

SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2016 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Mr Chris Robinson	2 members of the public	Mrs Jane Lawrence	Mr Mrs Sarah Parker (Clerk)
Mrs Kay Adye	Mr Gordon Deuce	George Smith	Cllr Simon Howell
Mr William Burton	Mr Graham Keen	Ms Kath Thompson	

1 Public Forum.

- A resident asked if the waiting area for the school buses in the morning had been officially changed from the bus stop to the entrance to Willetts Field. The children congregate around the entrance to Willetts Field obscuring the view for cars trying to exit.. 3 double decker buses and 2 minibuses stop at this point and local residents are concerned that this is dangerous. Sarah will find out from The County High School and Newport schools who their transport providers are and write to them to ask whether this pick-up point has been changed and if not, would they please stop further along the road at the official bus stop. She would send copies of any letters to the schools involved.
- The same resident pointed out that the road is lined with cars from 2.30 – 3.30pm, making it almost impossible to pass other cars or pull in when necessary. This makes drivers mount the pavement to get past cars. It was pointed out that this is very dangerous with children in the area and also elderly people who may be using the pavement. Sarah would contact the police to see if they could come and monitor the problem in the afternoon. Copies of any letters would be sent to Ian Pollard, the Headmaster.
- There is a large pothole/faulty manhole cover on Vicarage Hill and the white lines have not been replaced in their previous configuration following resurfacing. Sarah would contact Highways.

2 Apologies for absence. Rhiann Chappell

3 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting on 21 January, which had been circulated, were approved; proposed by Graham and seconded by William.

4 **Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda.** Jane:- WI and Village Hall, George:- Cricket Club. Chris:- Village Hall.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 **Defibrillator.** The defibrillator has been installed on the exterior wall of the lavatory block in the churchyard in Little Sampford. It is being registered with the ambulance service and Rhiann will let us know when it is live. The Council recorded their thanks to Chris Butcher who removed a tree stump near the installation site free of charge.

5.2 **County Broadband:** A meeting for Sampfords residents has been organised for 14th April. Gordon reported that the scheme for Hempstead has come to a halt as the resident who was 'driving' the project has been unable to receive the beam from Steeple Bumpstead, although he is on the top of the hill. Several Sampford residents have had their broadband speed upgraded recently. Sarah will ask Sue Collins if she would circulate the leaflets concerning the meeting with the newsletter at the end of the month.

5.3 **Church Car Park.** This has been completed except for grass seeding which will be done when the weather/temperature is suitable. Sarah would send off the necessary documents to Uttlesford in order to receive their grant of £2,250.

6 Correspondence.

- 6.1 Letters of thanks had been received from Sue Collins for the grant for AMBO and from Community Heartbeat Trust for the donation following their defibrillator training.
- 6.2 A request for funding from Uttlesford Community Travel was refused as it was felt that the PC supports the more local service of the Thaxted minibus. Sarah would write to this effect.
- 6.3 Community Heartbeat VETS (*Village Emergency Telephone System*). It was agreed that the PC would ask Rhiann to proceed with the scheme which is provided free to the village for the first year.
- 6.4 Sarah had circulated Michael Perry's letter regarding the importance of Councillors keeping their Registers of Interest forms up to date.

- 6.5 It had been reported that the work done on Maynards Lane, taking 5 days, had been shoddy, leaving large areas at the sides of the road in a very bad state. Sarah would contact Highways.
- 6.6 A collapsed stile was reported on the land by the river. Chris would see that it is repaired and would again ask the Welchmans to repair their stile.
- 6.7 Sarah had received promotion details of a medal to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, suitable for school children. It was decided not to take this up.
- 6.8 A request had come through from Tamsin Parker of Great Sampford who is in her second year at medical school, for sponsorship for a project she is to undertake in aid of Childreach International 2016 in Tanzania. This charity works with children and their families in seven countries, covering school farming projects, Deaf and education programmes and many others. The Council agreed a donation of £50.

7 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Simon Howell reported on the latest publication of the Call for Sites for the Local Plan. He outlined the reasons for this and enough sites have been put forward to fulfil the building of 40,000 houses. Only 5,000 are needed. Many of these sites were rejected as they were in villages with no school or transport facilities. 2 sites in Sampford have been deemed as potentially suitable for development, one off Sparepenny Lane South as considered before, and one off Sparepenny Lane North, both for small scale development. This does not mean that they will be developed, they are just one of many sites which will be considered further. The Parish Council has been asked to submit any inaccuracies to the planning department. These have to be fundamental inaccuracies such as land ownership or ancient burial grounds on the site etc. Should either or both of the sites be selected at a later stage then the PC would respond with their concerns regarding access, sustainability etc. It is hoped that a single new development will be built rather than spreading small developments around all the local villages. Simon will keep the PC in touch with any developments and understands the concerns of the parish. No such inaccuracies were mentioned at the meeting.

