

## **Notes from Annual Parish Meeting – Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### **Foreword**

The Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when Local Councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, taking place in the church vestry.

- The Annual Parish Meeting must be held each year between March 1st and June 1st.
- This is, in legal terms, a quite separate body from the Council, but it is invariably the Council that arranges it (simply because it is unlikely that anyone else will do so). Its decisions are not binding on the Council, though a wise Council will normally want to take heed of what is said at the meeting.
- The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors of your Town or Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest. This is in contrast to a Council meeting, where electors who are not Councillors have no automatic right to speak (though many councils do, of course, have a set time before or after the Council meeting when electors can raise matters of concern to them).
- In a parish with a Local Council, the Chairman of the Council must, if s/he is present, take the chair.

As this year is an ELECTION YEAR - the Annual Parish Meeting will be a chance to meet your new councillors and put forward your ideas for Sampford Courtenay in the coming year/s!

### **Notes from the meeting.**

**Present:** Cllrs M Carpenter, C. Coleman, J. McIlwraith, V. Smedley, P. Collins, M Wilson, M. Morrissey & T Squire + WDBC Cllrs L Watts & M Casbolt + Clerk M Pratt and 16 members of the public (L & R R; NC, BR, PS, BT, C & P G, LP, VM, CM, RW, DBP, AW, JT & JM)

- SCPC Councillors introduced themselves to the members of the public
- WDBC Councillors introduced themselves and thanked those who had turned out to vote for them. They will both be happy to help parishioners in any way they can.

### **Open Forum ideas/suggestions for SCPC to consider**

- PC – Additional Salt Box on Franklyn Hill
- JM – A chlorine test to see if leaking water is Mains or spring water.
- VM – Add Franklyn Hill to list for meeting with Highways etc.
- RR – Re-establishing a Sunday Rail Service from SC Station would ease isolation felt by some residents at The Beeches.
- RR – 20mph limit from New Inn to Langdale – (20's Plenty Campaign)
- DBP- State of roads with pot holes etc
- DBP – when utilities close the roads can they signpost where exactly the road is closed.

- # Clerk to re-advertise Report It website.  
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>
- RW – Parked cars in the parish make it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass.
- ATG – more maintenance of Parish footpaths & more dog waste bins.
- NC – Official signs throughout Parish to ask visitors and parishioners to pick up after their dog.
- DBP – Notices to remind dog owners to keep dogs on a lead across fields with stock in them.
- JM – would like to see the wider farming businesses included in the parish priorities.
- CC – Encourage Natural environment preservation in the parish.
- PC – DCC “Red Post” scheme for no cut areas on verges.
- VM – History Project to include Farming, Prayer Book Rebellion, Courtenay Family and 1925 sale of properties by King’s College, Cambridge.
- DBP – better signage and promotion of parish amenities eg Village Green, Prayer Book Rebellion display in church etc.
- LP – A parish history timeline
- LP – Priority re new housing in the parish (eg to include affordable homes)
- LP – Carbon reduction plan – does the parish need an Electric recharging point?
- LP – Cost of Living – is this an issue for the parish and how could this be supported?

### **Public comments on current Parish Priorities**

1. Public Toilets – No comments
2. SCEnSus – No comments
3. Village Green – ATG - How many use it? Is it worth spending money on? CC – It is one of the few amenities SCPC own and it is an asset that needs maintaining.
4. Station – RR – would like renewed Sunday Service.
5. Telecoms/Broadband – Almost all of Parish has some sort of coverage now. Suggestion is to remove this from the Priorities.
6. Safer Roads – Try and arrange public meeting with Highways and Police to explain the concerns and what can be done to alleviate them.
7. Village Hall – SCPC EMR now all transferred to Village Hall – but will continue to support future events and continue with Christmas Cheer.
8. Defibrillator – This priority has also been achieved and can be removed from the list.

**If any other parishioners has suggestions they would like SCPC to consider as a Parish Priority for the coming term of the council – please email the Clerk on [Clerk.SCPC@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.SCPC@gmail.com) or phone 01827 82285**