

Minutes, SCEnSus, 21 April 2021

1. Welcome. Joy Tucker, Marion Pratt, Janet Palmer, Veronica Matthews, Jill Bevis, David Botting-Page, Phillip Collins, Jacqui Bourne.

2. Apologies. Mike Davis.

3. Approval of the minutes and any other matters arising not covered below. Minutes approved by all. Matters arising: item 7 the pile of natural waste at the village hall will be left to rot down to provide a habitat for wildlife haven and people can be informed so that they don't think it has just been neglected. Also, Joy said that the village Hall has switched Electric company to Bulb which are 100% green energy.

4. Rail Re-opening: SCPC position. Marion said that the presentation given by the rail companies at the Parish Council Annual meeting is available on the Website. The 3 main reasons for not opening our station at present which will be in the Parish Council minutes. Network Rail has said that it is not a flat NO and will be considered in the ongoing works and plans. Jill has asked if the Parish Council will keep asking questions to Network Rail reference the SCEnSus point of view. Cllr McGuinness is among those intending to form a local group to press for the opening of SC station. Veronica is concerned that the cost of updating Sampford Station will be a negative reason for not using it and that the new Okehampton Parkway planned station will be thought of as near enough for this area to use. This is however not really taking into account of the fact that people will still have to use their cars to get there and also the implications of increased traffic and delays in the town. North Tawton are very much in favour of Sampford station opening as their station would not be viable any more. Marion asked Jill if she knows of others who want the station here to contact the council about it. Jill has said that Network Rail based the figures of use on a Sunday/tourist train service of the footfall at Sampford and said there were about 5 a week using it and this is not a true picture of commuter or shoppers requirements. Car parking charges need to be such that it will not make the cost of travel unviable as well. Crediton's rail car park is free and would the cost of petrol to get to Okehampton plus parking charges make people feel it is too costly and carry on using cars. David feels that the sustainability aspect has been very much an afterthought by the railway. It is felt that we as a group should be trying to promote the green side of a local station.

5. Ongoing Initiatives.

i, Community Garden. Results of parish consultation and priorities to get it started. There was a good response to this and the results are published on the Parish Council website. Veronica said seeing that there were 22 offers of willing to help who and where are they and how do we get them to come along and get involved. Would the best way be to publish an email with upcoming event and get responses that way as it doesn't want to be left to just a few of the same working on it. Jill has asked about the funding, as SCEnSus is a subcommittee of the PC then they would do the leg work on that and it would be down to us to provide costings and timings of commencement of work. Veronica said that we need to update the original plan in time for work to start. Phillip thinks it would be best to do work in phases ie The Wild flowers, Bug hotel and Bulb planting. The performance area design needs to be decided as to type and size of structure. It may be worth contacting John Palmer as he may have ideas from structures he may have used and something that could be multi-functional so everyone can make use of it.

ii, Community hub, update on current situation regarding the boards. David said he believes that the notice boards are on order to replace the old ones and the costing for each board is £26 and of sustainable materials. The sites are to be at the 2 bus shelters and there will be a sign on each informing people what is going on. Marion said that the council could put in for an information board for the village with reference to historical events, buildings and local trails for visitors. There should also be a link via the website so that it is portable for people to take with them if desired.

iii, Litter/recycling: crisp packet recycling. Reminder emails have been sent out reference making sure rubbish/recycling bins are secured so they don't blow over spilling rubbish and correct items are being put in the right bins.

Joy has asked the supermarkets in Okehampton reference recycling crisp and other plastic packaging as Tesco's are doing; only response so far received from Co-Op directing us to information on its website.

Joy also contacted WDBC and has received a full response, including reference to a consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility.

iv, Monthly challenges. Veronica has said main challenge is to get the message of using the washing line rather than the tumble dryer to dry washing while there is good weather. July's aim is reducing packaging ie buying loose veg and fruit items or reusing bags from previous trips. Also the single use coffee cups, to take your own instead. Janet said that she has taken to using her flask for coffee when out and about. Not only saving money but also not drinking out of tins/bottles that you don't know who has been handling.

6. Co-ordination of SCEnSus publicity/information. Jill has not been able to do much on the publicity side of things due to being away and home internet problems. Parishioners' " own projects" (as in Bondleigh news letter). Whether we could get local people to share ideas and success stories of what they have achieved. Put up facts and figures about the main issues around food waste.

7. Local collaboration liaison with local groups. Veronica and Janet had their meeting with Ruth Testa last week which was mainly introductions. She said what North Tawton are aiming to achieve. Also if we can do quarterly meetings with the other groups as this would be productive for ideas.

Devon Climate Emergency Council Support Network. Joy is resending the email about this as not everyone has seen it.

8. Moor Meadows Life on the verge. Highways England are maintaining the strips down the centre roads as wildlife corridors and not cutting back verges as often.

9. Any Other Business. Re-Loved sale 22nd May 10am to 12 noon SC Village Hall.

Joy asked Marion if the SCEnSus group has to have an annual meeting. As there is a member of the council in the group this roll could be taken on for the group at the PC annual meeting.

10. Date of next meeting. Wednesday 26th May on the Village green 7pm.

Proposal

1. That SCPC collaborates with SCEnSus to invite Dave Sexton (Environmental Health Officer, WDBC) to talk to a meeting about funding available for improving energy efficiency of homes etc.