- 8 **Litter Pick.** The date was agreed for Saturday 19th March. Mike Lindsell has agreed to co-ordinate the arrangements. Rhiann will organise sandwiches at the Red Lion following the Pick. Sarah will distribute notices.
- 9 **Highway Rangers.** The bus shelters belong to the PC not Essex County Council so do not qualify for treatment from HR. Sarah has not heard if the seat at the Baptist Church has been returned following cleaning. The sign at the end of the Tindon End Road has been replaced.
- 10 **Footpath Booklet.** Sarah will collect all the maps for the booklet from Mr Turner as she has not heard from him.

11 Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility.

- 11.1 **Play Area:** (*KA, KT, GS*) The Play area is in good order and Kath had instructed Chris Butcher to cut back the hedges and remove branches and brambles from the green by the river.
Youth. Kay reported on Martin Boughtwood's list of Youth Club activities for clarification as he is no longer a Councillor.
- 11.2 **Planning** (*GD WB*) T.
Planning Applications:
Crystalbrook: Detached dwelling in garden and alteration to existing access. Chris, Gordon and William had met to discuss this application and, following their recommendation, it was agreed that no adverse comments should be made.
Clockhouse Workshop Side extension and additional vehicular access. No adverse comments.
Mill Cottage. LS. No comments of replacement of 2 windows and a door in front porch.
- 11.3 **Grass-cutting & Trees** (*GK*) It was felt that Chris Butcher does a very good job of the grass cutting in the village.
- 11.4 **Publicity.** (*JL*) Jane has put a Parish Council report in the recent edition of Ambo for which she was thanked.
- 11.5 **Website.** (*GS & RC*) Information for the website to be sent to Rhiann. Events include the forthcoming Cabbages and Kings which is a sell out. The recent Bingo event was well supported.

Broadband. Dealt with in item 5.2

11.6 Neighbourhood Watch (RC) Reports come through onto SS. The two post boxes which had disappeared from High Trees and Little Sampford Bridge have been replaced.

11.7 Liaison with village organisations. (RC) No report

11.8 Transport. (GK) Graham and Kath attended the meeting in Dunmow concerning the future plans for the bus service. The new arrangement will start on 11 April and will be a demand responsive transport service. It will operate between 6am and 8pm Requests to be made in advance rather like a taxi service. There will be a flier sent to all households in the near future which will explain the service and include the prices. Bus pass holders will be able to use their passes after 9am and on Saturdays. The buses will hold around 15 seats. It will cover the Saffron Walden/Braintree area.

Village Assets. Graham reported that Teresa Milbourn from Essex CC is looking into funding for new bus shelters for the village. Graham will keep in touch with her.

11.9 Village Hall. (CR & JL) Chris had heard from Jill Palmer that the PC will not need to subsidise the village hall during the current financial year as things stand at present.

The Village Hall Committee have written to village organisations inviting them to nominate a representative to stand on the Committee. This arises because the governance of the Village Hall Committee has not complied with the terms of the Trust Deed under which it was established. Each such representative would become a Trustee and be required to sign a 'Declaration of Acceptance'. Chris had understood that a leaflet outlining the roles and responsibilities of becoming a Trustee was to have been included with each letter sent to local organisations. Sarah would ask the VHC to send these leaflets to each organisation as they will need to see what their responsibilities would entail. Should enough members not come forward for the Committee the outcome could be that the Village Hall Committee would have to be disbanded and the VH run by the Parish Council. Chris asked for a representative from the PC to go onto the Committee but because the leaflet explaining what is involved in being a Trustee was not available there were no offers. Sarah will circulate the letter to the Councillors.

11.10 Sport. (GS) George reported that cricket would begin at the end of April. The outfield had been levelled and trees planted on the perimeter.

11.11 Highways and Footpaths. Some stiles and kissing gates had been replaced.

12 Finance An up to date bank reconciliation statement was circulated to all Councillors

Cheques for Signing:

100759 to Sarah Parker 4th quarter pay, £821.06

100760 to Electric Websites for £163 for annual servicing fee.

100761 to Chris Butcher for £480 for extra hedging and clearing

100762 to Sampfords Village Hall for £150 for 6 PC meetings in 2015

100763 to P A Taylor for £337.20 for installation of Defibrillator at LS Church.

100764 to Chris Parker Earthworks for £6,600 for work on car park at St Michael's

(NB the above cheque to be partially reimbursed by Uttlesford DC grant (£2,250) and £1,850 from the Parochial Church Council)

100765 to Tamsin Parker for £50 for sponsorship for Childreach International

100766 to Essex Air Ambulance Trust for £200

100767 to Thaxted Minibus Trust for £200

The above cheques proposed by William and seconded by Kath.

13 Further items for discussion only

Chris thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 7th APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

S Parker, Clerk. 14.3.2016