



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
Cllr David Shaw	
Cllr Pete Joynes	
Cllr Phil Bond	
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Justin Kerridge	Stratford District Council (Sambourne North)
Cllr Hazel Wright	Stratford District Council (Studley with Sambourne)
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

1. **Apologies:** None

There were 9 parishioners present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2016

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

90th Birthday of HM The Queen: Over £1000 has been raised for the charity Help for Heroes. The people who made this celebration happen are Phil and Mandy Bond. Well done! It showed all facets of Sambourne - dedication, involvement and sheer focus.

The War Memorial has been granted grade 2 listed status. Many thanks to Roy Davies for carrying out all the background research in order to complete the application.

We were successful in applying to SDC for The Green Dragon to be classified as an **Asset of Community Value**. The owner of an asset of community value must inform the local authority if they wish to sell the asset. If a group wants to buy the asset, they can trigger a moratorium for six months, to give them a chance to raise the money to purchase the asset. The owner does not have to sell to a community group. The asset of community value listing only improves the chances of community groups being able to purchase by providing more time to raise funds. It does not require the owner to sell at a discount

This week Sambourne will be equipped with a defibrillator (**AED**). The unit was installed – by volunteers – on the green mains cabinet on the Green. The first training session is on Thursday 18th May. At least one extra session is being organised for a Saturday and we are trying to organise a CPR session in the near future. These pieces of equipment can really save lives – sadly more necessary with the apparent running down of services at The Alex.

Superfast broadband - 2/3 of Sambourne now has services of 30 Mbps. Middletown still outstanding. DSLAM installed almost 12 months ago. Emailed MP last week.

Thanks to the usual willing few, Sambourne now has a permanent site for the **Christmas tree**. In

two years we have progressed from no light or tree, to installation of the mains supply and use of a tree on the Green to the final phase – a 8 metre tree (funded by a couple in the village) in a mounting socket. Dressing the tree was made much easier when a local landowner brought along equipment to access the upper branches.

Tree maintenance programme continues – organised by Phil Jones. The trees are a wonderful feature of the village and they are safe under Phil's watchful eye.

Storm Doris removed a limb from the chestnut tree on the Green and damaged the circular bench. The tree has been given a clean bill of health and we have been advised that it is OK to site the replacement bench around it.

I'd also like to mention Phil's monthly jottings – sightings of wildlife published in the Link since 2009 and on the website where it has appeared since July 2013. In future times it may well serve as a valuable chronicle of wild Sambourne.

Thanks to Sue Jones for caring for the borders around the Green. Your toils add a lot to the Green. Appreciated by many.

The flagpole was cleaned and the mechanism serviced – organised by Roy Davies, Sue and Phil. Special thanks to Roy for ensuring flags are flown correctly.

MiniFest was a success - well attended.

Neighbourhood watch continues to be very active. We were given marker kits by SDC. Police grateful for public reporting incidents.

Changed **meeting date** to 2nd or 3rd week in month to avoid Coughton and Mappleborough. Despite this move, these two Councils are holding their annual meetings tonight!!

Our thanks to our District and County Councillors who attend meetings on a regular basis.

Reviewed actions on parish plan. All feasible ones are already being progressed.

- I. Fly tipping - CCTV signs
- II. Perennial problem of dog fouling
- III. Speeding traffic in the village
- IV. We are grateful for the fairly regular visits by the police with their roadside monitoring equipment.
- V. We also finally solved the enigma of the 2-tubes which appeared occasionally across the road at Middletown. Thanks to the tenacious Clive for this.

Donations to **The Link** and **The Voice**. Thank you to David Shaw for organising this publication which appears regularly during the first week of the month. The Voice however is still struggling to produce a regular publication.

Planning : We have commented on 24 applications in the last year. Some straightforward, some more involved. Listed buildings pose a particular problem as they are covered by several pieces of planning regulations as well local conservation issues. With the exception of such applications SDC decision largely agreed with the comments of the PC

I would like to thank **Terry** – our Clerk. Terry does an excellent job – organising the Council, preparing and cataloguing all the paperwork and emails and preparing the agendas and minutes. I appreciate her reliability and dependability.

There are many people who help keep Sambourne the way it is – which is a shared aspiration. We love the place. These are the sort of people who can always be depended on to get things done. To all these heroes and heroines a big thank you.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council for 2015/16

- i. The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2016/17 had been finalised and agreed by the internal auditor.
- ii. The Accounting Statement was formally approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.
- iii. The Annual Governance Statement had been considered prior to the meeting and was formally agreed and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk will forward the documentation to the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

5. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust – Cllr David Shaw

During 2016/17 the planned completion of the replacement of the central heating systems in the Trust properties has almost been achieved. The last one will be finished during April.

Renovation and repair work to the Trust properties is carried out promptly, using local tradesmen wherever possible.

Help for the local community has continued as follows:

- i. Provision of a weekly shopping bus to Redditch.
- ii. Help towards the purchase of mobility aids where they are not NHS funded, together with the provision of lifelines for vulnerable people.
- iii. Parishioners of 70 years or over have again benefitted from a distribution of shopping vouchers which were received with appreciation.

Donations have been made to the Shakespeare Hospice, Myton Hospice, the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital and Air Ambulance. These organisations all serve the needs of the Parish.

The Trust were unable to take advantage of a Section 106 grant to help add to the housing stock. As SDC advised that planning would be refused, the Trust withdrew the application and returned the unused portion of the grant.

Cllr Shaw thanked his fellow trustees for their support throughout the year, together with the warden who has kept a watching brief on the properties and tenants, one of whom is approaching 102 years of age.

6. To receive a Report from Cllr Kerridge

Cllr Kerridge represents Sambourne North. No specific issues to report.

7. To receive a report from Cllr Wright

Cllr Wright thanked the Chairman for the support she has received during her first year as Councillor for Sambourne.

- i. The SDC Core Strategy was adopted in July 2016. There is no guarantee, but Sambourne should be secure for the time being.
- ii. The problem of speeding traffic is appreciated. The Eastern Gateway over to Redditch to develop commerce could have an impact on Sambourne and is a concern.

- iii. The Alexandra Hospital has split from unplanned to planned care and the future of the downgraded A & E Department is a concern. The basic principle of the Sustainability Transportation Plan is that more care will be carried out in the community rather than in hospital.
- iv. Birmingham and Coventry cannot accommodate the increased housing needs and Warwickshire is in the frame for taking more. Numbers are not yet decided but we need to be aware.

8. To receive a Report from Cllr Rickhards

- i. There is a new Studley Division. The areas have been extended and now cover Aston Cantlow, Little Alne and Great Alne. This could have an impact on the sharing of funds – eg the Members Grant.
- ii. A productive meeting has been held with the WCC Flood Risk Management team. As a result there is a plan for reducing the flood risk in Sambourne.
- iii. The WCC meeting on the study of hgv's and their impact on traffic in the area has been delayed until after June. The Chairman asked Cllr Rickhards to advise him of the date of the meeting and requested an invitation.
- iv. Studley PC have started an initiative, with Studley Medical Centre, on the problem of social isolation. An appeal was made for volunteers to visit elderly people and to be involved with the Dementia Awareness project. Cllr Rickhards will provide publicity to be put on the Parish website and notice boards.

9. Other matters raised by an elector of the Parish

Ann Nash of Yew Tree Cottage reported that an incorrect planning application had been received concerning the removal of trees at the property. This has now been rectified and only 4 leylandii will be taken out.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm