

SAMPFORDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Parish Assembly held on Thursday April 7 2016 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Mr Chris Robinson (Chairman)	Mrs Jane Lawrence	County Councillor Simon Walsh
Mrs Kay Adye	Mr George Smith	Mrs Clare Watkins (Footpaths)
Mr William Burton	Ms Kath Thompson	2 members of the public
Mr Graham Keen	Mrs Sarah Parker (Clerk)	

1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr Gordon Deuce , Mrs Rhiann Chappell and District Councillor Simon Howell.

2 **Minutes of the Parish Assembly** held on 2nd April 2015 which had been previously circulated, were signed as correct, proposed by George and seconded by Graham.

3 **Report from County Councillor Simon Walsh.**

Simon had sent a comprehensive Annual Report for 2015/16 and an April report. These will be put on the notice board and website.

There had been no increase in Council Tax for 5 years but reluctantly the Council has increased its element of Council Tax 1.99%. In addition a 2% Social Care precept has been added to meet the increasing demands of an ageing population across the County. A Band D property will now pay £1,130.13 per year, a weekly increase of just under 84p per week.

Adult Social Care increases by £89.8 million to £493.3 million. This is the largest budget for the County Council.

Highways maintenance remains a challenge. Extra funding has been allocated to improve the condition of roads and footways and an extensive programme of works is about to commence. Defects need to be reported so that they can be dealt with. The increase in the Highways Capital Budget is designed to get the roads back into good order with an enhanced programme for resurfacing works planned throughout the year.

The new waste plant in Basildon is up and running and is still in test phase. He reported that Uttlesford has a good record on recycling domestic waste.

A Consultation on Children's centres has just been finalised. The children's centre in Saffron Walden will close and the Dunmow children's centre will become a family hub open 15 hours a week. A similar centre in Stansted will become a family hub open 40 hours per week with further 10 hours of telephone service provision. The intention of the service is to extend provision for a child and their family from pre-birth through to age 19. Simon outlined his roles in the Council. He chairs the Place Services Scrutiny Committee which deals mostly with highways and economic growth matters, but also environment, county parks and waste. These, amongst other responsibilities keep him very busy.

Chris thanked him for his report and invited questions. Simon reported that following a survey outside the school it was suggested that £3,000 would be allocated for re-signing and lining. There is evidently a problem with putting Zig Zag markings on the road. He will ask Rissa Long to send a full report to the Council reporting on their findings.

Graham asked if the repairs to the roads were inspected after they had been made. Several places had rapidly deteriorated following repair. Simon would report on the state of Maynards Lane following a week of repairs. The Council felt the work had been badly done, leaving the sides of the road in a bad state, as before, and several holes which had not been filled in. Sarah gave Simon a folder with a letter regarding Sparepenny Lane North, and also a drain cover in Howe Lane which has been displaced leaving a large hole into the drain.

Chris asked what had happened about the proposal for 'Quiet Lanes' in the District. Simon said there had been no progress on this and it had gone quiet!

4 **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman's report was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It will be put on the Website and on the PC noticeboard.

4.1 There had been 7 meetings including the Parish Assembly meeting during the year with an average attendance of 85%, slightly higher than last year

4.2 **Financial Position.** Shows £34,440 cf £32,726 as at 31 March 2015

4.3 Achievements during the year

- 4.3.1 **Second** defibrillator given by Creamer Fund installed at St Mary's.
A Training session was organised.
- 4.3.2 **Decided** not to proceed with Affordable Housing for the time being pending finalisation of the Local Plan
- 4.3.3 Arranged for County Broadband to make presentation to the village on 14 April re provision of high speed broadband service
- 4.3.4 Carried out maintenance work on the Play Area. Replaced cross wire on zip wire. Erected fencing between Play Area and the Baptist churchyard. Conducted regular safety checks. Removed old shed from boundary with Baptist churchyard.
- 4.3.5 Contributed £2,500 to cost of securing extra car parking space at St Michael's.
- 4.3.6 Donations to Community Heartbeat Trust £50 and Childreach International £200
- 4.3.7 Arranged for minor works to be carried out by Highway Rangers, including cleaning of bus shelter and funding for new bus shelter.
- 4.3.8 Regular contact with Essex Highways re condition of local roads. Ruts in Maynards Lane and passing places in Howe Lane still need attention.
- 4.3.9 Dealt with a number of planning applications and responded to Uttlesford's draft Local Plan.
- 4.3.10 Bought new salt bin, and replaced stiles and kissing gates.
- 4.3.11 Maintained Jubilee Garden and Play Area garden.
- 4.3.12 Had a very productive litter pick
- 4.3.13 Arranged regular grass cutting in the parish and at St Michael's and St Mary's
- 4.3.14 Asked Police to attend school at start of school day to monitor the parking congestion.

4.4 Looking Forward

- 4.4.1 Broadband speeds
- 4.4.2 Monitor progress of the Local Plan. Await to hear how UDC will approach development - ? single new development or several small developments in several villages.
- 4.4.3 Await details of new bus service
- 4.4.4 Keep up the hunt for site for allotments

Chris thanked the Councillors who had supported him over the past 5 years. This particularly included the District Councillor Simon Howell and the County Councillor Simon Walsh. He also thanked Sarah for her work as clerk. He will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM in May.

5 Questions

In response to a question regarding the monitoring of the traffic and parking outside the school, Sarah would find out from our local police support officer when they are coming so a Councillor can be present.

There being no other questions the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE AGM ON THURSDAY 12 MAY AT 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Sarah Parker, Clerk 15 April 2016