

SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2015 in the Village Hall .

PRESENT:

Mr Chris Robinson, Chairman	Mrs Jane Lawrence	Ms Kath Thompson
Mr Martin Boughtwood	Mr George Smith	Mrs Sarah Parker (Clerk)
Mr William Burton	Mrs Rhiann Chappell	

- 1 **Public Forum.** There were no questions
- 2 **Apologies for absence.** Mike Palmer, Graham Keen, Clare Watkins and Simon Walsh.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda.** Jane: WI and Village Hall, Martin: Youth Club and Village Hall, Chris: Village Hall, and George: Cricket Club.
- 4 **Minutes** of meeting held on 30 October which had been previously circulated were signed as correct. Proposed by Kath and seconded by Martin.
- 5 **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 **Defibrillator.** Rhiann reported that Essex Ambulance need a certificate from the electrician who installed the device. Rhiann would contact Will Parker for necessary information. George will contact Chris Green to see if he can organise a session of training on the defibrillator together with CPR training. Alternatively the PC would pay for a training session on the Defibrillator. Chris will speak to Kelly Bishop at Cornish Hall End to see if there has been any progress on provision of another device for Little Sampford.
 - 5.2 **Broadband** Buzcom will hear from UDC on 23 January as to whether they have secured the contract for provision of Broadband in Uttlesford.
 - 5.3 **Affordable Housing.** Nothing further has been heard from Hastoe Housing. Chris invited Simon Howell, District Councillor to report on the Uttlesford housing situation which could affect any housing plans for The Sampfords. The Government assessment of the UDC Local Plan has been halted mainly because the plan did not take account of the huge increase in demand for housing in the area which had been identified. Uttlesford is required to plan for 5,000 houses over 5 years which will include taking some of the housing needs from neighbouring councils because they have no land available, ie, Harlow and Epping Forest. The new settlement at Elsenham was rejected because there is a 'very rural road network round it'. All villages may have to take new housing unless two sites for new settlements can be identified. As a result of this the outlook is bleak and developers' applications in the area could be looked on more favourably. Simon will be on the committee working on a new plan. This may not be the time to encourage new planning applications in the village.
Chris thanked Simon for his report and he left the meeting at 8.25.
 - 5.4 **Moor End Drain and Lane.** Sarah had logged complaints about the surface of Sparepenny Lane North and the drain cover at the bottom of the lane, together with photographs, on the ECC Highways site. (reference 236015) Nothing has been done. The same applies to the surface and dangerous potholes in Maynards Lane. She had reported ML with photographs and been given a reference number on the website (236801) to enable the progress on requests to be viewed. When the number is entered an instruction comes up to ring Highways which then refers back to the website! It was agreed that communication with Highways is difficult. and unsatisfactory. A form has been sent from Highways for the PC to report problems and both these problems would be included
 - 5.5 **Footpath Problems.** William will contact PROW team in the Spring regarding the path below Barley Fields. The 'Cherry Avenue' path is now a 'permissive path'. This was agreed with the landowner on the condition that dogs are kept under control. Signs to this effect have been put up.
 - 5.6 **Little Learners.** It was felt a great pity that Little Learners had closed. They had tried unsuccessfully to employ suitably qualified staff, without whom they could not continue. The Parish Council had received a cheque for £500 from them as reimbursement for their recent grant.
- 6 **School Parking.** Chris had not heard that Ian Pollard had received a reply from Highways to his letter regarding speeding and parking problems at the school. Sarah would add it to the Highways form.
- 7 **Correspondence**
 - **UDC invitation to 'Election' meeting.** Councillors were invited to a briefing on the processes to be followed in administering the combined elections on 7 May. George and Sarah agreed to go and Chris may also be able to attend.

