

## MINUTES OF SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date and Venue – Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 22 7.45 pm at Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

1. **Present Cllrs** – M Wilson, M. Carpenter, M. Morrissey, B. Tucker, J. Palmer, C. Coleman, P. Collins, & J. Friend + Clerk M Pratt & 1 member of public in person and 2 via Zoom.
2. **Apologies** – None
3. **Public Participation** - None
4. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Coleman declared an Interest re Item 17 a  
  
As previously recognised by the Proper Officer Dispensation is given to Trustees of the VH that are also Councillors in relation to Item 18(b)
5. **Minutes** to approve and sign the Minutes of – Hybrid Meeting held on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 22 (**already published on Noticeboards and Website**) Cllr Coleman reiterated his statements regarding the Public Toilets which were summarised at Item 11b of the above Minutes.  
Chair Cllr Wilson assured Cllr Coleman that all Councillors were aware of, and had taken note of his statement both at the last meeting and again at tonight’s meeting.  
  
It was agreed by 7 Councillors and 1 Objection that the Minutes circulated be signed as a true record of the August meeting.
6. **WDBC Report** - None
7. **CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE** -
  - a) Certificate to sign – was signed by the Chair
  - b) Dignity at Work policy to adopt (already circulated to councillors)  
Proposed by Cllr Coleman and Seconded by Cllr Carpenter Approved by 7 votes and 1 Abstention.
  - c) Cllr Collins booked on Training – Leadership in Challenging Situations – Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 22 2pm – 4pm – Cost £30
  - d) Clerk to forward details of the Training again to Cllr Coleman.
8. **Planning** – to consider the following planning applications:
  - a) **2121/22/FUL - Beer Cross Woodland Burials Beer Cross** - Change of use of land to allow extension of green burial ground  
COMMENTS BY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT  
**Applicant attended via Zoom.**  
  
SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY
  - b) **1335/22/OPA** - Outline application with some matters reserved for Agricultural workers dwelling (access considered) **Furze Down Farm**  
COMMENTS BY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPT  
  
NO COMMENTS
  - c) **2593/22/ARC – Crosslands** - Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (surface water management), 4 (materials) and 8 (bat and bird boxes) of planning consent 1021/22/FUL  
INFO ONLY

**d) 2501/22/AGR – Southey** - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed new forestry/agricultural building for storage and work area measuring 8.4m x 3.6m x 2.5m height to ridge. INFO ONLY

**e) 2978/22/PAA – Southey** – Prior Approval application as above INFO ONLY

**f) 2595/22/PDM – Cricket Farm** - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to No. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q (a+b)) INFO ONLY

**g) 2924/22/AGR – Land at SX 631 959 – Mr Balsdon** - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed steel frame agricultural storage building INFO ONLY

**h) Rothamsted Research** - who are oldest agricultural research institutions in the world, having been founded in 1843. They are currently preparing a planning application package for a research development project in Sampford Courtenay Parish.

The site relates to an existing agricultural field, located immediately to the south of the B3215, opposite The Countryman Public House. The proposal, concentrated within the southwestern section of the field, involves constructing 36 hydrologically isolated plots, that sit below ground, to assemble data, by Rothamsted Research, on the resilience of agricultural production under changes in climate, policy and pest and disease dynamics

Power point Presentation & chance to ask questions

Applicants Gareth Jackson attended via Zoom.

The Power Point presentation will be made available and if anyone has any questions re the above application could they please forward them by email to the Clerk who will pass them on to the Applicant.

#### **WDBC Planning Decisions: -**

- a) 1669/22/FUL and 1670/22/LBC – Middletown Farmhouse CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
- b) 2501/22/AGR – Southey Ag Determination Details Required
- c) 4132/20/ARC – Oxenpark Barn Discharge of conditions – Split Decision
- d) 2349/22/PDM – The Stable – Town Meadow Prior approval required and given.

#### **9. Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements**

Proposal to NOT opt out of SAAA central external auditor appointment Cllr Collins seconded Cllr Wilson Agreed by 7 votes and 1 Abstention

- 10. Okehampton & District Community Transport Group request for Grant.** It was agreed that the £200 included in the budget should be paid to ODCTG. (SC currently have 47 parishioners who regularly use this service)
- 11. Salt Box for Frankland Hill** – Cllr Collins has spoken to a Highways person regarding the leak on Frankland Hill. Many years ago, a “spring box” was fitted at the location, and more recently a new Mains water pipe has been laid. It is believed that this may have disturbed or cracked the pipes in that location. Due to the limited vehicular use of this lane, it is unlikely SWWA will seek to repair the leak. Cllr Collins then proposed that SCPC should investigate the possibility of a salt box for the top of the hill, for when the leak freezes in extreme cold. Clerk to action and report at next meeting.
- 12. Removal of “Down lighting” shades from village street lights** – Cllr Coleman reported that

residents close to the New Inn have complained that the new LED lights shine into their properties. The Clerk has reported this to the Street Lighting Dept and replacement shades have been actioned.

13. **Open Meeting 18th Oct** – parishioners are invited to notify the Clerk of any items they would like considered for the Agenda.
14. **Parish Leaflet** – update Cllr Morrissey – it was agreed to ask for volunteers from the parish to join a working group to discuss the format and content of future Parish Leaflets.
15. **Eastern Links Meeting** – (via Teams) 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 6.30pm - Chair M Wilson will attend.
16. **Parish Priorities** –
  - a) Dartmoor Line – Sampford Courtenay Station - The aim of the working group will be to ensure that the opportunity for Sampford Courtenay Station to reopen becomes a reality.  
Full Terms of Reference for this SCPC Working Group can be downloaded from the Website here <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/2021-07/item-13-b-draft-terms-ref-dartmoor-line-wp-1077624143.pdf>
    - GWR announced that Dartmoor Line has had 120,000 passenger journeys so far, which is double what they expected. (18,000 journeys per month)
    - SCPC Working Group – plan a meeting before next OkeRail meeting with GWR to check on progress of feasibility study for Request Stop at Sampford Courtenay.
    - CEO of Sampford Courtenay Station CIC, James McIlwraith will give an up-date at the Open Meeting.
  - b) Public Toilets – Cllr Carpenter
    - Overflow leak – has been rectified
    - Gents cubicle water on floor – has been rectified
    - Date to paint interior – Cllr Carpenter will arrange a date and a working party to undertake this in the near future.
  - c) Cllr Coleman re-iterated that the summary of edited emails prepared by the Clerk does not represent full disclosure to the SC-PC's Insurance Company and their underwriters. As a consequence, he repeats his request that the Chairman allows the Clerk to release the actual disclosure(s) made and advice sought. Specifically, all emails between the Parish Council and SC-PC's Insurance Company, DALC, and any other part upon which Minute 11(b)11 relies.
  - d) Safer Roads – Cllr J Palmer Community Speed Watch Update –month.
    - Accident on Green Hill between Tractor and Bus – resident has contacted Clerk re getting a site mirror fitted as recommended by Police who attended the accident. This has been referred to the Neighbourhood Highways officer at DCC.
    - There is a SW Event for Community Speed Watch Volunteers at Westpoint on Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.
  - e) SCEnSus -
    - PLANT STALL – re-positioning at the New Inn Car Park. Thank you to all who have supported this so far. A total of almost £70 was raised last month.
    - Autumn Clean Up – has been rearranged for Sat 24<sup>th</sup> September starting at 10am from the New Inn Car Park. Please look out for further notices and where to read the Risk Assessment.
    - Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Octobefest Event – Fund Raising for future projects
    - Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – Recycle Fashion Show – SCEnSus event to promote recycling and fund raise for future projects
    - Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – SCEnSus Coffee Morning – continuing the Recycle Theme and fund raising.
  - f) Village Hall – Cllr B Tucker –
    - i) Public Toilet Electricity is still being discussed by Village Hall Trustees.
    - ii) Barn Dance was very successful with £400 + profit made from the event.
  - g) **Broadband/Mobile**– Community use of Internet - Cllr M Morrissey is still awaiting validation from Devon Communities Together to be able to operate these sessions.
  - h) **Footpaths/ P3** – Cllr M Carpenter –
    - Meeting re Cobbled path on Village Green with Williams and Burrow who advise checking with the Conservation Officer to see what they would allow.
    - Countryfile Children in Need Ramble & Treasure Hunt – 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 22
17. **Village Green Report** – Cllr J Friend (circulated to Councillors) – no items for concern.
18. **Finance** - approve following payments and transfers.
  - a) **Reconciliation of Cash Spread sheet with Bank Statements.**
  - b) **Request from Village Hall for the approved Grant of £2,000 towards refurbishment of Village Hall Toilets.** (3 quotations for work circulated to councillors)

M. Pratt – Clerk’s Wage	£303.20	25 hrs
HMRC	£ 75.80	
P. Mallet – Toilet Cleaner	£104.50	
EDF – Toilet Electric DD	£12.00	
Okehampton & District Community Transport Group	£200.00	
Village Hall	£2,000.00	Towards refurbishing Village Hall Toilets
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2695.50</b>	
<b>Transfer between accounts</b>	£2109.23	From EMR to Current Account
<b>Income</b>	£ 34.00 £1317.24 £ 69.77 £ 21.00	Seamoor Lotto VAT Refund Plant Stall Jubilee Mugs
<b>Current Account</b>	<b>£ 1418.16</b>	
<b>Reserve Account</b>	<b>£18,225.02</b>	
Civility & Respect Training	£36.00	Cllr Collins – EMR – Training0

19. **Devon & Cornwall Police Report - Cllr J Palmer update** – William Kerr OBE has been appointed as the new Chief Constable

20. **Clerk’s Report (anything not already covered by Agenda items)**

a) **New Government Website** - <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

b) **Renewal of Website domain name cost £85 for 2 years.**

c) **An introduction to stakeholder engagement and the climate emergency** – on line course run by Devon Communities together - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1300 – 1600 cost £30

d) Clerk has taken some more Parish Leaflets in to Okehampton Museum

e) **Memorial Wreaths** – will be removed just prior to this year’s Remembrance Day Service

f) **New Parish signs** – have been fitted on Rectory Hill and Green Hill

g) **Christmas Banner** – It was agreed that SCPC purchase a banner, (which can be reused in subsequent years) to be displayed in the Parish to express Christmas Greetings to parishioners and visitors to and through the parish.

21. **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda.** (Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making

- *Cllr. Coleman proposed that ‘How best to assist the most vulnerable in the Parish as the Nation confronts the most challenging times in three decades’ should become a standing item of all future Agenda.*

The Clerk would like parishioners to note the following websites that will signpost them current help available.

- <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/9155/Cost-of-Living-Crisis> West Devon Proposals to signpost where help can be obtained.

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Monthly Parish Meeting [www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Clerk – Mrs M Pratt, Higher Town, Sampford Courtenay 01837 82285 ClerkSCPC@gmail.com  
- <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/> Government website for help for households.

22. **Date of next meeting.** To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 22 at the Village Hall and via Zoom and Autumn Open Meeting on a RECYCLING THEME Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30 pm

Signed M. S Pratt Marion Pratt, Clerk to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council