

SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN MEETING

7:30PM TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2020

Notes from SCPC Autumn Open Meeting

1. Present Cllrs M Wilson, M. Carpenter, J. Palmer, B & J Tucker + DCC Cllr J McInness + 13 members of the public
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr J Friend & C. Coleman + WDBC Cllr L Samuel.
3. Cllr Michele Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks on behalf of SCPC for so many parishioners attending. She also thanked the Book Club for changing it's meeting to accommodate this. Cllr Wilson also said that it is hoped to hold more regular, informal Question and Answer meetings, either via Zoom or in person once it is safe again to gather as a group.
4. **Thoughts on Parish requirements for recovery and response to any potential COVID local lockdown in the future** – Cllr Wilson reiterated that SCPC Resilience Plan (already in place) had enabled SCPC and Incident Management Team to support the community throughout the past months. SCPC has received a lot of positive feedback from both parishioners and other councils and bodies outside of the parish for their actions.

Cllr McInness – added that we should not lower our guard. Everyone should still be following the Hands, Face, Space guidelines to protect ourselves and others. We are all lucky to live in Devon where the R rate is low, but with winter on its way – and with Covid liking cold and wet conditions, we should all be on our guard.

Cllr Wilson – said that SCPC would maintain the network of volunteers, and policies to ensure parishioners could stay safe. But said that the Resilience plan is a living document that can and will evolve to meet changes in the challenges we face.

A member of the public – expressed thanks to Michele Wilson, Julie Carpenter, and Marion Pratt for all the Virtual Activities and Events they had organised during lockdown and said that they felt Sampford Courtenay had been better served than most parishes.

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5. **Poll on Parishioners ideas on how to allocate the Earmarked COVID funds** - during the past month's money had been raised through the various Bake Sales, Plant Stall donations and sale of Face Masks. The fund currently stands at £1,105.49. A poll was held at this meeting and the majority vote was to share these funds between the Village Hall Roof Fund and St Andrew's Church. This will be taken forward to SCPC meeting next week to approve.
6. **SCEnSus Overview - objectives for the future** – Cllr Joy Tucker said that hopefully all parishioners should have received a flyer detailing the plans and objectives of the SCEnSus (Sampford Courtenay Environmental and Sustainability Group) More details will be published soon on Monthly Challenges for individuals and households to tackle on a practical day to day level. Please use the new Search facility on the website to check for links to Sustainable Living ideas; noticeboards and Roundabout or sign up on the website to receive regular updates of new initiatives and events.
7. **Roof-Us Appeal for Village Hall** – Cllr M Carpenter also gave an up-date on the Village Hall Roof Appeal (also included in recent leaflet drop). Funds so far are just over £15,000. The Pumpkin Trail with Soup and Apple Cake etc on 31st Oct is the first of many events which are planned to help raise the necessary £150,000; together with appeals to businesses both local and national; applying for grants; a promotional video; etc. A beautiful model of the Hall has been built and will be used to illustrate the progress of funds raised together with sale of promotional Roof-Us Badges and stickers. All donations are greatly appreciated and a register of donations and contributions in kind will be created.
8. **Sampford Courtenay Past, Present & Future initiative** – Veronica Mathews then outlined her idea of how to build on the sense of community in the parish which, she felt, had been heightened during the Covid crisis. She felt that a sense of belonging was essential to personal and community health and well-being.

Veronica's ideas are outlined below:-

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Sampford Courtenay: The Past

Making our history 'real' - An illustrated ' Time Line ' activity and display
Village walks – themed Saturday morning walks. Looking at wells, crosses etc. <i>Soup lunch afterwards?</i>
The Prayer Book Rebellion – a re-enactment of the main events and where they took place
Exploring SC's links to 'the big names' Powderham and Okehampton Castles and the Courtenay family Kings' College, Cambridge - Still 'Lord of the Manor'?
Sampford Courtenay History Group – apparently this has already been requested so let's form a group and let them co-ordinate some of the events suggested here

Sampford Courtenay: The Present

Community a) Much appreciated 'lockdown' arrangements. Thank you! b) How do we sustain this if we get another local lockdown and/ or if it lasts much longer? c) What else do we need?
Groups coming together – a shared vision of SC: Past, Present, Future
Village Hall – fundraising

Sampford Courtenay : The Future - *ours and our legacy for future generations*

Environment and Climate – The work of the SCEnSus group, including the Community garden, Community hub, a 'peat free' SC, the car sharing project, focus on waste and litter and the monthly challenges
Community – Continue to improve communication between groups and within the Parish. Keep and develop further the best of 'lockdown' arrangements even post Covid.
Health – What can we all do to further promote both physical and mental/ emotional 'health' within the Parish?

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Activities and Interest groups – Explore what Parishioners want in terms of regular groups beyond the ones that already exist. A monthly Art group? A walking group? The History group already mentioned? What else? Annual/ occasional coach trips?

It was suggested that perhaps we could start with parishioners submitting what they know about their own house and its history to start things off.

If you like some of these ideas or have suggestions of your own that you would like considered please let SCPC know via the Clerk at SCPCclerk@aol.com or drop a note through the door at Higher Town.

9. **Other items raised by parishioners at the meeting.**

a) **Parish not Village** – a parishioner stated that he felt SCPC is still too Village centric and does not consider the many parishioners who live outside of the main village.

- SCPC did hold one of the Bake Sales at The Beeches, which the parishioner reported was appreciated. The Clerk asked if there was any way the park owners could be asked to provide a unit to hold such events more regularly, and if so, would residents of the Beeches attend them.
- SCPC has also offered to transport residents to events held in the Village if that is preventing them from attending.
- Another Bake Sale was held at The Countryman, (Thanks to Roger & Pauline Brentnall) and previously Open Meetings have been held there. It would be helpful to know if outlying parishioners would attend (once it is safe to do so) if future meetings were arranged.
- **Please let us know** – what sort of thing outlying parishioners would like SCPC to consider in order for them to feel more included.

b) **Parish Outing** – would parishioners support the reinstatement of an Annual Coach Trip? These previously ran successfully until lack of support made the cost prohibitive. However, SCPC did organise a trip to Tiverton Canal through the Okehampton Community Transport Group last year and can arrange others if there was enough interest.

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- c) **Christmas in Sampford Courtenay** – none of us know quite what we will be allowed to do together for Christmas – but if you check the What's On Notice on the Notice boards, Website, Facebook and Roundabout you will see that we have tentatively pencilled in Zoom Carol Singing, Christmas Bazaar and Santa's Grotto, Advent Window Trail, Christmas Wish/Gratitude tree in the Square and a Merry Christmas One and All socially distanced Christmas Cheer in the square on Christmas eve. We also hope to perhaps still ring out the Old and ring in the New for New Year – but with the singing of Auld Lang Syne taking place in our own safe bubbles on our own doorsteps.
- d) **How can we best keep you all informed?** **you** will appreciate that it is cost prohibitive to print and distribute every notice to every household; and **we** appreciate that not everyone has signed up/can sign up to receive these notices via email. If you can share information with your friends and neighbours it would be appreciated. Or let Marion know of any other suggestions of getting the information out to all of you.
- e) **Thank you** – another parishioner expressed his thanks to SCPC, Michele, Marion and Julie, for all they are doing/have done through the past months and said they felt very lucky to live in Sampford Courtenay. This was supported by other parishioners present.