



MINUTES OF SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7th May 2025

Sampford Courtney Village Hall, 7.00 pm

1; Welcome:

The Chair explained to members of the public that, following this meeting the annual parish meeting would be held which is a more informal session designed to allow any members of the community to raise issues which were important to them. This would enable the council more accurately to reflect the areas of importance to the community in the coming year.

The Chair also confirmed that, at the Council AGM that had preceded this meeting, Cllr Wilson had been re-elected Chair, and Michael Carpenter was re-elected Vice-Chair both unanimously. New positions had been filled for the various activity groups which would be confirmed in the minutes of the AGM to be published in due course.

2: Members Present:

Cllrs M Wilson (Chair) M Carpenter, P Collins, A Green, J Moesel, J McIlwraith, V Smedley. T Squire

Also Present:

Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Members of the public which rose from 2 at commencement to around 14 at completion.

3: Apologies for Absence: with all members present

4: Declarations of Interest:

4.1: Members were reminded that they should ensure that their declarations of interest should be updated regularly.

4.2: There were no interests declared in the matters dealt with in the agenda for the meeting.

5: To Resolve - that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26th March 2025, previously circulated to all members be signed as an accurate record of proceedings. The chair addressed the issue raised by Cllr McIlwraith that he had made his apologies because of family issues, and in relation to 7.4 that the cleaning of the railway station had been completed

Proposed by Cllr Wilson, Seconded by Cllr Smedley, with the amendments raised, that they be recorded as true and accurate. Approved unanimously.

6: Public Participation: The Chair moved that Standing Orders be suspended to enable members of the public to participate. The chair reminded those members of the public present that, under the Standing Orders of the Council the total time allowed for this section was 20 minutes, as set out at the end of these minutes. The main issue being raised by members of the public on the published agenda concerned Item 7.2, namely the planning application by the New Inn for a mobile caravan site alongside the current car park. It was agreed that the council would carry forward the discussion under item 7.2. The Chair finally moved that Standing Orders be restored and the formal proceedings recommenced.

7: Planning

7.1 The Clerk had received a letter from another local council regarding decisions made by West Devon Borough Council that failed to consider adequately the view of local bodies when making their planning judgements. Council members felt that SCPC should continue to try and build positive relationships with the planning officers to improve the overall quality of the decisions for Sampford Courtenay. The clerk to reply to the letter setting out this thinking: **Proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter and approved unanimously.**

7.2: Planning Application 0300.25/FUL by The New INN, Sampford Courtney EX20 2TB to establish 8 touring Pitches and associated landscaping.

Councillors noted that there were currently 8 objectors with comments on the WDBC portal, with views that were well represented by those who had expressed views in the public participation.

Views in council were expressed on both sides and after discussion Council took a majority view to object to the application. The final objection was primarily expressed with the following issues which were lodged on the Planning portal as reflecting the majority views of SCPC;

- Visually the development would be detrimental to the Conservation area
- Concerns regarding flooding in the area currently
- Impact and safety of additional vehicles turning into the road leading into the village from the A3072 (identified in the Parish plan as a road safety hotspot)
- potential for disturbance and disruption to local residents
- Acknowledging the objections recorded from local residents
- A lack of business case to demonstrate the financial gains (accepting that specific commercially sensitive details would likely be redacted if there had been one)
- The Councils Priority to 'Support rural business' was not adopted for this application
- The previous support given by the Council for other glamping sites to support rural business in the Parish, were not seen as relevant as neither were in or close to the conservation area

Proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Carpenter, by a majority vote, agreed to object to the proposal.

7.3: Planning Application 3462/25/FUL by Agistment Farm. Widening of Access.
SCPC saw no reason to object to the proposal

7.4 Planning Application 0984/25/PHH Avondale, Southey Lane EX209 2TE
SCPC had no objection to this proposal

8: Finance:

8.10: The current monthly accounts were tabled and noted

8.20: To approve current payments and transfers which had been circulated to councillors **with additional payment to the Society of Local Council Clerks for membership of Parish Clerk. This subscription was reduced as the overall fee of £150 was split between the three councils that he works for.**
Proposed by Cllr Wilson and Seconded by Cllr Carpenter Approved Unanimously

8.30: Confirm and Approve DD to Yu Energy and IOC (Data Protection)
Proposed by Cllr Wilson and Seconded by Cllr. Collins Approved Unanimously

8.40: Approve Section 1 of AGAR 2024/5 (circulated in advance\)
Proposed by Cllr Wilson, Seconded by Cllr Green and Approved unanimously

8.50; Approve Section 2 of AGAR 2024/25 (Signed by RFO)
Proposed by Cllr Wilson, Seconded by Cllr Carpenter and approved unanimously

8.60: Approve and sign the certificate of exemption
Proposed by Cllr Wilson and Seconded by Cllr. Moesel. Approved Unanimously

9: Parish Priorities:
Held over to be discussed at the Parish Meeting

10: Councillor/Clerk Reports.

10.1 The Clerk had requested, supported by the chair, that council provide him with an updated and secure laptop to replace the current machine. A quote of £399 had been obtained. The request was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Carpenter and Approved Unanimously

10.2. The clerk raised that the council's insurance policy runs out at the end of May. Cllr Wilson Proposed, seconded by Cllr Smedley that the clerk be authorized to agree renewal of the policy at a cost within that provided within the forecast budget. Agreed Unanimously

11: Village Hall Updates: to be discussed at the Parish Meeting

12: Date of Next Meeting; would be held on June 25th 2025 at 7.30pm at Sampford Courtney Village Hall.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend all parish council meetings, to give their views and ask a question of the council relating to a matter included on the Agenda. The Chair will direct any written or verbal responses.

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