

## SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting held on Thursday 29 October 2015 in the Village Hall.

### PRESENT:

Mr Chris Robinson  
Mr William Burton  
Mrs Rhiann Chappell

Mrs Jane Lawrence  
Mr George Smith  
Ms Kath Thompson

Mrs Sarah Parker (Clerk)  
4 members of the public

### 1 Public Forum.

There were no questions.

### 2 Apologies for absence.

 Kay Adye, Gordon Deuce and Graham Keen.

### 3 Minutes.

 The minutes of the meeting on 17 September, which had been circulated, were approved; proposed by George Smith and seconded by Kath Thompson.

### 4 County Broadband.

 This item put back in the meeting as James Salmon had not yet arrived.

### 5 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda.

 Jane:- WI and Village Hall, George:- Cricket Club. Chris:- Village Hall.

### 6 Matters Arising

**6.1 Defibrillator.** Chris will collect the device from Freshwell Health Centre. Rhiann will arrange the installation at Little Sampford and will organise a training session with Community Heartbeat Trust. She will put an invitation for training onto SS. Two volunteers, Lil May (term time) and Anthea McMyn (holidays) had kindly come forward to take on the weekly checks on the Defib. If they cannot do it for any reason they should be asked to contact Rhiann.

**6.2 Speeding Parsonage Lane.** It would appear that there is one culprit, a resident at Parsonage Farm who regularly speeds in the Lane. Sarah had written previously to all residents in the lane regarding speeding.

**6.3 Nepalese Trip.** Ollie gave the PC a report (backed up by photographs) on his recent trip to Nepal to which the PC had made a financial contribution. He and Alfie had arrived shortly after the earthquake and so saw the result of the devastation and were able to help with leading games for school children and generally helping in the villages. They socialised with the families and were a very close group. They lived in tents sometimes at around 12,000 amongst impressive snow capped mountains. Ollie is still in touch with friends he made in Nepal and he felt it had been a wonderful experience for him and Alfie. He thanked the PC for their help.

**6.4 School Parking.** Wendy Peacock had agreed at the meeting in June to raise a petition from parents to present to the PC to confirm their support for a request for railings outside the school to prevent cars parking by the wall. Chris had not heard anything from Wendy but Rhiann had seen her and she will get on with the petition.

**4. County Broadband.** Mr James Salmon from County Broadband (CB) explained their possible plan for fast broadband in Gt Sampford. The package for wireless internet proposed would be a solution for the whole village at modest cost, comparing favourably with the services carried by BT landline the only current option. CB are totally independent and not linked in any way to BT. The technology provides internet at speeds up to 32 Mb/s typically between five and ten times faster than wired connection. CB want to cover the whole village which may necessitate setting up several access points (relay stations) to beam the signal into places that are difficult to reach. CB have 46 projects in Essex and Suffolk. The PC will study the CB website to understand the whole picture, including the investment needed, before deciding whether to proceed with a public meeting to explain the proposal and to establish the demand. CB website [www.countybroadband.co.uk](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk). 0845 686 5000

**7 Affordable Housing.** 4 Councillors, Simon Howell and Sarah had had a meeting with Nigel Brown (a senior planning officer at UDC) at the Council Offices on 28 October to discuss the proposed AH scheme for Gt Sampford. The PC decided at a previous meeting to defer the plan to pursue a rural exception programme for AH until the new Local Plan had been confirmed. Nigel Brown confirmed the advice previously given by our District Councillor that to highlight a proposed planning site at this stage in the local plan search for sites could well alert the planners to a site which could lead to further development of a large number of open market houses which

would be unsuitable for the village. Previous planning applications have been rejected as unsustainable. There was a helpful and informative discussion regarding the sites for the Local Plan and the PC confirmed their previous decision to delay the plan until the Local Plan is confirmed. Chris would inform Ulrike Maccariello of the decision. The plan will be revisited when the Local Plan is agreed.

**8 Correspondence.** Sarah had received assurance from Simon Walsh that Maynards Lane will be repaired, hopefully in December or January. The road will have to be closed during the work.

**9 Reports from County and District Councillors.**

**Simon Walsh** sent a report which was circulated to the Councillors. He confirmed that a new primary school will be built in Great Dunmow. He is hoping to bring the scheduled bridge repair work on the bridge at Finchingfield forward to coincide with the repairs following a recent accident on the bridge.

