

Minutes of SCEnSus held via Zoom on 26 January 2021 7.30pm

1. Welcome.

Joy Tucker
Marion Pratt
Janet Palmer
Veronica Matthews
David Botting-Page
Philip Collins
Robin and Jill Bevis

2. Apologies.

Mike Davies
Ruth Testa (North Tawton)

3. Approval of minutes and any matters arising not covered below.

Minutes approved by Veronica with one correction of the acronym of E L M S that the L stands for Lands not Lines.

Joy wished to thank Cllr Michelle Wilson for the collection and recycling of Christmas trees from the parish. 4 were collected and taken to Taw farm.

Also many thanks to Bill who has been doing a sterling job of litter picking over the last few weeks. A never ending task unfortunately but much noticed and appreciated.

Jan Goffey sent a very informative email on The Devon Carbon Plan for everyone's information and digestion.

4. Ongoing initiatives.

Cllr Michelle Wilson has followed up the funding and Lois has managed to secure £200 from the localities budget for the group. Marion confirmed that £500 is also earmarked from SCPC.

i, Community garden date for site meeting at village green picnic/helping hand on village green for garden launch 17 April. The site meeting is set for 13th Feb at 10am at the village green. This should be able to go ahead as it is outdoors and comes under charitable/work for covid restrictions. Masks to be worn and social distance observed. Anyone wishing to get involved in the project can just come along and see what's taking place. Marion suggested that we invite someone from the church as the church wall will be featured in the plans. Joy said she will ask Malcom Craig if he will be available for the church and also invite Nicky Scott from Chagford. If at all possible it is planned to have a launch party/picnic with a provisional date for April 17th of course all restriction dependant. This meeting should then give some direction and ideas for the Q & A open meeting set on the 16th March via zoom which will include village hall and skate park.

ii, Peat-free initiative fund application . Jill is hoping to produce a peat-free compost mix for the grow-your-own potato competition with the parish flower show. Jill and Robin have said that maybe they could sell the bags in the square too. It is suggested that we co op with Chagford and Moretonhampstead for the bags of compost to bring the cost per bag down due to lower charges on a larger order. The price per bag ranges from 8 bags @ £9.50 or 15 bags @ £8.50. The size ranges are general purpose 30 litres, 12 litre seedling mix and veg & salad 30 litres. These are a mix of the wool and bracken. There was concern that the price may be thought as too high and put people off, but this should be sorted out by mixing the compost with cheaper peat-free alternatives.

iii, Community hub notice board sizes and locations. The plant stall in the village square is one suitable place to put a notice board, we just need to decide the layout of the board. Phil asked if there were other parish notice boards other than the square. There are 2 at the bus stops which are pin boards. Michelle is handing it over to Dave to utilise the plant stall if he is happy to do it and link up with Dave Viggers to make a bespoke board. Janet wondered if the group could set up a Whats App group for people to advertise there stuff on so everyone on the group can see what's on offer. This would need someone to organise the App group and also permission under the freedom of information ie for details of phone numbers etc. Veronica pointed out with 3 different boards would it be a case of having to travel to all 3 boards to get information which could mean having to use a car to get to them which may be viewed as not eco friendly.

iv. Litter/recycling: Spring clean up date. The pencilled in date for the Parish spring clean is 20th March 10am. This links in with national spring clean day so may hopefully attract more volunteers. meeting venue TBA.

Insurance for monthly pick-ups. Marion has checked with SCPC insurance and has found that it would cover under the public liability small groups or a single person to do clean ups on an ongoing basis on a set time like first Saturday monthly. As long as each person has signed a risk assessment then they would be covered.

SCEnSUS is a sub committee of the Parish council and is covered as such.

Crisp packet recycling. There is a place in Okehampton that will take crisp packets for recycling but only in large amounts. Maybe a central point for collection of packets could be designated in the village. David asked whether we should really be pressing the WDBC to add crisp packets to the weekly recycle pick up. Concern was raised that if the plant stall was used as a collection point for various recycling we run the risk of it ending up looking or becoming a dumping ground. Marion said she would bring this up with Lois Samuels WDBC. Veronica asked if splitting the toilets in two as part unisex and the other area as a parish community hub would be worth looking at. This has already been discussed by SCPC as ongoing use of building.

v. Monthly challenges: draft challenges for 2021. Veronica has said that February's challenge of food miles is under way and wondered if anyone had heard any feedback from this. The subject of woodburners are in February's challenge so everyone that has one needs to be compliant with the new laws of wood has to be seasoned for 2 years before burning and regular chimney sweeping. Robin said they have bought a moisture meter which was around £12 and it has proved valuable to check their wood before putting it on the fire. The challenge would also see if everyone could grow just 1 thing that they could share or swap with others to save

on food miles. Jill said that maybe one challenge eg food miles should be suggested as bullet points under one statement so that it does not look overwhelming and Robin said that people may want at least 2 or 3 different challenges to give people the choice to pick out what they can aim to achieve from the options.

Veronica said that David Bunday from Bude conducts energy performance surveys for certificates when selling your house. But he is also willing to do energy reports to see how energy efficient your home is and give advice on how to improve it. She thinks he charges around £55 for this service. It may be that he could do a talk for us.

5. Tree planting. Robin has said that the Government is all for planting more trees and he said that he and Jill have been looking at possible sites around the parish while out on their cycles and walks. The triangle of grass area at Red Post Cross could be a possible site for an oak tree. Janet raised the point that would highways have to be informed and would it cause branch overhang onto the road. Could it also block the lane into Richard Weeks field for machinery and we would need to speak to him for information as to who owns the land and any affects it may have on him. Farmers may be able to be encouraged to cut less trees back in their hedges as well.

6. Footpaths. David said Cllr Mike Carpenter and himself have walked the current footpaths and helped with some work on the P3 with him. Marion has asked that the Parish council can have a copy of what maps/lists he has of paths.

7. Priority post boxes. Robin has brought up the issue of priority post boxes. These usually have a later time for covid test collection. Some also have larger openings so that parcels can be posted in them. Our nearest one is Taw Green for the parish. The other local boxes all need to be driven to. The postman can collect but from your doors step but this depends on if you have a delivery that day or catching them. Marion said she will contact Royal Mail to send out the form that parish councils can request priority status. (Since meeting Marion has been out to photograph Taw Green Post Box – it is exactly the same as SC Postboxes in the Square and at Belstone Corner – i.e Red Post Box on a wooden post. The only difference is they have a plastic label stating “Priority Post Box – for NHS”)

8. Co-ordinations of SCEnSus publicity information. Joy asked if there was anyone that could take on this role. Jill said that the information posted needs to be the priority items that are put onto the website. Jill and Robin kindly agreed to trial this role. Marion said if something was drip fed in on a weekly basis rather than all in one hit it would make things relevant and current. Keep monthly challenges separate . David said to publish the important items from the minutes in quick clear statements.

9. SCPC electricity contract. This decision ultimately rests with the Parish Council and currently it is difficult to get an up to date quote as none of the suppliers are very willing to take on such a small business. N Power have quoted double what is paid at present. It is difficult to find a truly green supplier. Janet asked what the night time use for lighting is and whether portable solar or battery lighting would be a better way forward. Also would it be worth looking into ‘piggy-backing’ on the village hall electrical contract, then the council pay the hall for the electric used and part of the

standing charge. Costings for the work would have to be considered and if it was viable.

Joy asked that we minute our thanks to Robin for the precis he wrote on the sustainability issues involved regarding the carbon footprint of the various methods of energy production. This was agreed to be circulated to all councillors to read.

10. Website and facebook. Jill said that the website is all good but we need to see ways of attracting more people to view it and reach out to those who do not know what our group is aiming to achieve. It may be worth putting the whole name down instead of just SCEnSUS as it explains what the group is.

11. Any other business. We are reminded that this weekend is the RSPB Big garden bird watch and forms can still be downloaded from the website. Cllr Coleman had sent a link to Joy about a remote conference on Africa's Energy Future; she will forward the link to anyone interested.

Date of the next meeting Weds 24th February 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom.