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13.05.24

Summonses to the 2024 Sampford Peverell Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the main hall at the Memorial Hall, Lower Town on 13 May 2024 starting at 7pm, were distributed with the agenda and posted on the website on 1.5.2024.

### **Minutes of the 2024 Sampford Peverell Annual Parish Meeting**

**Present:**

Councillors T Burt (Chair), D Bartin, E Castle, C Cottrell, A Mackenzie, S Taylor and A Williams together with Councillor Radford (DCC), Councillor Lock (MDDC) and S McGeever (Clerk).

**2024APM/001 – Welcome from the Chairman of Sampford Peverell Parish Council**

The current Chair, Councillor Timothy Burt, opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and greeted all those present.

**2024APM/002 - Apologies**

Councillors O'Connell and Councillor Westcott (MDDC).

**2024APM/003 - Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2023**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting should be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

**2024APM/004 - Annual Report from the Chairman of the Sampford Peverell Parish Council**

The Annual Report from the Chair had been circulated in advance and no questions were raised during the meeting. A copy of the report can be found in Attachment A.

**2024APM/005 - Presentation of the Parish Council Accounts for 2023/24**

The 2023/24 Accounts as prepared by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Following review by the Independent Auditor, the accounts will be published on the Parish Council website alongside the minutes of this meeting.

**Action:** Clerk

**2024APM/006 - Matters raised for discussion by members of the public (Open Forum)**

The reports given by Caring Friends and the Twinning Association are shown in Attachment B.

Members of the public raised the following topics:

- a) Electric car charging in the car park
- b) Street lighting and the possibility of lighting the footpath that runs from Blackdown View to Turnpike.

**2024APM/007 – Any other matters for discussion**

No other matters were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

## Attachment A

### Annual Report from the Chairman of the Sampford Peverell Parish Council

This is my first annual report as Chairman of the Sampford Peverell Parish Council. I was elected Chairman on 22 January 2024 following the resignation of David Cutts both as Chairman and a member of the Parish Council. Steve Taylor was elected Vice-Chairman at the same meeting. We thank David for serving for over 14 years on the Parish Council, 6 as Chairman.

The Parish Council has co-opted three members this year, so we are now only one person short of a full Council. Anne Williams and Angus Mackenzie have been members of the Parish Council before; Dawn Bartin is new to the role. In all three cases, we are delighted to have them, and to benefit from their skills, experience and local knowledge. I must thank all the councillors for their hard work and commitment. There is a huge range of things to do, and this can only be achieved by a group of energetic and committed people.

The Parish Council keeps busy with a wide range of matters of importance to our community. Planning matters come up very frequently, from the smallest extension to much bigger projects like the BESS (battery energy storage system) and the inert landfill site at Greenway. We welcome advice and comments from parishioners. In relation to future developments, we remain concerned about the capacity of the Sampford Peverell wastewater treatment works, the ability of the school to accommodate more children, and increased amounts of traffic moving through the village. There is strong support for a 20-mph zone in the vicinity of the school and perhaps more widely through the village.

Councillors represent the Parish Council on a range of organisations including the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee, The Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee, and the Sampford Peverell and District Twinning Association. The Sampford Peverell Society, the Community Land Trust and the Tree Wardens send regular reports to the Council. Parish Councillors individually take an interest in a wide range of activities including public engagement and communications; climate change and environmental issues (notably water pollution); roads, traffic and footpaths; acting as snow warden and road warden; tidiness and litter-picking; defibrillator maintenance; and the Devon Air Ambulance landing site. A public convenience development group has been overseeing and indeed themselves helping with improvement work to the Playpark toilet and servery, for which many thanks; we hope the servery will be open soon.

Tim Burt, Chairman

13 May 2024

## Attachment B

### **SAMPFORD PEVERELL CARING FRIENDS**

For those of you that might be unaware, the Sampford Peverell Caring Friends (SPCF) is a volunteer driving group covering the areas of Sampford Peverell, Halberton, Uplowman, Whitnage, Burlescombe, Westleigh, Holcombe Rogus and Hockworthy.

We are currently managed by a committee of five but are looking to recruit another member to act as our secretary.

Our remit is to help people with transport to get to and from medical, dental and optical appointments, as well as helping with the collection of prescriptions. We will also help those that need to visit a loved one in hospital. All members of SPCF are volunteers but we do charge a mileage fee of 50 pence per mile. Additionally, we can offer a limited "visitor" service where some of our members can call on people who may be lonely or find it difficult to get out.

A few years ago, we joined the Devon Access to Services group (DAS) which is an umbrella organisation helping all the volunteer driving groups across the county. Through joining DAS we have regularly secured a grant of approximately £700 a year which is used to cover our expenses such as mobile phone, insurance, DBS checks, stationery and printing costs.

We promote our services through the various parish magazines, Facebook groups, village halls and notice boards, so we hope you are aware that we exist but if you can think of any other ways in which we can promote ourselves then do let us know.

We have a contact number for all enquiries - 07305 049541 which is the phone held by our co-ordinator. When a request comes in, the co-ordinator takes all the details and then contacts either the most appropriate driver or puts the request out on our SPCF WhatsApp group chat.

We have some regular passengers that we have got to know very well over the years but there are requests coming in from new passengers all the time. On average we receive 15 to 20 requests a month and take people from our area to appointments in Sampford Peverell, Cullompton, Tiverton, Bampton, Wellington, Taunton, Exeter, Crediton and occasionally, even Barnstaple.

We currently have 25 drivers on our books but it is surprising how busy everyone is and it can often take a day or two to secure a driver. We are always keen to have more drivers or members who could be visitors – all they need is their own car, preferably not a Ferrari, some spare time on their hands and be happy to have a DBS check.

