

SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Peter Taaffe	
Cllr Adam Quinney	
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Neil Edden	SDC (Studley with Sambourne)
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

1. Apologies:

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr David Shaw and Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin

There were 13 parishioners present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

As the Parish Assembly was unable to be held in 2020 (because of Covid 19), the Chairman covered the years 2019/20 as well as 2020/21.

- In May 2019 the brick crushing problem was resolved at the Parish Assembly held in May to an audience of 40.
- In July 2019 the issue of the Redditch Eastern Gateway was raised. Our County Councillor, Neil Edden, discovered that the company behind the development of the very large site was Amazon. The HGV Routing Strategy was developed to cope with the increase in HGV traffic through Studley.
- The diseased chestnut tree on the Green had been removed earlier in the year (2019) and a Hornbeam replacement tree planted. The Chairman thanked all those who helped with the installation of the bench around the new tree in July 2019, with special thanks to Geoff Smith for his input and expertise. This was to be the last community project that involved Geoff. Geoff regularly cleared encroaching grass on footpaths, helped mend damaged finger post signs, installed the notice board by the church and installed the sign on the corner of the Green. He also installed, with Willis Ward, the

notice board in Middletown. Geoff was the guardian and carer for the Recreation Ground. He is greatly missed.

- Training for use of the defibrillator took place in August 2019.
- It was decided to reinstate the Sambourne Speeding Action Group. Cllrs Bond and Taaffe agreed to serve on this Group.
- Katie Hague presented the proposal for the Conservation Playground Project. After consultation with Geoff Smith it was decided to site the playground facing the wooded area at the rear of the football area on the recreation ground, far away from housing.
- In September 2019 the Parish Council discussed the newly named Biodiversity Project and it was agreed to give the go-ahead for the Project. A 12 month probationary period was applied.
- No Parking signs either side of the entrance to Wood Terrace were agreed and installed, courtesy of Paul May.
- Cllr Rickhards confirmed that the plans for a Gateway Scheme will go ahead in 2020/21, financed through the County Councillor's delegated budget.
- Several instances occurred in Middletown Lane where vehicles suffered damage to tyres, wheels and suspension by dropping into crumbled edges of the carriageway. One incident involved a vehicle dropping down a drainage culvert which had an incorrect cover fitted.
- Thanks to efforts by Peter Hencher-Serafin and similar minded people the proposed demolition of the railway bridge in Green Lane was prevented, after raising a petition with 1700 signatures.
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment by WCC announced that Sambourne has the highest number of accidents per head of population – at 47 in the past 3 years. This resulted in an undertaking to improve safety in and around Sambourne.
- In March 2020 COVID19 changed life as we know it. We were unable to have an Expo of the Gateway Scheme, VE75 could not take place, the Biodiversity Project was put on hold, there was no MiniFest and no face to face Parish Council Meetings could be held.
- Sambourne experienced its own local problems, with two controversial issues – the Gateway Scheme and the flooding in Middletown.
- Statements and accusations appeared on a social media site, which caused misinformation to circulate.
- In September 2020 the Parish Council held its first Zoom meeting. This proved to be an unpleasant meeting, with accusations being made against two Councillors. These accusations resulted in investigations being undertaken by the Monitoring Officer, which are still ongoing.
- Cllr Bond resigned from the Parish Council in December 2020.
- The Warwickshire County Council Gateway Scheme (Parts 1 and 2) is now complete and we have 5 sets of traffic-speed data. Congratulations and many thanks to Peter Taaffe for steering this project through to conclusion.
- As a result of the co-option process, Mr Adam Quinney was duly voted to be the new member of Sambourne Parish Council.
- Planning. Of the 16 applications which were ruled on by SDC, 14 of the decisions concurred with SPC comments.

Thank you to the following:

- Cllr Phil Jones for overseeing the footpaths in the Parish. Phil also ensures routine maintenance of trees on land owned by the Parish Council.
- Sue Jones for caring for the flower beds in and around the Green, which provide colour for most of the year.
- The volunteers who provide a Christmas Tree for the Green. The main organisation is down to Laurence Evans. The dressed tree was a pick me up during this time of CoVid.
- Defibrillator maintenance – thanks go to Rob Clarke and Laurence Evans.

