

SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 23 June 2016 in the Village Hall .

PRESENT:

Mr William Burton	Mr George Smith
Mr Graham Keen	Mrs Lynn Bowles
Mrs Jane Lawrence	Mrs Kay Adye
Ms Kath Thompson	Mrs Sarah Parker (Clerk)
Mrs Rhiann Chappell	7 members of the public

- 1 Public Forum..** Concern was again expressed regarding the school bus parking/collection in the mornings. Mr Banks thanked Sarah for keeping him informed of previous correspondence regarding this problem. There are now over 50 children boarding the bus, each having to have their passes scanned. This takes time and residents are concerned regarding safety of such numbers on the pavement, some of whom spill over into residents gardens. Residents insurance would not cover any accident on their property. It was decided to write to Essex CC Education department to inquire as to adding an additional collection point. Suggested points were at Moor End or opposite the Baptist Church where there is an open area for waiting. Copies of correspondence to be sent to the head at Gt Sampford School and the head of The County High School.

Blocked surface water drains. Mr Banks would give me details of the problems he has regarding the drain outside his house and that outside Stone Cottage.

New Sports Facility at Carver Barracks. Mr Boughtwood reported that Carver Barracks had offered some land for a substantial sports facility. He felt this is a great opportunity. £300,000 would need to be raised to take this forward. Simon Howell confirmed that UDC would not be able to fund the project but that grants could be sought. Simon noted the importance of securing the future of the facility should there be a change of regiment at the barracks.

- 2 Apologies for absence.** Gordon Deuce.
- 3 Declarations of interest regarding Agenda items.** George, Cricket Club. Jane, Village Hall
- 4 Minutes** of meeting held on 10 March had been previously circulated. One change: Item 13.10 Village Hall: *'imposed'* instead of increased. They were then signed as correct. Proposed by Kath and seconded by Graham.
- 5 Village Hall.** William welcomed Sue Sheppard from RCCE (Rural Community Council for Essex) to give her advice on the way forward for the Village Hall following discovery that the original Trust agreement for the Village Hall set up in 1959 when the old hall was in operation, was no longer legally correct. The Village Hall Committee tried to find members for the committee who were also to be trustees of the charity, but not enough people came forward. The best way forward it would appear is for the PC to become sole trustee of the charity, thus enabling the VH to continue. An alternative is to change the Trust Deed which would involve substantial legal expenses. The present VHC are willing to continue the general running of the hall as a sub committee of the PC. The committee would have to include two members of the PC. The PC will discuss the proposal for them to take on the VH at an informal meeting with Sue Sheppard. This meeting would be a fact finding meeting to work out a proposal either to take on the village hall or not. This would then be put to a full council meeting for their discussion and decision. Should they decide not to take it on then the charity would be wound up, the Village Hall would no longer be available, and the two rooms which are exclusively for the use of the Village would be sold to Essex CC and the money raised kept ring fenced for the possible purchase/building of a new hall. Before the latter could happen there would have to be a public meeting. William thanked Sue for all her help and she kindly offered to come again for any further help that may be necessary. She left the meeting.

George noted that the PC should not raise the precept on account of the VH as contingency plans had been implemented in previous budgets for any shortfall that may occur.

William brought forward item 6.7 in order to welcome Mrs Lynn Bowles as a co-opted member of the PC

