

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tues 29th October 2019 & followed by Autumn Open Meeting.

1) Present Cllrs M Wilson, M Carpenter, J. Tucker, J. Friend, J. Palmer, S Svedang & C. Coleman

2) Apologies - Cllr B Tucker

3) Declarations of Interest – None

4) Finance following payments were agreed and cheques signed.

i) Clerk salary & Expenses =	= £ 214.40	
ii) HMRC	= £ 50.60	
iii) Tracy Mombeyerara Toilets	= £ 66.00	(4 wks x 2 hrs)
iv) N Power DD	= £ 9.63	(DD 21.10.19)
v) SWWA – Toilets	= £ 52.90	
vi) Burr ridge Printers – Chair’s Letter	= £ 35.00	EMR
vii) M Pratt – Franking & Hummingbird Deposit	= £ 173.03	EMR
viii) Burial Ground Contribution PCC	= £ 300.00	
ix) British Legion Wreath	= £ 50.00	
x) Total payments this month =	= £ 951.56	
xi) Current Balances = Reserve Account	= £ 15762.52	(Calculated)
xii) Current Account – (less expenditure above)	= £ 6024.92	(Calculated)
xiii) INCOME	= £ 2,500.00	Ex Gratia payment
xiv) Transfer from Reserve Account to Current Account	= £619.50	(This will make Reserve A/c = Earmarked Reserves to date)
xv) DALC – Budgets & Precept Training	= £48.00	
xvi) A Wilson – Prize for 30 Days 30 Ways Quiz	= £30.90	

5) Remembrance Day Service – 10.45 am Mon 11th Nov – The Square

6) Upcoming Events –

Venue	Date
Quiz & Puddings – Village Hall	Fri 8 th Nov – 7.30 pm
Remembrance Sunday – St Andrew’s Church	Sun 10 th Nov – 9.30 am
Remembrance Day – War Memorial in the Square	Mon 11 th Nov – 10.45 am
Choral Evensong – St Andrew’s Church	Sun 17 th Nov – 6.30 pm
1940’s Dancing Classes – Village Hall	Fri 22 nd Nov – 7.30 pm – 9 pm
Honeychurch Fundraising Quiz – Village Hall	Fri 29 th Nov – 7.30 pm
Christingle Service – St Andrew’s Church	Sun 1 st Dec – 9.30 am
Christmas Cheer – Village Hall – Come and meet Santa	Sat 14 th Dec – 4pm – 7pm
Christmas Bingo – Village Hall	Wed 18 th Dec – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

7)

7) **Date of next meeting.** To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tues 3rd DEC Open Meeting 7.30pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

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)

2019	Jan – 1 st – No meeting in January.	Feb – 5th	Mar – 5th	Apr 2nd	May 7th
June 4th	July 2nd	Aug 6th	Sept 3rd	Oct 1st	Oct 29th
Dec 3rd	2020	Jan 7th	Feb 4th	Mar 3rd	April 7th

Immediately followed by Autumn Open Meeting

Present – Councillors listed above +WDBC Cllrs Lois Samuel & Barry Ratcliffe, DCC Cllr James McInness, Dave Sexton – WDBC – Environmental Health; Tony Watkins & Mark Trafford – Airband + 17 members of the public.

SCPC Chair – Michele Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that since conducting the Parish Survey last year – SCPC has put together from this survey a list of priorities highlighted by parishioners. The [Full Report](#) can be viewed on the Website on the Survey Report page. Michele and various councillors then gave an update on these identified priorities.

1. Progress against the Parish Priorities

- **Improved Internet communications** – Cllr Mike Carpenter has been working with Airband who have surveyed several properties in the parish, and are currently installing aerial dishes that promise 40 mbps download and 15mbps upload speeds. Plus, because of the up-take by parishioners – Airband have generously agreed to install Broadband at the Village Hall totally Free of charge. If you want more information please contact the Clerk or Cllr Carpenter.
- **Road Safety Plan** – Cllr Wilson held 2 open meetings earlier in the year, and together with the survey responses, has put together a [Road Safety Plan](#) (can be viewed on the Parish Plan page of the website) She is also in communication with officers at WDBC and DCC and will be speaking at the Highways Traffic Audit Committee on 5th Nov. As the actions are implemented there is a requirement for volunteers to support the activities.
- **Improved Communications** – Cllr Wilson explained that SCPC are trying to improve communications across the parish. Although we are still happy to print and hand deliver 300 letters, we would still like to be able to communicate more frequently, more immediately, via Social media – ie the Website and Facebook page. Through social media we can warn parishioners of road closures and other dangers, as well as locate owners of lost ferrets! But we need you to sign up on the Website to get notices straight to your inbox.
- **Defibrillator Campaign** – through various Fund Raising events this year, and a generous grant of £500 from Cllr Lois Samuel, (announced at the meeting) SCPC are now in a position to Lease a Defibrillator on a 4 year contract. If you have a suggestion of where you think it should be located, please let us know.
- **Improved Toilet Facilities** – although identified as a priority on the Parish Plan. SCPC will need to look into Grant funding to bring the public toilets up to current DDA standards.
- **Increased Awareness of Community transport network** –SCPC are keen to promote the local Okehampton Community Transport Service as a facility not just for elderly or sick passengers, but a chance for parishioners to enjoy social outings. As such, we have already organised a trip to Tiverton Canal for a ride on the horse drawn barge, but if anyone has any suggestions for future trips – please contact the Clerk.