- **Letter from CAB.** A letter from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) had been circulated. Chris introduced Diane Drury, from the CAB who attended the meeting. She outlined the services provided by CAB, and pointed out that 50 residents from The Sampfords had used the service during the last 12 months with 195 separate issues. She explained that following reductions in ECC budgets, many charities across Essex, including CAB, have suffered funding cuts. Amongst many other services, The CAB want to fight to keep their disability home visit service which they have run for 14 years. Braintree District CAB lost this service last year. They have approached the Parish Council for a grant towards the ongoing work they do. It is difficult for them to plan ahead when they do not know how much money they will have from year to year. Chris thanked her for her presentation and it was decided to make a decision at the March meeting. It was felt that seeking to bind a future PC into an annual grant, or increasing the precept to cover a grant on a continuing basis would not be appropriate.
 - **Letter from Ollie Smith and Alfie Cole.** Ollie and Alfie had sent a letter requesting a grant towards their forthcoming trip to Nepal which is being sponsored by the registered charity, Essex Boys and Girls Clubs. They attended the meeting and answered questions. Following their departure from the meeting it was agreed to support them with £250 each. This was proposed by Chris and seconded by George and agreed unanimously.
 - **Sampfords Parochial Church Council.** A letter had been received and circulated from the PCC asking the PC for financial help with the churchyard maintenance of St Mary's Little Sampford and St Michael's Great Sampford. Fewer and fewer people are available to help with the maintenance work. It was agreed that Chris Butcher, would be asked to cut the paths at St Mary's when he comes to the village and the paths are in need of cutting. He would be asked to do a cut (not the paths) at St Michael's once a year. This arrangement to be discussed by Martin Boughtwood, Chris Butcher and the relevant churchwardens.
 - **Howe Lane problems.** Several residents have contacted the clerk with complaints about the state of Howe Lane. All the laybys used for passing are full of debris and are dangerous. The trees on the banks on either side are rotten and frequently fall into the lane. The verges of the road at the top end of the lane are non-existent and the tarmac drops off into a deep ditch on one side. Sarah would try to make telephone contact with Rissa Long about Highway problems, including this one.
 - **Deer Sign.** Following concerns from residents about deer regularly crossing the road beyond Anso Corner with consequent problems when they are hit, it was agreed that Sarah would put in a request for a deer sign on the form provided for Highways problems. She had checked with Hempstead PC who agreed that they are happy for us to request this sign.
 - **Stop Stansted Expansion.** It was agreed to renew SSE subscription of £10
 - **EALC request for signed consent form for Data Protection Obligations.** There was produced to the meeting a copy of a circular prepared by UDC headed Advice to Councils regarding the publishing of photographs taken at events for the purpose of compliance with the obligations imposed on councils under the data protection legislation. It was agreed that the Council should adopt the safeguards described in such Advice to Councils. The consent form was signed and will be returned to EALC.
 - **Smith of Derby.** It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the invoice amount of £279.60 for the annual service of the village clock on St Michael's.
- 8 Reports from District Councillors.** Simon Walsh had sent a report on the day of the meeting which had been circulated to the Councillors. Simon Howell had reported earlier in the meeting.
- 9 Highway Rangers.** The requests had all been completed.
- 10 Footpath Booklet.** Chris would contact Clare regarding the mapping work which is still outstanding.
- 11 Reports from Parish Councillors on their areas of responsibility.**
- 11.1 Play Area: (MB, KT, GS)** The Play area looks good with the new goal posts and nets now installed. Sarah will contact Fenland Leisure to tighten the wire on the Zip Wire. Jill Palmer was thanked for her work in securing a grant for the zip wire.
- Youth.** Martin reported there are over 100 members and 48 attended last week on a cold night. He reported on a successful visit organised by Jill Palmer for some of the girls to go to the Clothes Show in Birmingham. This had been a great success and Jill had written to all the parents regarding the good behaviour and general enjoyment of all those who went with her. Some of the members had attended the presentation evening at UDC when they explained how their grants had been spent. A team had entered the under 16 five a side football competition at Harlow, and they are now half way through a boxing coaching course.

11.1 continued Kath reported that she and Sarah Jane Parker have agreed to be volunteer river watchers. They will patrol the river once a month from the pumping station to Little Sampford Bridge, reporting on the state of the river, any new species, both flora and fauna, and any increase/decline in them.

11.2 Planning (MP WB)

11.2.1 Planning Applications – Great Sampford:- There were no significant planning applications or decisions.

11.3 Grass-cutting Nothing to report. **Footpaths.** (WB). Reported in Matters arising.

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

11.5 Website. (GS & RC) A facility for adding 'fliers' for events has been added to the Website at an approximate cost of £45.

11.6 Neighbourhood Watch. Crime reports will now be sent directly to Rebecca Kincaid for inclusion in Sampford Signal.

11.7 Liaison with village organisations. The demise of Little Learners was noted with regret.

11.8 Transport. (GK) Graham was thanked for putting the latest news regarding the local bus route on Sampfords' Signal.

Community Assets. The village benches had been cleaned by Highway Rangers.

11.9 Events. (RC) Jane is asking for a PC team for Team Spirit Quiz on 7 March.

11.10 Village Hall. (CR) Chris reported that it would appear from an e-mail that he had received from Jill Palmer (the Treasurer to the VHC) that the VH will not be calling on the PC for financial support for the year to 31 March. However VHC has expressed the hope that the PC will continue to underwrite the VHC's financial obligations under the Joint Use Agreement. 5 people will be entering the Maldon Mud Race with sponsorship money going to the Village Hall Fund.

11.11 Sport. (GS) George should have the Cricket Club fixture list very soon.

12 Finance An up to date Receipts and payments sheet was circulated to Councillors.

The Precept form was signed for £14,522. £15,000 (including the UDC grant)

Ratification was received for the following cheques totalling £1,458.80

100715 for £1,334.00 to Chris Butcher for grasscutting (*signed November*)

100716 to Local Council Public Advisory Service for £60 (see note) for 3 delegates to Election course.

100717 to Metrosigns for "Permissive Path" sign for £64.80

Authorisation for the following cheques:

100718 to Sarah Parker for third quarter pay £851.10. This includes £55.66 back pay following an increase in salary for local government workers.

100719 to Smith of Derby £279.60 for village clock service.

Cheques proposed by William and seconded by Martin.

Note £20 was subsequently refunded in respect of non-attendance by one delegate.

13 Further items for discussion only.

- It was noted that no acknowledgement of George's letter to SSE had been received.
- Mr John Judson, Chairman of Little Bardfield PC had contacted Sarah regarding a meeting they are having to discuss the Coopers Transport lorry depot and consequent traffic problems from their business at Hawkspur Green.. They feel the site and its access is now too small to accommodate increasing numbers of 40 ton lorries and they would like to see the business relocated to a more suitable site. They asked if there was anyone who would like to go to the meeting. Following discussion it was decided that no-one from the Council would attend. Sarah would let him know the Council decision.
- Rhiann reported that a Breakfast/after school club run by 'Oliver's Lodge' has started in the Hall, ending 6.30pm. At present it is only during term time but may extend to holiday time.
- **The Litter Pick** has been arranged for Saturday 7 March. Mike Lindsell has agreed to organise it and Rhiann will alert the Red Lion regarding refreshments

Chris thanked everybody who attended. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE
ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2015 AT 8 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Sarah Parker, Clerk. 26.1.15