

# SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2017 in the Village Hall.

## PRESENT:

|                   |                     |                   |                         |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr William Burton | Mrs Rhiann Chappell | Mrs Jane Lawrence | Mrs Sarah Parker        |
| Mrs Kay Adye      | Mr Gordon Deuce     | Mr George Smith   | 2 members of the public |
|                   | Mr Graham Keen      | Ms Kath Thompson  |                         |

## 1 Public Forum.

**Sue Collins** asked if the present agreement with Chris Butcher helping in the Churchyard at St Michael's would continue. She was reassured that the present arrangement would not change for 2017..

**Eric Banks** asked what the PC had done to lessen the impact on his property of the school pick up in the morning. The children walk through his garden and are damaging his hedge. The PC had written to both the schools concerned and the education department at ECC to request an alternative pick-up point but they were informed that this was not possible. William suggested that Eric should write himself to the Education Department and to the schools involved to ask for their help. He also suggested a low fence across the open part of his garden. The PC will write again as before. but they cannot 'make it happen', only send representations on behalf of residents. Eric also complained that the minibus which parks outside his house keeps its engine running whilst waiting for the children which is polluting the area, particularly his house. William suggested that he asks the driver to switch off the engine during that time. He offered to come and speak to the driver if necessary. Sarah or Wendy will keep Eric informed of any progress. The problem of car parking outside the school continues. The school cannot direct where people should park at pick up and drop off times.

**2 Apologies for absence.** Lynn Bowles, Simon Walsh. and Simon Howell

**3 Declarations of interest regarding Agenda items.** George, Cricket Club. Jane, Village Hall,

**4 Minutes** of meeting held on 19 January had been previously circulated were agreed, proposed by Gordon and seconded by Graham.

## 5 Matters Arising.

**5.1 Village Hall.** Wendy is trying to arrange a meeting with Sue Sheppard from RCCE, but is finding difficulty with suitable dates. Sarah will send details of the wording of the Resolution in item 2, 4.1 on which the PC need clarification..

**5.2 Skip Park at Tindon End.** Simon informed us that the depot is legal.

**5.3 Deer crossing sign.** Sarah has written to Simon Walsh regarding the suggested deer sign on the road above Anser Gallows Farm. She has also written to him regarding the suggested extension of the 40mph speed limit, both out of the village to Thaxted and on the Finchingfield Road from the Old Rectory up to Hawkins Hill. The letter was acknowledged but no reply has been received.

**5.4 Support For Sight** The box has been put in the Phone box and is filling up.

## 6 Correspondence.

**Memorial for Ken Neale.** Margaret Suckling has approached the PC on behalf of the Sampfords' Society requesting that they would provide, and plant a weeping cherry tree on the green by the bridge in memory of Ken Neale at whose instigation the Society was formed. He also was involved with many village organisations. A picture of the proposed tree was circulated and all the councillors were in favour of this proposal. and thanked Margaret for her suggestion. Sarah will write to her.

**Local Plan.** No further news on this will be heard until July.

**Highways.** Sarah had reported the damaged 30mph sign on the Finchingfield Road to ECC and has a reference number to follow the progress of the work requested. *(Post minute 13.3.17 Gordon has done a temporary repair job on the sign)*

**PC Records.** Sarah has sent some of the old PC Minute books and documents to the Essex Record Office so that Wendy does not have to house numerous old records. The Record Office has acknowledged these and will send a detailed list of all the items they have received from the PC.

**Footpath Stiles.** The stile below the Grange has been strengthened and is 'fit for purpose'. Several others have been repaired or new ones installed with the cost being met by the relevant landowners.

## 7 Reports from County and District Councillors.

**Simon Howell** reported on his work on the budget for UDC, and other items in AMBO this month, but he is pleased that Uttlesford's share of the Council Tax bill continues to be the lowest of any district council in Essex. His New Homes Bonus cheque to the PC for £250 was most welcome. The PC to send a cheque for £50 to Rachel Whippy for the Flower Show. The £200 would be put towards the printing of the Footpath booklet. Suggestions for next year's NH Bonus were aired. The new fencing for the play area was one idea and more

Litter Picks for the annual clean up was another. To be decided at a later meeting.