6 Matters Arising.

- 6.1 **County Broadband.** Nothing has been heard from Mr James Salmon from County Broadband following his meeting in the VH. Simon Howell showed a map showing BT's proposed improved broadband coverage. Great Sampford would benefit from the upgrades but unfortunately outlying places like Little Sampford and Tindon End would not do so.
 - 6.2 **School Parking.** Simon Walsh agreed to look into zig zag lines on the road outside the school.
 - 6.3 **VETS Scheme** Rhiann reported that she had not heard from the contact at the Community Heartbeat Trust.
 - 6.4 Simon reported that Highways need an official request for a speed survey on Hill Road as the first step. Sarah would contact Highways.
 - 6.5 **Sparepenny Lane North.** Simon will ask the inspector to contact Sarah when he comes to inspect the problems with the lane and the surface water drain at the bottom of the lane.
 - 6.6 **Skip Park in Bush Lane.** Simon Howell agreed to investigate what permissions were granted historically and whether the 'enforcement' team need to look at the site. The application has now been withdrawn. It was also noted that Bush Lane was taken off the 'protected lane' list some years ago.
 - 6.7 **Co-option of Councillor.** Mrs Lynn Bowles was officially co-opted onto the Council. Sarah will send her the necessary paperwork to fill in for UDC.
 - 6.8 **Old Post Office.** William noted the lack of renovation progress and general deterioration of the building. Sarah will write to the owners requesting they repair the boundary fence which overhangs the path to the cricket field.
- 7 **Correspondence.** Sarah reported on the progress for the grant application for the table tennis table for the play area. Consent had been received from the Baptist Church for the addition of the equipment and she had obtained quotes both for the purchase of the table and for installation. The total cost would be around £2,200. It was agreed to apply for a grant of £1,000 from the Community Project Fund from UDC. Should there be a shortfall in the grant applied for the PC would fund the remainder. This was proposed by George and seconded by Rhiann.
- 8 **Reports from County and District Councillors.** **Simon Howell** reported that there will be another 6 months of discussion process until a decision is made on the proposed sites in the village. Although it is hoped that a large single site will be chosen for the new houses needed, additional housing will be needed over the following years and the 'dispersal' sites may still be kept on the books.. Graham asked about the possibility of the Wethersfield Air Base being used as a site but it is felt to be too isolated with bad communications.
- Simon Walsh** reported that discussions regarding the siting of the new bridge at Finchingfield have come up against some problems and it will not be done this year. There is a proposal to make the present old bridge a footbridge and build a new one adjacent to it.
- He will let Sarah have details of the contact addresses for the Highway Rangers as it is not easy at present to contact them. Simon left the meeting at 9.30pm. William thanked them both for attending.
- 9 **Highway Rangers.** Sarah has written about the collapsed steps on the footpath from Howe Lane up to the field above. They have been asked to tidy up the notice board in the churchyard but this has already been done by a resident.
- 10 **Footpath Booklet.** The maps have been finished and Clare has passed the booklet onto her daughter Nicola who is taking the project forward.
- 11 **Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility.**
- 11.1 **Play Area: (KT,KA, GS)** Kath and Graham will arrange to remove the gate and gatepost adjacent to the tennis court as it was felt to serve no useful purpose. Kath will ask Chris Butcher to weedkill around the tennis court. Sarah will ask Fenland Leisure to come and tighten the zipwire. She will also order a 'no kite flying' sign for the play area as there are overhead electric cables which could be dangerous.
- Kath, Kay and George will look at the Play Area safety report and let the PC know of any problems which need to be dealt with in order to conform to the standards required in the report.

11.2 Planning (*WB, GD*)

There were no adverse comments on the following planning applications:

Sparrows Hall. Renewal of permission previously granted.

Mount View: 1st Floor rear extension, 2 storey side extension and garage. (now granted)

Hole Farm: Revision of previous permission. Demolition of cart lodge and greenhouse, alteration to existing lean-to, conversion of barn to dwelling with associated works and erection of single storey front extension and flue. Erection of garage and garden store with storage above.

Wisteria Cottage GS. Proposed garage conversion.

Westwood Lodge. Tindon End. Erection of cart lodge.

The Bungalow, Hill Road. Addition of a basement to the planing application.

Orchard Cottage, Moor End. Erection of an orangery.

11.3 **Grass-cutting** The High Bank had been cut, organised by Chris Butcher.

11.4 **Footpaths** (*WB*). Sarah would ask Highway Rangers to cut the path up beside the Old Nurses House.

11.5 **Publicity.** (*JL*) Jane has put a Parish Council report in the recent edition of Ambo for which she was thanked.

11.6 **Website.** (*GS & RC*) Nothing to report. **Events:** Another Bingo session is arranged for 24 June. The Fete is on 16 July.

11.7 **Neighbourhood Watch.** Crime reports are now sent directly to Rebecca Kincaid for inclusion in Sampford Signal.

11.8 **Liaison with village organisations.**

11.9 **Transport.** (*GK*) Martin Boughtwood had heard of a 'no show' from DART bus company following a request from a resident. It had been reported that the Thaxted Minibus was in financial difficulties. The PC reiterated the importance for the village of the service. Volunteer drivers are needed and Sarah would ask Phyllis Benfield for details of what it involves and ask for volunteers on Sampford Signal.

11.10 **Village Assets.** All in good order. The renewal of the bus shelter is on the Agenda for ECC

11.11 **Village Hall.** (*JL*) This item dealt with in item 5.

11.12 **Sport.** (*GS*) Nothing to report

11.13 **Highways and footpaths.** (*WB & GD*) Many of the footpaths are very overgrown but until the harvest it is difficult to get anything done about them. Several reports have gone to Highways via Simon Walsh, including the need for a replacement wooden sign for Tindon End, and the reinstatement of a heavy manhole cover at the bottom of Howe Lane. Also surface problems on Sparepenny Lane North, (previously sent).

12 **Finance** The new mandate form has been sent off to Barclays to add William to the signing 'team'.

12.1 **Authorisation was given for the following cheques totalling £938.66**

Cheque number:

100775 to Sarah Parker 1st quarter pay £821.06

100776 to Playsafety Limited (RoSPA) for £117.60 for Play Area inspection

All cheques proposed by Jane and seconded by William.

13 **Further items for discussion only.**

- Community Achievement Award. A name was proposed for this award and the PC agreed it should go forward for consideration. Sarah would fill in the necessary details.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ON THURSDAY 22
SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 8 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Sarah Parker, Clerk. 28.6.16