

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tues 3rd Sept 2019 – PLEASE USE HYPERLINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

- 1) **Present Cllrs Michele Wilson, Colin Coleman, Janet Palmer, Mike Carpenter, Joy & Bob Tucker & John Friend**
- 2) **Apologies** - Cllr Sue Svedang
- 3) **Public Participation** – None
- 4) **Declarations of Interest** – None
- 5) **Minutes of Main Council Meeting 6th August 2019** were agreed and signed.
- 6) **WDBC Report** - None
- 7) **Planning** – this month was for information only

I) 2455/19/ARC – Hatherton Farm – Application for approval of reserved conditions 1902/18/FUL FYI ONLY.

WDBC Planning Decisions:-

- a) – 1171/18/FUL – **Erection Agric workers dwelling – Belstone Corner** - **REFUSAL** (SCPC supported)
- b) - 3585/18/FUL – **Oxenpark Barn – Mr Weeks** - **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**
- c) – 0814/19/FUL – **Langdale – Mr Carpenter** - **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**
- d) – 4098/18/HHO – **4 Station View – Mr Partridge** - **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**
- e) – 1660/19/PDM - **Trehill Farm – Mr Gavin** - **REFUSAL** (SCPC supported)
- f) – 1745/19/FUL - **Willey Farm – Biomass Boiler** - **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**

Cllr Wilson will write to Cllr Samuel and the Drew Powell at the Planning Office to point out the continued lack of courtesy in the Planning Dept when making a contrary decision to that of SCPC in planning matters.

Cllr Coleman said that he had located useful information re “Permission in Principle” on the [Department of Environment](#) website. However, Cllr Wilson said she will be inviting WDBC Planning Dept to attend the October Open Meeting to explain their procedures for this type of planning.

- 8) **KS Fencing Furzedown Lane P3 -up date = £ 3,264. Court Case 18th October 2019** – Cllr Coleman and Cllr Wilson attended a site meeting with the appointed Expert Witness and Tim Kent Smith of KS Fencing which Cllr Coleman felt was useful and productive. SCPC has since received the Expert’s report and have gone back to him to clarify some of his statements. The whole matter has been referred to the Court Telephone Mediation Service as our preferred means of resolution and we are awaiting a date for this.
Cllr Coleman asked for approval by SCPC that should the Expert Witness and court deem that the current value of work completed by KS Fencing is less than the amount SCPC has already paid – that Cllr Coleman has permission to proceed with a counter claim for the excess paid. It was agreed that should this arise Cllr Coleman has authority to spend up to £185 on a Counter Claim application.
- 9) **Local Plan update** (Cllr Wilson) – [Sampford Courtenay Priorities 2019-20](#) – Cllr Wilson presented an update of progress on the Action Plans resulting from the Parish Survey. Cllr Coleman asked that Thanks be recorded to Julie Carpenter for her excellent administration of the Website, and Cllr Wilson and Marion Pratt for up-dating Facebook resulting in a greatly increased interaction with parishioners and the general public.
- 10) **Local Resilience Plan** – update – (Cllr Wilson) – [30 Days 30 Ways Campaign for September](#) – **self preparedness competition.** Cllr Wilson is again running her 30 days 30 ways Campaign with useful information on how to keep yourselves, your family and your property safe. This will be up-dated daily on [SCPC Facebook page](#) with a weekly summary appearing on the [SCPC Website](#). NB if you sign up on the Website with your email address it will be sent directly to your inbox. Parishioners also have the option to sign up for campaign emails direct by following this link <http://30days30waysuk.org.uk/index.php> SCPC agreed that Cllr Wilson could spend up to £30 on a suitable prize for the winner of the competition for those following the campaign, to be announced at the Oct Open Meeting.
- 11) **War Memorial - up-date** - (Cllr Coleman) – (VE Day Celebrations 8th-10th May 2020) Cllr Coleman has been in touch with East Coast Castings who still have our original pattern for the plaque and have given some castings for making the necessary spelling and alignment corrections. He has also been approached by a parishioner who would

like to come and speak re this item at the next meeting. However, Cllr Coleman emphasized that the responsibility for the corrections to the plaque lie solely with SCPC and that Jeremy Chadburn was in no way liable. Cllr Joy Tucker confirmed this.

Corrections to the construction of the memorial stone are still to be resolved with the architect.

12) Nat West Bank remuneration - (Cllr Coleman)

Cllr Coleman summarized his communications with NatWest re pursuing a non-adversarial resolution to the difficulties experienced by SCPC over the past 8 years. Mainly concerning repeated failings of the Bank's procedures to maintain and check authorized signatories in respect to routine financial transactions. The situation was exacerbated by the closure of the local branch at Okehampton.

Nat West acknowledged the problems experienced and their senior management and Cllr Coleman have worked constructively together to reach a non-adversarial resolution to the problems experienced. Cllr Coleman advised NatWest that SCPC councilors had unanimously declined their offer of £1,500 ex gratia payment at their August meeting as they considered that actual time-costs and expenses of the loss that councilors (individually and severally) and the Clerk of SCPC had incurred was in excess of £4,000. After further discussions, NatWest asked that Cllr Coleman convey the revised offer of £2,500 to SCPC.