**Simon Howell** informed the meeting that the application for a solar park behind Hill Hall which was refused has now gone to appeal.

Simon urged the PC to write to Uttlesford regarding the proposed Local Plan. Great Sampford is one of the many villages on the list for consultation. To view the consultation questions and respond visit [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult) All responses must be received in writing by 4.30pm on Friday 4 December.

Advertising signs on public land in the village are illegal. There are several, mostly estate agent boards, at the entrance to Willetts Field and also at Monks Corner. Sarah will write to Anthea Williams at the enforcement department at Uttlesford.

**10 Community Grant Scheme.** The PC had received a letter from the Churchwarden at St Michael's assuring the PC that the new parking area will be available for use by the village, but that no overnight parking would be allowed. The Parochial Church Council will let Chris have the Minutes from their recent meeting when they agreed to fund any outstanding payments over and above the £4,750 from the grants from UDC and the PC.

**11 Highway Rangers.** Nothing had been heard from HR. Sarah had written again to the address given her by Simon Walsh.

**12 Footpath Booklet.** It was agreed that there should be a deadline of 31/3/16 for the work to be finished on the footpath booklet. The PC will thank Mr Turmer for his help but explain that it needs to be finished by the end of the financial year or we will have to make other arrangements.

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

**13.1 Play Area: (KA, KT, GS)** The Play area is in good order and Kath fills in the safety book on a regular basis. Bell Fencing Ltd had given a quote for the post and rail fencing on the play area boundary with the Baptist churchyard for £199.20 (inc VAT). It was agreed to accept the quote. Sarah will contact Mark Bell.

Sarah will ask Chris Butcher to cut back the Leylandii hedge around the skate board area.

**Youth.** Nothing to report

**13.2 Planning (GD WB)**

**Planning Applications**

Installation of wood-burning stove at Cherry Gardens

UTT/15/3236/FUL The Bungalow, Hill Road GS. Replacement dwelling.

Gordon and William to inspect the plans and respond.

**13.3 Grass-cutting & Trees (GK)** Chris Butcher has been asked to cut the River Green triangle. Thanks had been sent to Jill and Mike Palmer for tending the area for several years.

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

**13.5 Website. (GS & RC)** Information for the website to be sent to Rhiann.

**13.6 Broadband. Dealt with in item 4**

**13.7 Neighbourhood Watch (RC)** Reports come through onto SS

**13.8 Liaison with village organisations.(RC)** There will be a Wine Tasting by Waples Wines on 4 December. Details to be sent to Rhiann for the website.

**13.9 Transport. (GK)** Kath and Graham have restocked the grit bins. It was agreed to purchase another bin for Willetts Field. Sarah will order the bin to be delivered to The Grange.  
**Village Assets.** Nothing to report.

**13.10 Village Hall. (CR & JL)** Chris had heard from Jill Palmer that the PC will not need to subsidise the village hall at present. Jane reported that 5 committee members had been called upon to help with manning a feeding station for a cycle race in September.

The PC had received a letter from the head teacher and chair of the Governors of the School concerning school parking and the use of the hall for village organisations in the village. Chris has responded to the letter.

**13.11 Sport. (GS)** George reported that 1 team has started indoor league cricket.

**13.12 Highways and Footpaths.** Chris had spoken to the Welchmans regarding their stile which needs replacing. William is to install kissing gates on several sites, behind the barn at the stables and on the Sparepenny Lane North/South entrance to the horse field

**14 Finance** A draft budget for 2016/2017 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Chris asked for comments before proposing its adoption. The budget was approved; proposed by George and seconded by Kath. As a result the Precept would remain as the present year at £15,000.

**Cheque for signing:**

100748 to Mitie Pest Control for £84.60. (for October - December)

This proposed by Jane and seconded by George.

Sarah would ask Mitie for a report into their findings as they have been treating the Play Area for several months.

**15 Further items for discussion only.**

The following dates for meetings were confirmed and Sarah would send them to Wendy Peacock.

10 March 2016, 7 April (Annual Parish Meeting) 12 May AGM, 23 June, 22 September, 27 October, 19 January 2017.

Margaret Suckling will be holding a Poetry reading from her recently published book on 6 December in Finchingfield Guildhall from 3.30 - 5pm

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ON  
THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016 AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Sarah Parker, Clerk. 6.11.15