

PARISH OPEN MEETING NOTES 19.10.21

Present : SCPC Cllrs – M Wilson, M Carpenter, J. Palmer, J. Friend, P Collins, M. Morrissey, & C. Coleman & Clerk M. Pratt

WDBC – Cllr B. Ratcliffe & DCC Cllr J. McInnes NTTCC Cllr S. Whiteley (via Zoom)

Cllrs & Officers = 11

Apologies – Cllr B. Tucker & Mrs J. Tucker

Members of Public – Mr & Mrs Robinson, Mr & Mrs Thompson, V. Mathews, Mr & Mrs Simmons, Mr & Mrs Band, Mrs Collins, Mr Boting Page, Mrs Hanks, Mr Weeks, Mr & Mrs Aldridge, Mr Craig, Mrs Hedges, Mr & Mrs Palmer, D Manton, Mr & Mrs Harding, Mr & Mrs Greer, Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Courage, Mr Robertson = 27

Via Zoom – Mr Townsend Green, Mr Chidwick, Miss Ayre, Gemma Bristow = 4

TOTAL ATTENDANCE = 42

- Chair Michele Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
- The Clerk showed a brief Power Point presentation that highlighted just some of the events/achievements by SCPC and other Community Groups over the past 6 months.
- The Powerpoint Slides re items below can be downloaded here <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-minutes-agendas>
- **Dartmoor Line**
- Over 500 responses to the Survey have been received and is available as a report on the Website. <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/node/674>
- This Report will be presented to Oke Rail Forum on 21st October.
- Be forwarded to NWR to inform their feasibility on the re-opening of Sampford Courtenay Station, and other local stations.
- Inform negotiations between DCC and GWR for better public transport links.
- **Devon County Councillor James McInnes** – thanked the Dartmoor Line Working Party for their work in undertaking this survey, but paid particular thanks to Cllr Michele Wilson for all her hard work.
- **SCPC – Autumn Review**
- Cllr Wilson explained slides that detailed how the Parish Precept monies are spent each year; and the current Ear Marked Reserves.
- She then reminded those present of the current Parish Priorities which were identified by parishioners in the survey conducted in 2019.
- **Those present, or any other parishioners, were invited to let the parish council know if these are still their key priorities or if they feel there are other initiatives, they would like the council to focus on.**

- **Public Toilets**

- Cllr Carpenter explained that due to the delay with WDBC Planning Office, and Covid that prices have escalated and the cost for the planned refurbishment has now risen from the budgeted £10,000 to £14,000.
- The structure of the roof has been deemed unsafe, and the Ladies toilet has been closed until repairs to the roof can be undertaken next February.
- The council will seek additional funding to complete the planned refurbishment of the windows and doors. They have also applied to WDBC for funding from the Government Changing Rooms Grant, which if successful, would be used to bring the toilets to the standards set out in the Equality Act 2010.

- **SCEnSus**

- Cllr Wilson then went through the initiatives SCPC have undertaken/will undertake to help reduce the councils Carbon Footprint. Full details and ideas of how individuals can make a difference can be found here on the Website. <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/scensus>
- Comments and Volunteers were/are sort on the following 3 points.
- **Plant a Tree for the Queen's Green Canopy – if so where? The only public space SCPC own is the Village Green – is there a local landowner who has somewhere to plant trees?**
- **Anyone willing to volunteer to become a Wildflower and Wildlife warden and perhaps organise a seasonal “Treasure Hunt” around the parish to identify our local flora and fauna?**
- **Anyone willing to hand weed the cobbles on the Village Green and the Square?**
- Cllr Coleman asked if WDBC were still offering Free Trees for people to plant on their own land. Cllr Ratcliffe will look into this.
- **Enhancement of the Village Green** – comments were sort re the council using some of the EMR for Parish Enhancement to purchase 2 new benches for the Village Green.
- Comments were also sought regarding purchasing more “Recycling” Litter Bins to place around the parish. A parishioner on Zoom & Cllr Coleman suggested that parish businesses could be invited to sponsor a bin, rather than place additional expense on the Parish Precept. Other parishioners were concerned regarding the on-going costs for emptying these bins; and others felt that they were not in keeping with a pretty village in a conservation area, and would prefer the council to encourage people to take their litter home with them.
- Cllr Friend commented that despite the new litter bin sited by the Public Toilets that can be used for Dog Waste – people are still allowing their dogs to mess on the local footpaths or Village Trail. There have also been incidents of people allowing their dogs off the lead and letting them enter neighbouring fields which contain livestock. **Please check the rules on the Countryside**

Code which can be downloaded here on the website.