Cllr Coleman chose to leave the meeting while other councilors considered this proposal.

It was agreed unanimously following discussions lead by the Chair that the proposal of £2500 be accepted. Cllr Coleman was thanked for his efforts in bringing this to a resolution on behalf of the Council.

13) Finance the following payments were approved and cheques signed.

i) Clerk salary & Expenses =	= £214.20	
ii) HMRC	= £ 50.80	
iii) Tracy Mombeyerara Toilets publication)	= £ 99.00 (4 wks x 3hrs)	(After Agenda publication)
iv) N Power DD	= £ 9.21	(DD 19.8.19)
v) Petworth Consultancy Services Ltd (Expert witness)	= £418.68	
vi) DALC – M Carpenter – Planning Course	= £ 48.00	(22 nd July 19)
vii) DCT – M Wilson – Funding your community	= £38.32	(18 th Sept 19)
viii) WJ Morris – Village Hall Heaters	= £646.56	(After Agenda publication)
ix) Total payments this month =	= £1524.77	
x) Current Balances = Reserve Account	= £ 15,804.68	(Calculated)
xi) Current Account – (less expenditure above)	= £ 1,407.83	(Calculated)
xii) INCOME	= £375.40	(50% Profit from Flower Show for Defibrillator Fund & Seamoor Lotto)
xiii) Transfer from Reserve Account to Current Account	= £364.44	(This will make Reserve A/c = Earmarked Reserves to date)

14) Review of Budget/Finances to date & implications of WDBC proposal to remove Council Tax Support Grant for 2020 –(letter response by 30.9.19) in light of the above proposal by WDBC Cllr Wilson reviewed SCPC current Financial position and presented a very draft budget proposal for next year for consideration by the rest of the Councillors. With the following issues highlighted:-

- Removal of the WDBC Council Tax Support Grant
- SCPC Precept has not been raised for the past 8 years
- However SCPC costs have been rising to cover inflation and minimum wage rates
- SCPC have built up a good Ear Marked Reserve of funds for specific items but currently the Precept does not cover the committed annual expenditure.
- Cllr Wilson advised Councillors that to resolve this, next year's Precept would have to be raised significantly and/or cuts would have to be made to current annual costs of maintaining Village Green and Playground; Public Toilets and cutting the Parish Clerk's hours.

Councillors were asked to consider the options more closely and get back with their questions and suggestions before the next meeting so that agreed proposals could be put to parishioners at the Open meeting on Tues 29th Oct.

15) Progress Reports for information

- a) **Thanks and Recognition Certificate awarded to Marion Pratt, Bill Robertson & Sandra Harper for raising £800.80 at the Flower and Vegetable Show – split equally between the Village Hall and Defibrillator Fund.**
- b) **Airband Meeting and feedback** – Cllr M Carpenter had organised a successful meeting with Airband and approx. 15 parishioners at which 7 people signed up with Airband for a survey, and Cllr Carpenter has

subsequently got a further 3 to sign up giving the 10 sign-ups required to acquire **Free Broadband** for the Village Hall. (to be confirmed) Cllr Wilson and Carpenter have put together a “Cost Comparison” Self-assessment sheet to help you decide if moving to Airband (or any other provider) could give you a better service at a cheaper cost. For more information please contact us.

