

**Sampford Courtenay Parish Council**  
**MINUTES OF SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH MEETING**

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

held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

- 1) **Present : Cllrs J. Friend; J. Palmer. M]. McIwraith; A Thorley; J. Clatworthy-Edwards; D. Boting-Page; & C. Coleman**
- 2) **Public Participation** - Mrs Bevis expressed grateful thanks to Marion Pratt (Clerk), Cllr J. Friend, and Bill Robertson, Chris Pratt, Chris McBride & Charlie Goundry for arranging and project managing removal of old swings, funding and installation of new swings in time for school summer holidays.
- 3) **Apologies** - Cllr M. Wilson, & WDBC Cllrs L. Samuel and L. Watts.
- 4) **Declarations of Interest – None**
- 5) **Minutes of Main Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were agreed and signed.**
- 6) **Signing of the “Unincorporated Club, Society or other Community Organisation Mandate” to authorise signatories for the NatWest Bank Account.** – all councillors present signed new document with specimen signatures for Clerk to present to the bank.
- 7) **“It is resolved that the signing rules of the current mandate (2 signatures per cheque), for our current bank accounts be amended to include the new councillors.”** – this was agreed unanimously.
- 8) **Playground Report.** (Jill Bevis) – no issues to report. Set aside has been cut and cleared and new swings installed. Flame Gun treatment of cobbles appears to be successful. It was agreed to budget for a gas allowance for Cllr Coleman to continue treating the cobbles.
  - a) **Installation of the New Swings by TK Play. 9/7/17** – Mrs Bevis reported that the new swings look great, highly visible boundary between grass and safety surface, sturdy supports and fixings.

**As this will be Mrs Bevis’s (and Cllr Robin Bevis) last meeting – Cllr Coleman wished to express thanks to both of them on behalf of SCPC for their hard work and loyal support over the past years.**

- 9) **WDBC Report** - in the absence of both councillors, the Clerk read out an email from Cllr Louise Watts :-
  - i) Hub meeting 18.7.17 to discuss merger of South Hams and WDBC – to generate substantial savings in operating costs.  
**Cllr Coleman would like to know what does “merger” mean? If it is a reduction of officers and buildings he is in favour of the move, however, if it means a reduction in elected members he hopes that the 2 administrations will be warded to maintain a fair balance for both areas.**
  - ii) Audit Committee – no major surprises with WDBC showing a small revenue underspend compared to budget.
  - iii) Garden Waste scheme up and running with first collections at end of July. However, there have been some issues with trying to register on line which the council are aware of.
  - iv) **Garden Waste Scheme – Village Bag?** – a member of the parish is concerned that leaves from the Churchyard fall onto his property although he has no garden himself, and did not feel prepared to pay for garden waste bags for waste from neighbouring property. Cllr Friend reported that Cllr McInnes suggested that DCC will provide a Village Bag for rubbish on the highway. Clerk to contact him for details.  
**Cllr Thorley** also reported that at the Eastern Links meeting it was suggested that a group of neighbours could group together and share the cost of registering for the Garden Waste Scheme. However, bags would have to be registered to just one address to be collected.
- 10) **Planning – to consider the following applications:-**
  - i) **2221/17/COM** – Notification under electronic communications for proposed replacement of 3no existing antennae with 3no new antennae.  

Comments by 27<sup>th</sup> July

**Cllr Coleman had printed off copies of the above plans to consider at the meeting.** He also commented that the Planning Portal on WDBC is showing marked improvement. However, it would still be better if all documents pertaining to a particular planning application could be put together in a Zip file that could be downloaded rather than having to download each document individually.

**With reference to the above application** – councillors unanimously supported the improvements but would like some indication of how long the work will take and whether the works will adversely affect the Wi Fi signal for any prolonged period.
  - ii) **Builders’ Yard** – The Clerk had received a late email from Mr Chris Miles-Ash, outlining his plans for building works on the piece of land known as “Builders’ Yard”. Cllrs will wait on receipt of full plans from WDBC before making any comments.

**WDBC Decisions :-**

- iii) **2935/16/COU** – Land at Beacon Cross Farm – Mr Holman = **Refusal**

- iv) **SCPC Planning policy for coming year.** – Mrs Bevis will check if Cllr Robin Bevis still wishes to have an input into the SCPC Planning statement.

- 11) **BT Phoneboxes – SCPC definitive position** (Cllr D Boting Page) – Cllr Boting Page presented a report of the current state of all 3 BT phone boxes within the parish.  
As the Clerk had received no communication from members of the public since the last meeting a vote was taken on the best way forward with this issue.
- Belstone Corner phone box – Phone out of order, very poor condition, located on a corner with poor sight lines for safe use. **Majority vote to REMOVE.**
  - Sampford Chapple phone box – Phone out of order, poor condition, located on fast stretch of road but with reasonable sight lines. **Majority vote to RETAIN.**
  - Village Square phone box – Phone working (card only), reasonable condition, located in good position. **Majority vote to RETAIN.**
  - It was agreed to bring this to the next Open Meeting in October**, and Cllr McIlwraith offered to try and communicate with both OFCOM and BT to clarify how to proceed in time for the Open Meeting.
  - Possible purchase of Defibrillators for phone boxes** – Cllr Coleman reported that a member of the public had offered to finance the purchase of a defibrillator for the parish. Cllr McIlwraith offered to look into the cost and implications involved and this matter would be added to Agenda for Autumn Open Meeting.
- 12) **Eastern Links Meeting report** (Cllr A Thorley)
- No representative from the police**
  - Broadband** – a representative from [CDS](#) reported that Sampford Courtenay is covered in Phase 2/Lot 4 just awarded to Airband. Plus anyone with unused vouchers now has until the end of September to use them. If you go to the Connecting Devon and Somerset page you can input your postcode and it will give you more information.
  - WDBC** – [their Annual Report](#) can be accessed via their website.
  - Garden Waste** – If you can use some of the old white garden waste bags they are available at the Okehampton Council Offices cost £1 each.
  - Dartmoor National Park – Moor Otters** - have you come across the Moor Otters leaflets (available at Waitrose and other outlets). There are 100 different Otter models sited around the Dartmoor area and there is an Otter Trail, and you can take part in an online bid to win one of them. For more details use the above link.
  - TAP funding** – any applications will be considered at the November meeting.
  - Highways** – need to appoint a new signage contractor; therefore, there is a waiting list for already approved new signs.
  - Speed Control** – several neighbouring parishes discussed the possibility of jointly purchasing a mobile radar system that shows a smiling or frowning face depending on your speed. This could be moved around different parishes to try and address speed issues.
  - Community Speed Watch** – there is currently a waiting list for this training. (SCPC is on the list). However, Whiddon Down reported that it is a good course. They suggested that if parishioners are concerned about the prospect of penalising neighbours who are speeding – parishes to speed check each other to avoid this.
  - Cllr Coleman** – thanked Cllr Thorley for attending the meeting and making this report.
- 13) **Highways** – (Cllr A Thorley) – nothing to report other than items mentioned above. However, Cllrs did report another accident on the Sampford Station bends with a car on it's roof.
- 14) **War Memorial** - Still no update from the Architect. Cllr Coleman will chase this up and ask for a revised completion cost and time for this project.
- War Memorial Fund - **Balance** Total carried forward = £1,750.80 (cost of Plaque deducted)  
Donations this month. = June - July = 4 weeks @ £14.40 = £57.60 (incl in above figure)
- 15) **New Notice Board for the Square.** – Clerk actioned to submit TAP fund application to help cover cost of renewing Notice Board in the Square.
- 16) **Finance** – payments detailed below were agreed and cheques signed.
- Clerk salary & Expenses = £ 135.60
  - HMRC = £ 34.00
  - DALC – Chairmanship Course – Michelle Wilson = £ 30.00
  - TKPlay New Swings - = £4357.20
  - Kingdom – Village Green cuts = £ 286.02
  - Gold Coast Media. – Web site hosting = £ 144.00
  - Total payments this month** = **£ 4986.82**
  - Uncleared cheques & transfers from last month = £1,684.32
  - Balance** (10 vi) + 10 vii) = **£ 6,671.14**
  - Income** = **£ 1,500.00** **DCC Grant for New Swings**
  - Current Balances = Reserve Account = £13,223.18 ( Calculated )
  - Current Account (according to Statement –30.6.17) = £ 4,657.50
  - Total Current Funds less agreed expenditure above = **£ -2013.64** (10 xii – Balance)
  - To agree transfer of £3,000.00 **To Current** Account from **Reserve** Account
- xv) **2017- 18 - Updated Budget** and allocation of “unbudgeted” surplus from last year. It was agreed to defer any decision on this until an up-dated figure for the cost of the War Memorial is obtained.
- xvi) **Completed Register of Interest forms from New Councillors** – Clerk will submit these forms to the Returning Officer,

17) Progress Reports for information

- a) **OkeRail Forum**
  - i) It is hoped to run a full weekly service from Okehampton to St Davids from 2018 with extra trains added in 2019.
  - ii) Land is already being prepared for the new Okehampton Station with parking for 300 cars. (Exeter Road Industrial Estate)
  - iii) Plans are being made to run another special train on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Tickets can be booked online as before.
  - iv) Timetables for the Summer Schedule are now available.
  
