cost for reimbursement to WDBC.
 In light of this incident, the neighbouring landowner, asked if SCPC could establish who owns/is responsible for green lanes, and whether it is permissible to erect gates to try and repeat further fly tipping.
 The Clerk had also received an email from another parishioner who had personally cleared 3 bags of rubbish from alongside the road from Sampford Chappel to Greenhill Cross.
 Another member of the public reported that there is frequently fly tipping in the layby on the Crediton road – but as this is a public highway it is cleared when reported.
- 14) **War Memorial** -
 War Memorial Fund - **Balance** Total carried forward = £3,446.40
 Donations this month. = Jan - Feb = 5 weeks @ £14.40 = £72.00
- Cllr J Tucker summarised the current position for the members of the public:-
- a) SCPC have established at the Oct Open meeting to go ahead with the free standing stone option for War Memorial.
- b) It was unfortunate that due to work commitments, Cllr Coleman was unable to attend this meeting, due to the extensive time and effort he has given to the War Memorial project he asked that decisions be deferred to the March meeting. However, it was agreed that point 14 c could be carried in his absence, as design and content of the plaque has not changed.
- c) Councillors at this meeting agreed that due to 6 week lead in time, Cllr Tucker should go ahead and commission the foundry to make the plaque. She confirmed that a Proof would be sent for approval before casting.

- d) An approx. total for the new project is £3,984. (Current funds as above £3,446.40) but we will be able to reclaim VAT. Plus this figure does not cover contingency fund for unseen costs.
- e) A member of PCC commented that it is unlikely that there are buried services beneath the cobbled path that would be disturbed by concrete plinth.
- f) It was suggested that Cllr Tucker get a written consent from Conservation Officer to forward to planning to ensure that additional planning was not necessary.
- g) The stone mason, C H Piper, was recommended by the Duchy of Cornwall, his website can be viewed here <http://cfpiperandson.co.uk/>. Cllr Tucker was asked to obtain copies of his Professional Indemnity and Construction Liability Insurances to forward to SCPC's own insurance company.
- h) PCC representative asked SCPC to ensure enough space behind the stone to enable maintenance of Church Room wall.

15) Finance – payments as listed below were agreed and cheques signed.

i) Clerk salary & Expenses =	= £ 127.20
ii) Goldcoast Media Website – Gallery -	= £ 126.00
iii) Total payments this month =	= £ 253.20
iv) Uncleared cheques & transfers from last month =	= £ 127.20
v) Balance (10.ii + 10.iii)	= £ 380.40
vi) Income	= £ 500.00 TAP Fund Grant for Ring N' Ride
vii) Current Balances = Reserve Account	= £14,723.00 (Calculated)
viii) Current Account (according to Statement –31.1.17)	= £ 1,666.39
ix) Total Current Funds less agreed expenditure above	= £ 1285.99 (10.viii – Balance)
x) To agree transfer of £ ZERO To Current Account from Reserve Account	

16) Progress Reports for information

- a) **OkeRail Forum** – as per article in local press a Special Train to London from Okehampton has been organised for Sat March 18th to demonstrate that there is popular and commercial demand for the restoration of rail services in our region. There may still be tickets available from Kevin Ball – 07870 377879 but it is hoped Okerail in conjunction with Okerail CIC will run other trains in the future.
- b) **Footpaths & P3 forms** – P3 forms have been submitted to DCC for funding for the coming year. SCPC have also obtained a supply of road planings from recent work through the village, which Mr A Morris has kindly offered to store in his yard. SCPC will discuss at next meeting where to use these planings to improve footpaths in the parish.
- c) **Clerk's Report** (anything not already covered by Agenda items)
 - i) **Fly tipping** – As per item 13 above, there is considerable evidence of fly tipping and general litter along verges of all roads in the parish. SCPC will try to address this matter, but express their sincere “Thanks” to volunteers who have helped to clear some of the mess.
 - ii) **Over hanging branches at Belstone Corner** – following an email from a parishioner the Clerk sent photo evidence of overhanging branches at Belstone Corner to DCC Highways. Eventually receiving the following response “The landowner has been sent a letter requesting them to cut it back. We think it belongs to West Devon District according to the land registry”. We will monitor further action on this matter. A parishioner present at this meeting also reported overhanging branches on the Crediton Road obstructing the sign to Withybrook Lane. The Clerk will follow up this matter.
 - iii) **Attendance at SCPC meetings** – parish council rules state that a councillor stops being a councillor if they “fail to attend meetings for a period of six consecutive months and the **reason for their absence is not approved before the expiry of the sixth month period**”. Several of our councillors have recently had work, university or commitment to local rehearsals preventing them from attending SCPC meetings. However, SCPC approved this absence in the circumstances. SCPC would also like to point out that the rules state that “the quorum for a meeting of the full council is at least one-third of the councillors but no less than three”.
 - iv) **Mayor's Civic Dinner – 3rd March** – Unfortunately, there were no councillors available to attend this function.
 - v) **Road Closures** – SCPC hope that you have not been delayed by the various recent Road Closures in the Parish. Please check the Website for notice of future Road Closures in our area.
 - vi) **Buckingham Palace Garden Party** – were unsuccessful in securing tickets for this event.
 - vii) **Presentation of Ring N' Ride Cheque** – the £500 grant from Town and Parish funds have now been received in the bank account of SCPC and we are hoping to present a cheque at our Open Meeting on 28th March.
 - viii) **New Website up and running** – www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk – SCPC would like to express their grateful thanks to Mrs Janice Brown and Goldcoastmedia for undertaking the transition to our new website. We would also appreciate your comments on its contents and ease of use, either directly to the Clerk or via the Website.

17) Date of next meeting. To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for 21st Mar at 7.30pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

Signed

M. S Pratt

Marion Pratt Clerk to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Feb 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 th 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	