- c) **Parish Outing to Tiverton Canal** – 15 parishioners enjoyed a pleasant trip to Tiverton Canal for a ride on the horse drawn barge. Although drizzly, the barge was covered and refreshments were available on board. SCPC will consider organising further trips to support both parishioners and ODCTG perhaps to the theatre in the autumn; and at varying times to enable “working” parishioners to participate. If you have any suggestions for a trip/outing please let us know.
 - d) **Okehampton and District Community Transport Crowdfunding to buy another 15 seat Mini bus.** <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/odctg-purchaseofminibus> following on from item 15 c – ODCTG are currently seeking funds to buy another mini bus. They want to raise £35,000 by 1st Oct. Please look for them on line or use this link if you wish to make a donation.
 - e) **SCPC Open Meeting – Tues 29th Oct** – Cllr Wilson is hoping to invite representatives from WDBC to discuss planning and the New Recycling Service. Plus there will be an update on the Parish Priorities and news on next year’s precept. **Cllr Wilson will prepare a Chairs letter to be sent to all properties in the Parish inviting people to attend and highlighting any other issues that they would like to raise and be considered by the Parish Council**
 - f) It was agreed to cancel the planned SCPC meeting for Nov 5th and to only hold a meeting in Nov if any planning applications arise.
 - g) **Standards & Governance Training – 2pm 24th Sept Kilworthy Park – Cllr Wilson & Clerk attending.**
 - h) **Eastern Link Meeting = NT Council Offices Thurs 12th Sept 7.30 pm** – Cllr J Tucker & Cllr Wilson will attend.
 - i) **Climate Emergency Network** – Cllr J Tucker & J Palmer asked for their names to be put forward for this.
 - j) **Fundraising Ideas –**
 - **Wine Tasting Evening – Sat 21st Sept £15 pp** – Still places available.
 - **VE Day Celebrations – Meeting** - next meeting Wed Sept 25th 3pm at Higher Town if anyone is keen to help or get involved.
 - k) **BT Phone Boxes** – Cllr Wilson has had positive feedback from BT and is currently negotiating to acquire red paint for volunteers to re-furbish the 2 boxes in the Village and at Sampford Chapple. The kiosk at Sampford Station is due to be removed soon. **Contact to be made with the conservations officer prior to work being carried out on the kiosk in Sampford Courtenay Square.**
 - l) **Fingerpost repairs** – Andy Wilson is preparing an Audit of the posts in the parish and will present costings to SCPC
 - m) **Footpaths** – nothing to report. Following review of last year’s submission by Cllr Carpenter when he took over as Footpaths lead, the current position/priorities has not changed since last year and it was agreed to re-submit this year’s P3 application to try and get funds for next year.
 - n) **OkeRail** – everything is very secretive but there is supposed to be a special train outing to Weymouth on 14th September. However, as like last year, by the time they make the official announcement tickets are likely to be limited.
 - o) **Playground Report** – Cllr M Carpenter – all good.
 - p) **Village Hall Report** – Cllr Coleman had been asked by a parishioner how one becomes a trustee of the Village Hall. Cllr Wilson has spoken to members of the Village Hall Committee and has been told that they would invite any parishioners willing to help as trustee to speak to the committee (as in fact Cllr Joy and Bob Tucker did) and could appoint in line with their constitution as vacancies arise.
- 16) **Clerk’s Report** (anything not already covered by Agenda item)
- i) **Invitation for Chair to attend WD Mayoral Civic Reception Sun Oct 6th – Fairplace Church.** – Cllr Palmer will see if she is able to attend.
 - ii) **Email from Cllr J McInnes re meeting at The Beeches re speed limit.** – Cllr Wilson has written to the parishioners at The Beeches and explained that there is a Parish Initiative working on this issue, and asking if they would care to join the Working Party to represent that area of the parish.
 - iii) **Ash Die Back notices** – the Clerk has received information regarding this and will post it on the Noticeboards.
 - iv) **Dog Fouling posters** – to save money, Cllr Palmer agreed to design a poster to remind parishioners and visitors to please collect dog mess when exercising their dogs on the roads and green lanes in the parish.
 - v) **New Councillors Course – South Tawton – 14th Oct – Cllrs Palmer, Carpenter & Svedang attending.**
 - vi) **Okehampton Civic Service – Sunday 15th September** – Cllr Palmer attending.
 - vii) **Devon and Somerset Fire Service Consultation ends 22nd Sept** – it has now been announced that cuts are likely to be made to Okehampton Fire Service. Cllr Wilson agreed to raise this issue at the Eastern Links meeting and to also respond to the questionnaire asking how cover for the large proportion of thatch houses in the parish would be maintained/guaranteed in light of these cut backs.
 - viii) **Late notice** – the Clerk had received a phone call from a parishioner asking if SCPC could look into obtaining some “Tractors Crossing” signs to alleviate danger at their farm entrance.
 - ix) **Just Giving Page donations to date = £94**
 - x) **SeaMoor Lotto – to support SCPC projects – you can sign up for tickets at** <https://www.seamoortalto.co.uk/support/sampford-courtenay-parish-council> **Funds raised to date**

£271.50 Any parishioners not already signed up are urged to have a look at this page. It is like the Post code lottery but with funds going directly to SCPC to use for priorities identified in the recent Parish Survey.

17) Upcoming Events –

Venue	Date
Coffee Morning – Weirford House	Sat 14 th Sept 10am
Wine Tasting Evening – Village Hall	Sat 21 st Sept 7pm £15 pp
Harvest Festival & Supper	Fri 27 th Sept 6.30 pm
SCPC Meeting	Tues Oct 2 nd 7.30pm
SCPC Open Meeting	Tues 29 th Oct – 7.30pm
Talk on Australia – Village Hall	Saturday 5 th October 7.30pm
Diving for Pearls – Village Hall	Saturday 12 th October 7.30pm
Jesus Christ Superstar – NT Church	17 th -19 th October 7.30 pm

18)

18) Date of next meeting. To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tues Oct 1st 7.30pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

Signed

M. S Pratt

Marion Pratt

Clerk to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Sept 2019

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 2nd	Oct 29 th Open Meeting.
Dec 3rd	2020	Jan 7th	Feb 4th	Mar 3rd	April 7th

Eastern Links Meetings – 12th Sept – 7.30pm – North Tawton Town Council Offices 27th Nov - 7pm – Council Chamber – Kilworthy Park – Tavistock

Civic Service – Okehampton – Sunday 15th Sept 2019

Civic Service – Okehampton – Sunday 6th Oct 2019 – Mayor of West Devon – Cllr Tony Leech.