Eg – a member of the public at the meeting suggested a trip to a Recycling Centre to see just how our waste is recycled.

2. **WDBC presentation of their Recycling services** – Cllr Lois Samuel thanked SCPC Councillors for all the hard work they do for the parish, in a purely voluntary capacity. She is glad to help SCPC whenever she can.

She then went on to explain that the new Recycling Scheme will be starting on 2nd Dec. Some of you may have received information leaflets this week. You will also be receiving new White bags by the middle of November.

Cllr Barry Ratcliffe also explained that there are no landfill sites in Devon. Our waste either goes to the Digester/Incinerator at Plymouth which provides electricity for the docks at Devonport; or Green bag waste goes to Holsworthy where it is turned into soil dressing for local farms. The Council want to increase the amount of recycling that takes place throughout the Borough. A pilot is taking place in key identified areas (not Sampford Courtenay) to achieve targets where black bag waste is going to be collected every 3 weeks - it is hoped that this will encourage people to increase the amount that they recycle and limit the amount of waste that needs to be collected.

3. **Fuel efficiency Grants** - Dave Sexton gave a comprehensive talk about various grants available to help enable Independent Living, or loans for improved heating or essential home repairs at competitive rates. He will send contact details to the Clerk which will then be posted on the Website.

4. **Update from Village Hall Committee** – Anthony Morris explained that the Village Hall had been purchased/obtained from DCC in the 1950's when it ceased to be a school. The Village Hall Committee in its present form dated from 1999 (as an off shoot of the Millennium Committee). Over the past few year's Fund Raising and Grant Funding of just under £100,000 has enabled the building of the new kitchen, extension, disabled toilet and a tarmac entrance to make it DDA compliant. However, the next project is a new roof. This needs surveying and then applications made for further grants.

The hall is hired on a regular basis for various groups, pilates, table tennis, yoga, tap-dancing etc plus musical and film show events + the occasional wedding or anniversary party. Income from these events help to maintain the hall, but will not cover larger project expense.

Volunteers, in and beyond the parish, would be welcomed to cut costs by offering to help with maintenance jobs and supporting the various events.

Plus, the aging Committee, would welcome younger members to join them and become a Trustee of the Village Hall. Please contact Nicky Courage for more information.

5. **Update from Church Council** – Malcolm Craig highlighted several Church Events which will take place between now and Christmas. Again the Church would welcome your support at these events as the 15th century Church and Church Rooms need regular maintenance and repairs.

Tea & Coffee Break and time to review information stands.

6. **Mid year financial update & setting the Precept** – Cllr Wilson gave a graphic explanation of how SCPC funds are spent and explained that the Precept needed to cover the committed Annual running expenses of the parish council. For the past 8 years, the precept has remained the same or decreased, and coupled with inflation increases and statutory requirement such as minimum wage commitments it would mean an increase to the precept for 2020/21. Exact details will be considered at the SCPC meeting on Dec 3rd.

Ear Marked Reserves – SCPC does have healthy reserves for specific named items – eg Insurance Excess; Legal & Professional Costs; Election costs. As well as funds earmarked to support the Village Hall, Parish event such as the Grand Fete and VE celebrations next year and other enhancements to the Parish. However there are currently no ear marked reserves for Parish Plan Priorities highlighted above, so SCPC will have to consider further fund raising and Grant funding to implement them.

7. Any other matters/projects parishioners would like SCPC to consider as future priorities.

Several members of the public raised the issue of the state of the roads within the parish. Cllr McInness informed the meeting that DCC Highways are currently working on a scheme of “Doing What Matters” whereby they actively encourage parishioners to identify where work is needed. Cllr Wilson will contact the project and will arrange with other Councillors to collate comprehensive report of all issues on a parish road map highlighting where repairs/action is needed by either DCC or a working party of parishioners.

Cllr Wilson thanked everyone for their support and for attending this Open Meeting, but reiterated that all SCPC meetings are open to the public to come and listen and put forward suggestions.

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