Thank you for supporting Sampford Peverell Caring Friends.

### **TWINNING**

After an enforced break due to covid, and then a gradual reawakening of twinning on both sides of the Channel, we entertained a group of 13 visitors (aged from 12 to 90) from our twin villages for a long weekend towards the end of July last year.

This visit marked 30 years of the link between Sampford Peverell and several nearby villages including Halberton, with Notre Dame de Courson and several other villages in the Pays d'Auge, in Normandy. It has been a time of change for communities on both sides of the Channel and, indeed throughout the world. We have valued our friendship with our French friends, come to understand each other better and, above all, had fun!

During July's visit we took them all on a visit to the Willows and Wetlands Centre in Stoke St Gregory, and took a few brave souls to the Mid Devon Show in the rain (the children opting instead for the indoor play area at Crealy). We enjoyed a very interesting, guided tour of Sampford Peverell led by members of the Sampford Peverell Society (how about a tour of Halberton next time they come?). We had a barbecue at the home of one of the hosts, and a French breakfast to which anyone, Twinner or not, was invited. Of course, our guests also spent some time getting to know their host families.

One Friday evening in November we had a meeting for new, old, would-be, and used-to-be twinnings, chiefly as a social occasion to meet and chat, but also to make plans for the future.

At the moment, our existing financial situation is healthy, but entertaining our French visitors is expensive, so we are looking to find good ways of making money.

A group of us will be visiting our twin villages in Normandy from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July this year. Numbers are quite small, but it is good that we can maintain this link with our friends across the Channel. Some of the group are new to twinning and several are children, which bodes well for the future.

### **SAMPFORD PEVERELL SOCIETY**

Since this time last year the society has had four guest speakers:

- Paul Cleave on 'Devon Cream Teas, Clotted Cream by post, & Devon's food in the 1920s', followed by a presentation from Heather Culpin on the milk and cream factory in Sampford Peverell
- Janet Few on 'Sins as Red as Scarlet' - turmoil and accusations of witchcraft in Bideford in the late 17th Century'. This followed the AGM. Afterwards Peter Bowers gave a presentation on our forthcoming new book on Sampford Peverell Industries
- Phil Badcott on 'The March of William of Orange through Devon', followed by a quiz and videos from past History Society events
- And earlier this year Felicity Goodall on 'Devon's Lost Industries', followed by a presentation from Peter Bowers on Sampford Peverell's tanneries

The society organized visits to Hestercombe House and Gardens, the Avalon Marshes Centre (the historic reconstructions), and Taunton Castle and Museum, which were all very interesting and well attended.

We also conducted several history walks around Higher Town, for anyone who wanted to come along, and Peter and Heather gave a history walk around the village to our French Twinning Society visitors, mostly in French, of a sort!

Several of us managed to finish writing and producing the latest book in our series on the businesses of Sampford Peverell. This one was about Sampford Peverell Industries, such as cloth-making, the tanneries and the creamery, and we combined the book launch with the society's 20th anniversary by holding a History Show in the village hall on the afternoon 11th November. The hall was very busy all afternoon and the show was a great success. We also sold some books!

Coming up in the rest of this year we have visits to the Guildhall and St Nicholas Priory in Exeter, a visit to the Downes estate near Crediton, and a tour of Torre Abbey. We were going to visit Poltimore House too, but sadly it was recently badly damaged by fire so we have had to cancel that one. Our next meeting is on 28th June, when Mark Baker will be giving a presentation on the history and wildlife of the Grand Western Canal.

Four of us are spending a lot of time on our next book which will be on St Boniface Home – the 'Waifs and Strays' boys' home which was in Lower Town in the first half of the 20th century. We hope to have the book ready to publish later this year. It will include such topics as reminiscences from former boys or their families, photos, St Boniface boys' participation in the two world wars, and the near-forced emigration of many boys to Canada.

We are also helping the school with information about the evacuees who came to Sampford Peverell in WW2 – which ties in with the WW2 book some of us are working on which we would like to finish next year.

### **WOMEN'S SKITTLES**

There are two teams of women based in Sampford Peverell who play in the 'Culm Valley Ladies' Skittles League', namely the Prosecco Princesses and the Sampford Slingers. We used to play in The Merriemeade but since its closure we have moved to the village hall, which is working out well. The season ended a few weeks ago and of the 15 teams in the league the Prosecco Princesses finished 11th and my team, the Sampford Slingers, finished 13th. Not bottom, which is as good as a win for us!

### **BOOK CLUBS**

I know of at least three book clubs in the village, but the one I'm in is called 'SPooks'. There are nine of us and we meet in each others' houses once a month. The books come from Tiverton Library. For a small fee they supply sets of books for book clubs, which we select in advance from a list which the library sends out. In our book club we keep notes and scores for each book, and far and away our favourite in the last year was 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus. There is a review of it in the last Parish News, and to that I would add that there is a lot of humour in it and great characters.

### **SAMPFORD PEVERELL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

The aim of the Community Land Trust (CLT) is to provide affordable rental housing for local people. We initially hoped to find a small plot of land where, working with a Housing Association, we could have a small number of houses built for this purpose. Unfortunately after several years of looking we have not been able to find a site which is affordable, suitable, and not already optioned by the landowner for potential future commercial development. However we have been approached by the owners of Mountain Oak Farm in Lower Town who want to build housing there, and are offering the affordable element of the housing to the CLT. They agree that the area needs affordable rental homes, and like us, want them to be built in a sustainable way and to fit in with the village. The suggestion was put by the CLT to CLT members last year, and to the public in January. Since then the land agent for the site has held two drop-in sessions to present the plans so far to the public. No planning application has yet been put in. The latest the CLT has heard, in late March, is that the team is working on some outstanding technical issues before being able to submit. We know nothing more.