

SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday 27 October 2016 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Mr William Burton	Mrs Rhiann Chappell	Mrs Jane Lawrence	Mrs Sarah Parker
Mrs Lynn Bowles	Mr Gordon Deuce	Mr George Smith	5 members of the public
	Mr Graham Keen	Ms Kath Thompson	

- 1 Public Forum.** Concerns were raised regarding the outline planning application behind Watsons Close. This would be discussed in item 10.

Residents in Howe Lane had experienced problems with hounds from the Essex Hunt. William would give contact details for them to contact the relevant official in the Hunt. He felt that, although the Parish Council is sympathetic to their problem, it is not in a position to take action.

There have been complaints about dirt bikes from outside the village coming in to use the byway in Dark Lane and others in the locality.. The lanes are being churned up and their speeding is causing concern to those riding horses and dog walkers.. An accident is waiting to happen. Sarah will contact Adam Jenkins the footpath officer to see if there is anything that can be done to restrict the use of the lanes and particularly their speed.

- 2 Apologies for absence.** Kay Adye, Simon Walsh and Simon Howell. Both sent reports.
- 3 Declarations of interest regarding Agenda items.** George, Cricket Club. Jane, Village Hall,
- 4 Minutes** of meeting held on 22 September had been previously circulated. Gordon Deuce was not included in the attendees so was added to the Minutes. Proposed by Kath and seconded by George.
- 5 Matters Arising.**
 - 5.1 VETS Scheme** Rhiann had circulate an email to Councillors outlining the scheme. Following discussion it was agreed not to proceed with the proposal.
 - 5.2 Hill Road Speeding.** Following a request for volunteers for the speedwatch scheme on SS, only two people came forward. However it was agreed to advertise again for volunteers as it was felt that Highways would not help with the problem if the residents were not willing to help themselves. William is to contact Simon Walsh regarding the problem.
 - 5.3 Village Hall.** George gave a summary of the situation regarding the Trusteeship of the Village Hall. The VH is required to appoint a new Custodial Trustee and notify the Charity Commission before they are able to proceed with changing the Sole Trustee of the charity. It is hoped that the request for the PC to take over the Sole Trusteeship of the VH will be resolved at the next PC meeting in January.
 - 5.4 Skip Park at Tindon End.** The skip park is still operating, although not causing undue disruption. William wants to know how and when the planning permission for the business was given. He has asked Simon Howell for information.

6 Correspondence.

Deer crossing sign. Sarah had contacted Hempstead PC who are happy for us to request a sign for the B1053 above Anso Corner. She will contact Highways with a request.

Land behind Merlins. William is still waiting for the paperwork regarding the land ownership and boundaries.

Local Plan The PC had written a detailed letter of objection to the Planning Department regarding the 2 sites approved for further consideration. The plan was to be published on 20 October but they decided to '*pause the formal decision-making process for the draft Local Plan as it continues to work towards an evidence based and robust document*'. As a result, the public consultation will be pushed back until the New Year.

Highways. The pothole on the road above the stables has been filled. Jane will let Sarah have details of one she has experienced in Maynards Lane.

Community Achievement Award. The PC proposed Sue Collins for the award for her work as editor of Ambo for many years, as Churchwarden for 9 years, recently single handed, delivery of village newsletters and other leaflets, organising the poppy appeal, and hospital visiting, amongst other contributions to the local community. This proposal was successful and she will attend the award ceremony at the Council offices on 30 November. Congratulations were expressed to Sue.

Support 4 Sight. The PC has been asked if they would agree to having a small recycling flip-top bin in the telephone box by the bridge. This for collection of unwanted spectacles which help towards raising funds for visually impaired people and families with sight loss. The Councillors all agreed to this and Sarah will contact the office in Saffron Walden. Graham agreed to have a sort out in the phone box and provide a shelf for the spectacle box.

7 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Simon Howell sent a report on several issues, the main one being the planning application at the rear of Watsons

Close. The Parish Council has written to Uttlesford expressing its objections. Simon has formally requested that, should the planning officers recommend approval, the application is considered by the full Planning Committee. He pointed out that this site has a history of similar planning applications in the recent past with previous applications refused by Uttlesford and their decisions upheld by the Planning Inspector. He believes that the very strong reasons for refusal of previous planning applications for this site have not changed.. He had hoped to report progress on the Local Plan but, as explained above, this will be delayed until the New Year. His report in full will be put on the website.

County Councillor Simon Walsh sent a report which was circulated. Essex CC is set to spend about £85 million creating more than 400 new special school places across Essex. Building is hoped to start in 2018. The record investment comes following an increase in the number of young people in the county being diagnosed with autism and with a growing demand for special school places. New places are likely to include 24 in the Braintree district, 70 in The Chelmsford area, 20 in the Castle Point/Rochford area and 24 places in the Epping Forest district. The £85 million includes £42 million from the Essex Schools Forum, as well as £43 million of capital funding from Essex CC. His report will be put on the website.