Our Councillors:

- Clive, representing us at WCC, has had many issues to deal with in the last 12 months – flooding and the gateway scheme in particular. We are very grateful for his work on our behalf.
- Representing us at SDC we have Peter and Neil. Many thanks for their advice and involvement.
- Fellow Councillors, for their loyalty and support.
- The Clerk for her hard work and professionalism.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council 2020/21

The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2020/21 have been finalised and Part 2 of the AGAR completed.

- 1) The Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities was signed and will be returned to the external auditors by the Clerk.
- 2) The Internal Audit Report has been completed and signed by Alison Gray, the Internal Auditor for Sambourne Parish Council.
- 3) The Annual Governance Statement 20/21 was approved by a unanimous vote and signed by the Chairman.
- 4) The Accounting Statements 20/21 were approved by a unanimous vote and signed by the Chairman.

Action: Clerk

5. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust

In the absence of Cllr Shaw, Chairman of the Sambourne Trust, the Clerk read the Report.

- 2019/2020 proved to be a difficult year and 2020/21 continued to be quite challenging.
- Number 3 cottage was unexpectedly vacated and has since been redecorated and refurbished. The new tenant moved in at the beginning of June and is very happy with the property.
- No 6 and No 7 were also refurbished. Several months of income was lost due to problems with British Gas concerning the re-connection of the gas supply. No 6 was

eventually occupied in August and No 7 in September. All ten properties have now been let and there is still a waiting list for vacancies.

- The work identified by the Maintenance Inspection Report is now beginning to be addressed, having been delayed primarily by the Covid restrictions.
- Due to the Covid19 lock down restrictions, the weekly shopping bus was temporarily discontinued. The Trust will now be looking for a new transport provider.
- The Trust continued to provide lifelines for vulnerable people. Student grants have been towards towards the cost of necessary books and financial support has again been given to the Shakespeare Hospice, Myton Hospice, Primrose Hospice and the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital. The two Air Ambulances, which serve our area, have benefited from increased donations this year. Donations have also been made to those who have been in financial difficulties caused by being unable to work due to Covid restrictions.
- The annual Distribution to Pensioners of 70 years and over has continued.
- We continue to use local tradesmen as far as possible and, in general, they serve us well. The garden contractors keep the hedges and ditch clear and keep the grass trim.
- Our Warden keeps an eye on both the properties and tenants, which enables us to solve problems before they become difficulties. My fellow Trustees have given support throughout the year and have helped in many ways with the workload. My thanks go to them unreservedly.

6. To receive a Report from Cllr Rickhards (WCC)

My work in Sambourne in 2020/21 has been concerned with two main considerations.

(1) The installation of a Gateway Scheme.

- This followed a mention of speeding in Sambourne in the County's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- The Parish Council indicated their agreement to an outline of the Scheme.
- After considerable negotiations, the Scheme was installed and a further extension of the Scheme was agreed.
- The finance for the Scheme came from the Delegated budget allocated for Studley Division.

(2) Anti flooding measures – predominantly in Middletown Lane

At the time of writing I understand that, following agreement with the tenants, orders have gone out to contractors to install an 'open style' drain in the gateway area in Middletown Lane.

7. To receive a Report from Cllr Neil Edden (SDC Studley with Sambourne)

- Stratford District was the fourth worst financially hit region in the country due to the pandemic, mainly because of the heavy reliance on tourism and hospitality.
- Work as a Councillor has been challenging, with a great deal of work behind the scenes going on across County, District and Parishes to adapt to new technology, find more contact free methods of keeping core services going, dealing with the ever changing

rules and regulations from government and also trying to help residents and businesses who are struggling in their own ways.

- At District we have called a climate change emergency, finally begun properly consulting on a Gypsy & Travellers Policy and co-ordinating and delivering food parcels for those vulnerable and shielding.
- We were required to house the homeless by government during the first lockdown and have since had to arrange testing sites and find temporary and alternative locations for all kinds of bodies and organisations, not least polling offices for the upcoming County Council elections.
- We now have a project underway to attempt to join Stratford and Warwick District Councils together to form a 'super district'.
- It cannot be underestimated that there's a long way to go and the financial costs of the last year will be felt for a good while. However, by working together I am sure we will do everything we can to overcome these challenges.

8. To receive a Report from Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin (SDC Studley with Mappleborough Green)

Apologies had been received for Cllr Hencher-Serafin, which meant there was no report available at this time.

9. Other Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 19:58