

SAMPFORD COURTENAY OPEN PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 November 2024 at the Village Hall @7pm

Chair : Michelle Wilson (SCPC)

Speakers : Andrew Green (SCPC – Parish Survey) Mike Carpenter (SCPC – Village Green and Public Toilets Survey) David Botting – Page (Prayerbook Rebellion) Rev. David Spencer (Church Rooms) Veroncia Matthews (Time Travellers) Roger Thompson (Village Hall) Marion Pratt (Flower Show)

Total In attendance : 33

Apologies : Malcolm Harris . Brian Aldridge . Heather Aldridge

1. The Chair , Michelle Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting , introduced the speakers and outlined the meeting agenda and content. www
2. Andrew Green gave an overview of the recent Parish Survey . The survey results will be used to determine future community plans and decisions. Andrew was thanked for his work in producing the initial survey and analysing the subsequent results.
3. Mike Carpenter gave an overview of the survey results appertaining to the Village Green and Public Toilets . Questions had been asked of the community to decide on areas of the Village Green that would complement the current footpath work and accessibility issues to the Green via the Water Path.
4. David Botting-Page gave an overview of the Prayerbook Rebellion Anniversary events and what could be developed in the future. One example may be the instigation of history walking tours. The question was asked of the community – how best to preserve and celebrate the local parish history.
5. The Rev. David Spence gave an overview of the Church Rooms and set out the limitations and constraints of their use. With recent renovations however, the Church Rooms could better support the community and the discussions and ideas taken from the Open meeting would be fed back.
6. Veronica Matthews gave an overview of the Time Travellers initiative , providing details of the material available to support the development of a historical legacy of the Parish and asking the key question – what happens next ?
7. Roger Thompson from the Village Hall , acknowledged the survey results that held the Village Hall as an important community asset. However, in recent times there had been a reduction in bookings and some regular events showing a decline in attendances. The outcome had been a reduction in income for the Village Hall and an important question was asked of the community – what would increase bookings and attendances ? What did the community wish to see in their Village Hall ?
8. Marion Pratt set out the history of the Flower and Produce Show – how it had evolved and changed over the years. The event required much time and effort from the organisers and therefore it required community support and participation , attendance and enthusiasm in future . Did it require changes ? Did the community still wish it to continue ?

The meeting took a break for refreshments and reconvened into small groups . A facilitator at each table promoted discussion and a summary of the feedback has been attached to these minutes by representatives of each topic area.

TOPIC	FEEDBACK (A SUMMARY)
1. Village Green Andrew Green	Communicate with young people and ask : Provision of nearby toilet facilities : Improved signage to the Green : Football/Netball posts : Community Orchard : Development and upkeep of Play Equipment: Access for dogs : Opening the Water Path to the Well : Add low cost exercise equipment ; Post up ideas for equipment with prices on the community notice boards :
2. Prayer Book Rebellion David Botting-Page	Trial a tour/ volunteer guide of the Church and Rooms : Invite local history / WWI groups to act as guides (in costume) Digital Screen to store / display photos and info within Church rooms – make the Rooms a focus for the Parish History – increased signage : Consider joining the National Map of Historic Trails : Annual SC History Day : Map of the Village 1549 : Work with hospitality businesses : Develop a footpath guide: App with QR code
3. Church Rooms Rev. David Spence	Link with Prayerbook Rebellion initiatives: Research donation ideas such as Credit Card post- Poundstock Church : “Buy me a Coffee” : Apply for funding via development grants : Use an area for a Co-op working space . business hub : Fit a lift for improved access: Links with education groups : Display Boards ? Interactive displays such as St Marys in Sticklepath : Income generation through music and art events as in South Tawton : Visitor access to upper part of Church Rooms ?
4. Time Travellers Veronica Matthews	Working group to be set up : archaeological digs on the battlefield site : Increase the publicity and information available : Look to support via Devon Family History Group: Create support network :
5. Village Hall Roger Thompson	Look at marketing ; advertising; publicity ideas and research data: Look at pricing initiatives to encourage more take up of bookings: Work with other parishes in promoting their and our events : Open up Village Hall meetings to general public: Improve access to information and Village Hall meeting minutes : Include cost of electricity in hire costs: Improve heating : Increase signage to the Hall : Communicate directly with user groups in the village : Look at evening programming : Look at local business usage :
6. Flower Show Marion Pratt	Support to keep the Show going : Look at different entry classes : Be more inventive with classes : Support other skills like crafts and local skills : Share the income with another charity : Share the surplus food to Food Banks :
7. Village Toilet Block Mike Carpenter	Clearer signage from the Village Square : Sign up the Dog Bin nearby

If there are any further comments that members of the community would like to make , then please email the Sampford Courtenay Parish Clerk , Malcolm Harris on clerkscpc@gmail.com and they will be passed to the relevant speaker.