- b) **Footpaths – Cllr J. Palmer’s Summer Audit.**
  - i) **Path 1 – Aller to Halford** – A path 2m x 200m needs strimming between stile from feed near Trehill Farmhouse at GR637972 to GR636974 at the beginning of the copse down to the stream. **If you would like to TENDER for this job, please contact the Clerk.**
  - ii) **Path 4 – Chapple Moor** - In Aug, John Baker (DCC), is going to replace the finger sign at the access to the path off the Brightley Road from Sampford Chapple. Also here, the stile will be replaced by a gate and a new boardwalk installed. 4 new finger posts have been erected along the route (by landowner)
  - iii) **Path 6 – Frankland – Honeychurch** – Cllr Palmer has cleared the access path of weeds. He will also ask J. Baker to renovate stile and bridge at GR628026.
  - iv) **Path 8 – Frankland – Solland** – J. Baker has replaced gate with traditional one until a dual purpose (farm animal/human) one becomes available. He has agreed to install non slip surface to the bridge. Cllr McIlwraith asked if granite post could be reinstated.
  - v) **Finger Post** – it would help to install finger post at GR618035.
  - vi) **All paths PASS except for Path 12 – Church Path** – part of path from square to the green has been temporarily blocked off since October 2016 as a result of wall collapse of the adjoining house.
  - vii) **Weirford Lane – Langmead Lane** – this path also requires strimming 2m x 600m length of Langmead Lane. **If you would like to TENDER for this job please contact the Clerk**
  - viii) **Parish Lengthsman** – Cllr David Botting-Page has kindly offered to take over SCPC responsibility for Footpaths allowing Cllr John Palmer to spend more time on Village Hall projects. Cllr Coleman thanked Cllr Palmer and Ann for all their hard work over the past years.
  - v) **SCPC authorise purchase of stone/scalings from Faheys by John Lowe to improve gateways and styles on Footpaths across his land. £300 max spend.** Clerk actioned to notify Mr Lowe and Faheys. **If any other land owners are prepared to lay scalings/stone at muddy gateways where Footpaths cross their land please contact the Clerk.**
  - vi) **Bridge & stile at Cliston Farm very muddy** – Cllr Palmer/Botting-Page will consult John Baker for best solution at Cliston Farm.
  - vii) **Additional work needed at Furzedon/Shoalgate green lane.** (as reported by Mr & Mrs Tucker) – this is a long standing problem and SCPC continue to bid for P3 funds to address the problem.
- c) **Traffic Calming** – see item 12 i) above.
- d) **Broadband** – Extension of deadline for current voucher holders to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept + announcement of Airband winning contract for Lot 4 of CDS vouchers.  
**Our Website statistics for this month** Traffic is increasing to the Sampford Courtenay website. Google Analytics shows almost 3,000 views in the past month, with over 400 active users engaging with more than four pages on average. We have over 100 people using the site frequently The most popular page has been John Palmer’s cycle ride blog of course. He’s a star!
- e) **Social Media** – (Cllr McIlwraith) - Cllr McIlwraith agreed to look into setting up SCPC Facebook page to promote SCPC projects, seek opinions etc. He will liaise with Village Hall committee and Mrs Brown who runs the Website.
- f) **First Aid Course** – Support for this will be sort at the Open Meeting.
- g) **Clerk’s Report** (anything not already covered by Agenda items)
  - i) **DALC Annual report by 25<sup>th</sup> July – report on SCPC projects over past year.** The Clerk has submitted Cllr Coleman’s recent article regarding Broadband to be included in the DALC Annual report.

18) Correspondence for information – No other correspondence.

19) **Date of next meeting.** To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at 7.30pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

Signed  
*M. S Pratt* Marion Pratt  
 Clerk to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council July 2017.

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)

2017/18 Dates	Apr – 18th	May – 16 <sup>th</sup> AGM	Jun – 20th	Jul – 18th	Aug – 15th
	Sept – 19th	Oct – 17th	Annual Parish Meeting 1 -	Nov – 21st	Dec – 19th
2018	Jan – 16th	Feb – 20th	Mar – 20th	Annual Parish Meeting 2 Mar	

Eastern Links Meetings – Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Sept – Throwleigh; Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Nov – Sampford Courtenay.

Training –  
 Michelle Wilson – New Councillor’s Course – South Molten – 21.9.17