<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/2021-01/countryside-code-leaflet-942688840.pdf>

- **Village Hall up-date**

- Cllr Mike Carpenter gave a review of events over the past months, and detailed recent successful fund-raising events. Some of which has been used to replace 3 of the big windows with double-glazed units.
- The Village Hall has also got through to the second round of the application process for a £95,000 Lottery Funding Grant. This funding is needed to replace the roof and add additional insulation.
- Mike also asked for ideas for new events or volunteers to join the Village Hall Team.

- **Church up-date**

- Malcolm Craig gave a review of the roller-coaster past year and gave details of a busy calendar between now and the New Year.
- He also asked those present for their thoughts on holding the usual New Year's Eve event of Ringing out the old, and ringing in the new – with a brazier in the square. (in light of the new dwellings on the site of the Methodist Chapel)
- Cllr Wilson suggested we canvas the householders in the square – but the general opinion of the meeting was that it should still go ahead.

- **Queen's Jubilee – 2nd – 5th June 2022**

- There are various National Events planned for this momentous occasion, and it is unlikely that there will be another such Jubilee in the foreseeable future. So, it was felt that Sampford Courtenay should embrace the opportunity to celebrate next year.
- **So, what would you like to do?**
- **Would you like to volunteer to join a Working Party to help organise the parish celebrations?**
- **Variety Show and Meal at Village Hall?**
- **Best Dressed House Competition?**
- **Street Party Lunch?**
- **Fancy Dress Parade from 1952 – 2022?**
- **Thanks Giving Church Service?**
- **Lighting of a Beacon?**
- **Piper and Town Crier?**
- Please look out for news of a meeting to set up a Working Group to plan some fun events.

- **BROADBAND**

- Cllr Wilson gave a full and detailed explanation of the current situation regarding Full Fibre to the Premises throughout the Parish.
- The Clerk and Cllr Wilson are currently putting together an information pack explaining what you need to do to register for this. This will be available to download from the Website <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/2021-10/broadband-mw-mp-1941867261.pdf> or by email request to the Clerk. SCPCClerk@aol.com
- Cllr Coleman asked if the Village Hall would please register for this.
- Cllr J Friend explained his frustration with trying to obtain FTTP to his property.
- Hopefully with the information pack, and with the help of Gemma Bristow, the West Devon Community Broadband Officer – at least some of the properties in Sampford Courtenay Parish should soon be able to achieve a feasible Broadband package next year.

- **Lost Paths Project** – thank you to David Boting Page for this presentation.

- The Ramblers Association started a “Don’t lose your way” campaign in 2020 with other walking groups.
- The deadline to register is 2026 – if parishioners wish to engage with this David asked that SCPC arrange perhaps, a Q & A session, so that parishioners and landowners could comment.
- The historical context of our roads and paths is that they were used for hunting and food gathering; ritual; farming, trading; travelling between family networks, church etc Plus routes for tradesmen and postmen.
- There is always a reason for their existence – many just happened naturally. More regulation of roadways started in the Tudor period. Many roads in SC were still unmade in the late 1920’s. Some are still our green lanes.
- Sticklepath used to be part of SC Parish – and there was a “coffin” path from Sticklepath (including our current Shoalgate Lane to St Andrew’s Church here in SC.
- In the Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch book by Stephanie Pouya, there is a reference that SCPC in 1971 submitted a list of 25 existing paths/green lanes to DCC for inclusion in the definitive map.
- 14 were finally included and this is our current network of footpaths. – Some are now just cut off paths going nowhere or to a busy road such as the A30.

- SCPC has responsibility for these paths and receives a small annual amount from DCC for their maintenance, and can apply to the Parish Paths Partnership fund (P3) for funding for capital (one off) works.
- **SCPC would like the views of the parishioners on looking at some of the lost paths in the Parish. Exploring the feasibility of negotiating their re-instatement. But this will mean careful consideration and discussion with landowners and DCC.** We would appreciate your comments please.
- **Finally**, please use the existing paths. Pick up one of the Leaflets detailing the local walks.
- **Children in Need Ramble on Sat Nov 13th** – watch the notices for more details soon.
- **Regular Guided Walks** – in the New Year – David would like to organise regular (perhaps monthly) guided walks along our current paths.
- **Over to You** – there is still time to let the parish council have your comments – whether you were at the meeting, or just reading these notes from the Meeting. Either comment on these topics or other issues that are of interest or concern for yourself, your family or other parishioners. You can email the Clerk on SCPCClerk@aol.com and they will be considered by SCPC.
- **Keep Informed and up to date**
- Please check the Website for news and up-dates
<https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/>
- Or sign up for regular emails from Julie our Website Administrator, at the bottom of any page on the Website.
- If you are on Facebook – Like and Follow our page to get the news direct -
<https://www.facebook.com/SampfordCourtenayParishCouncil>
- Or just check the Noticeboards in the Square and at the two Bus Shelters.

Thank you.