- 8 Highway Rangers.** The road signs around the village need cleaning and some clearing of overhanging branches where required. The path up to the fields beside the bungalows needs cutting. Sarah will contact Highway Rangers.
- 9 Footpath Booklet.** Claire Watkins reported that she and her daughter Nicola are in the process of putting the booklet together. They had contacted a printer who gave an estimated cost of £1.50 for each leaflet, dependent on the amount of photographs and colour included. Some of the walks will need 'testing' and she will let Sarah know which they are. She and Sarah will arrange for some more photographs of the walks. It was suggested that this booklet be issued to each household in the village, with some extra copies for the churches, pub and the phone box library. It was decided not to include one of the paths which is purely for Hempstead, but to include the one which visits the pubs in the two villages.

10 Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility.

- 10.1 Play Area: (KT,KA, GS)** Kath and Graham will meet with Chris Parker to decide which areas of the fencing around the play area needs replacing in order to keep dogs out. Sarah will order new 'no dog' signs for the entrances for the Pay Area as the previous ones had been vandalised. She will try to get 2 metal signs.

Table tennis table. This is due for delivery. The Grassform mats for either end of the table have been delivered and Chris Parker will install them.

Mitie the pest control contractors have said they have put traps instead of bait boxes in the play area as there had been no sign of rats. Sarah has asked three times for details of the siting of the traps but has had no reply. A Resident has seen rats recently. Until Mitie give us an answer the cheque will be withheld for their last visit.

Youth Nothing to report.

10.2 Planning Applications (WB, GD)

Great Sampford Baptist Church Change of use of church hall to dwelling, including internal alterations, the introduction of roof lights and windows. Internal alterations to church building removal of render from west facade and landscaping works to allow additional parking space. The PC agreed they had no objections to this application.

Monks Corner. UTT/16/2555/OP Outline application, with all matters reserved except for access, for 18 dwellings and garages, extension to council car parking and new vehicular access. Land at the rear of Watsons Close. Gordon Deuce, on behalf of the PC had written a letter of objection stating all the previous reasons for the refusal for development on this site.

- 10.3 Grass-cutting** Cutting of the High Bank is in hand.. All the hedges in the play area, including the skate park Leylandii need cutting. The surrounds to the tennis court need strimming and weedkilling in the Spring.
- 10.4 Publicity.** Jane will put her PC report in the forthcoming edition of AMBO.
- 10.5 Website.** Electric Websites charge £163 per annum and there is a £6 charge for the domain name.
- 10.6 Liaison with village organisations.** The Sampford Society AGM will be on 28 October. 2 ladies from Audley End will speak on their work there.
- 10.7 Transport. & Village Assets. (GK)** Graham reported a small crack in the Little Sampford village Sign which he will investigate. He will also attend to the phone box library. The village clock is proving more expensive than hoped to repair. Although the clock is working the chiming is still being sorted by Gillett and Johnston. It is hoped the company will return the mechanism within the next couple of weeks.

- 10.8 Village Hall.** (*JL*) The annual bike ride used the VH grounds on Sunday 25 September as a feeding station. This stop off for the cyclists is very popular and has become an annual event. Bingo is proving popular and is well supported.
- 10.9 Sport.** (*GS*) Cricket Club AGM is on 15 November in the Baptist Hall. They are playing indoor cricket at Braintree. The Keep Fit programme is disbanded at present as the instructor is not well.
- 10.10 Highways and footpaths.** (*WB & GD*) The footpaths are in better condition after the harvest. The path behind the riding school and barns at the stables needs clearing of debris. The stile behind the Nurses House into the horse field has collapsed and needs replacing. Sarah to contact landowner.

11 Finance

- 11.1** A copy of the draft budget was circulated to councillors. William explained the increase in some of the items and, apart from comment made on the budget for Website and IT which seemed high, it was approved with the precept remaining the same at £15,000. Proposed by Gordon and seconded by Rhiann.

Ratification for the following cheques signed earlier was received as follows:

100788 to Colin Parker £6 for renewal of website domain. (replacement cheque)

100789 for £65 to the Wine Society for wine for Colin for work on the accounts

100790 for £50 for sponsorship of the Village Hall Calendar

100791 for £304.80 to Grassform for eco matting for lay area TT table.

Authorisation for the following cheques was received:

100792 for £200 to Essex Ambulance donation (agreed at last meeting)

100793 to Mitie for Pay Area Pest Control. (cheque will be sent when further information is received)

100794 to Table Tennis Tables.com for £1,724.00 (inc VAT £287/33) for table for play area.

Cheques proposed by George and seconded by Graham.

An up to date receipts and payments report was circulated to the councillors.

- 11.2 The following dates for future PC meetings were agreed:** 9 March, 6 April (annual Parish meeting), 11 May (AGM), 22 June, 21 September, 26 October, 15 January 2018.

12 Further items for discussion only.

William reported that the river through the village is full of weeds and very overgrown. Sarah will contact the Environment Agency to ask them to clear/dredge it rather than strimming as previously.

Rhiann reported that the defibrillator box fixing brackets need some silicone sealant as they are letting damp into the defib box. Graham would look at the problem with her.

Simon Howell informed the PC that he would be able to give the PC a £500 grant from the New Homes Bonus. Ideas for its use were requested. It was decided it should be used towards the production and distribution of the footpath booklet.

William thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.25pm

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE
ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2017 AT 8 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Sarah Parker, Clerk. 28.10.16