

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 10, 2018 at 7.30pm
at the Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs James Caston, Penny Pearson, Stephen Wright, Samantha Barrell, William Caston Cook and Shaun Innes Whiting were present, together with 8 members of the public, District Cllr Anne Killett and the Clerk Rod Caird
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1/101018 Apologies and approvals of absence

Cllr Keith McKeown had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

2/101018 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/101018 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on September 5, 2018

The Minutes were approved with one amendment (20/050918): Somersham Tennis Club had received £50 and not £100 from the Parish Council.

4/101018 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor

The District Councillor's Report is published with these Minutes on the website. She drew attention to the recent planning appeal outcome regarding housing at Woolpit, in which the Planning Inspector challenged MSDC's recent announcement that it has a five-year land supply as required. MSDC staff are now working to clarify this and it is not known what the effect will be on the draft new joint Local Plan. She also mentioned the availability of Locality Fund grants for appropriate projects.

The Neighbourhood Watch report was presented (and will be a regular Agenda Item in future). A number of incidents of anti-social behaviour have been reported through July and August and two vehicle crimes were also reported. Detailed reports will be published on the website and it was noted that Suffolk police have appointed PC Stefan Henriksen as its Community Engagement Officer for Somersham. PC Henriksen will receive Minutes, NW reports and also the Road Safety report.

5/101018 To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

- **18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes – *pending***

- **18/03121 Wayside, Blood Hill, application for lawful development certificate for existing use as a single dwelling house – *granted***
- **18/03030 12 Springfield Road, erection of rear dormer window in conjunction with loft conversion and single storey rear and side extension – *granted***
- **18/03055 Land to the West of Black Barn Close, erection of one dwelling and cartlodge – *granted***
- **18/03681 Land adjacent to Little Park Bungalow, Flowton Road, erection of three dwellings – *pending***
- **18/03972 7 Princes Gardens, erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory and porch alterations/extension - *pending***

The above applications were all noted. It was agreed to request an extension for the consultation period on 18/04390 Erection of one dwelling at Church Farm, Church Lane, so that it can be on the Agenda for the next scheduled PC meeting on Wednesday November 7 (*since the meeting this request has been approved*).

It was noted that a further round of public consultation is likely when the District Council publishes the next draft of its Local Plan.

6/101018 To consider any necessary steps to ensure that the Parish Council is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation

It was agreed that the Parish Council does not require a Data Protection Officer. A privacy policy and consent forms for agreement by Parish Councillors and members of the public would be presented to the next meeting. It was understood that the Parish Council needs to be aware of the requirements of GDPR and work towards full compliance.

7/101018 To consider the consequences of the closure of the doctors' surgery in the Village Hall

It was agreed to write to Needham Country Practice expressing opposition to their decision to close the surgery; to suggest the Practice and the Parish Council collaborate on publicising the service more effectively, and to request an extension on the current closing date from January 1 2019 to May 1 2019.

8/101018 To consider what steps are necessary to improve traffic speeds and road safety in the village, issues arising from parking difficulties in Princes Gardens, and overuse of road closures

Chris Hakes presented the road safety report which he and a volunteer group had compiled from information provided by residents. The full report will be published on the website and sent to Highways and the Community Engagement Officer. It was acknowledged that Highways are a County responsibility and therefore the Parish Council must await election of a County Councillor for Bosmere before pursuing this further. The election is scheduled for October 25. The Clerk meanwhile will investigate the non-functioning

Vehicle Activated Speed sign in the village and will gather prices for a replacement. Chris Hakes volunteered to assist with downloading and analyzing data from a new sign once installed.

A discussion about over-use of road closures by utility companies, and their effect on bus services and local businesses, will be raised once a County Councillor is elected but the District Councillor also agreed to raise the concern about damage to businesses.

It was agreed that signage could be used to encourage football parking at the Village Hall, in order to take pressure off Princes Gardens. An approach would also be made to the Football Club about this. Clerk will research sign prices.

9/101018 To review the current allotment agreements and agree any necessary changes

It was agreed to make no change to the current agreements. Following the very sad and sudden passing of former Parish Council Clerk Janet Clarke, Cllr Pearson will collect rents for the time being. Storage arrangements for the allotment and other Parish Council paperwork would be reviewed at the next meeting. There are two vacancies on the Land Trust, which dispenses funds raised from allotment rents. Cllr Caston volunteered to fill one of the places and Cllr Cook also expressed interest.

10/101018 To consider action to be taken concerning repeated flooding outside the Village Hall

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

11/101018 To receive reports from Parish Councillors concerning meetings attended

Cllr Pearson has attended a meeting of the Community Association, where it was emphasized that school parking must not block the entrance to the playing fields. A bridge has been ordered for the far end of the playing field.

12/101018 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to consider any issues arising from the handover to the present Clerk

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance after allowing for un-presented cheques of £19,812.42. Payments were made as follows: £228.80 to Rod Caird (Clerk pay); £75 to Somersham PCC for grass cutting; £329.83 to Vertas for grass cutting; £60 to CAS for web hosting. £9,119.24 has been spent in the current year against a budget of £16,232.50. It was noted that a budget for 2019/20 should be considered at the next meeting.

All payments were made under the General Power of Competence conferred by the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8.

It was noted that the payroll accountant, Ladywell Accountancy Services, may bill for more than her anticipated annual fee of £75 as a result of extra work on the Parish Council's PAYE registration and submission of returns.

13/101018 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Mention was made of the serious badger problem on Flowton Road.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 7 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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