He thanked Sarah for her work as Parish Clerk and wished Wendy well as Sarah's successor.

**8 Highway Rangers.** No requests

**9 Footpath Booklet.** Clare asked if the PC wanted an introduction page for the booklet. Sarah would compose one for her.

**10 Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility.**

**10.1 Play Area:** (*KT, KA, GS*)

**Table tennis table.** The table is now installed and all the necessary invoices have been sent to UDC so they can send the grant to the PC account at Barclays. It was suggested that a TT 'tournament' could be incorporated with that of the Tennis Club in June to celebrate the new item of equipment. Photos could be sent to UDC who like to have publicity for their grants.

**Perimeter Fencing.** Graham and Kath will get quotes for renewal of the fences.

**Youth Kay** will contact Martin for an update on the YC activities.

**10.2 Planning Applications** (*WB, GD*)

There were no adverse comments on the following applications:

**Hill Farm, Gt Sampford.** Erection of two car cart shed garage UTT/17/0293/FUL

**2 Jaspers Cottage, Howe Lane.** Proposed demolition of part of existing extension, replacement windows and flat roof covering. Proposed two storey extensions. UTT/17/0527/HHF

**10.3 Grass-cutting** This has been well done. Graham would look at Chris Butcher's contract which was last updated in 2013. It was noted that Chris had not sent an invoice since April 2016. Sarah has asked for an up to date one asap.

**10.4 Publicity.** Jane has put her PC report in the latest edition of AMBO. She noted that there had been no volunteers for the speed-gun initiative.

**10.5 Website.** Sarah would write again to Brian Rees regarding transferring the ownership of the domain name for the PC. She will ask him to contact Wendy.

**10.6 Liaison with village organisations.** Rhiann suggested that it might be an idea for the PC to have a stall at the village fete. She also reported that there had been a smaller than usual turn out at the recent litter pick but huge amounts of rubbish had been collected. The PC records its thanks to Mike and Sue Lindsell for organising this event. Photos will be sent to UDC when permission has been given by the parents of the children shown in the photo.

**Pot of Gold** performances in the Village Hall on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**The Village Calendar** has nearly sold out with very few remaining copies left.

**10.7 Transport. & Village Assets.** Nothing to report on Transport. Sarah will contact Tony Saych regarding his inspection and report on the condition of the Gt Sampford village sign.

**10.8 Village Hall.** (*JL*) Team Spirit Quiz will be on March 12 in the Village Hall with 10 teams competing.

**10.9 Sport.** (*GS*) The Cricket Club fixtures which are in the final planning stage will be put on the website. They will be advertising for new players. The proposed football team had not got off the ground due to lack of interest.

**10.10 Highways and footpaths.** (*WB & GD*) There has been some dispute concerning the path from Sparepenny Lane South past 'The Cottage' through to the cricket field. The PC confirms that this is NOT a footpath.

**11 Finance**

**11.1 An up to date Receipts and Payments report was circulated to the councillors.**

**Ratification for the following cheque signed earlier was received as follows:**

100802 to Stop Stansted Expansion £10 annual subscription.

**Authorisation for the following cheques totalling £1,373.09 was received:**

100803 to **Electric Websites** for annual hosting fee £152.00

100804 to **C R Parker** for installation of the table tennis table £300

100805 to **Sarah Parker** for final quarter pay £821.09

100806 to **The Red Lion** for Litter Pick refreshments £100

Cheques proposed by William and seconded by George.

**11.2 Dates for future PC meetings :** 6 April (annual Parish meeting), 11 May (AGM), 22 June, 21

September, 26 October, 15 January 2018.

**12 Further items for discussion only.**

It was noted that the Stansted Airport Community Trust grants were not open to Parish Councils.

Details of training sessions from EALC had been circulated to Councillors.

William thanked Sarah for her work as Parish Clerk over the past 14 years and welcomed Wendy into the position. She will take over from Sarah on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**William** thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.00pm

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE  
THE PARISH ASSEMBLY  
ON THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017 AT 8 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Sarah Parker, Clerk. 15.3.2017