

# **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 6, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs James Caston, Penny Pearson, Stephen Wright, and Shaun Innes Whiting were present, together with three members of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr Anne Killett and County Cllr Kay Oakes were also present.
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**1/060319 Apologies and approvals of absence**

Cllrs Sam Barrell, Will Caston Cook, and Keith McKeown had sent their apologies and their absence was approved.

**2/060319 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None

**3/060319 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on February 6, 2019**

The Minutes were approved. It was noted that mention should have been made of paperwork stored at Cllr Pearson's address and which needs to be removed.

**4/060319 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor**

PC Stefan Henriksen introduced himself as the district's police Community Engagement Officer, based in Stowmarket. He noted that Mid Suffolk is now also funding two Police Community Support Officers. Visits have been made to the coffee caravan and to the community shop. A recent burglary in Somersham was a distressing incident and the household has received a security survey. It was emphasized the police should always be contacted if residents are worried or suspicious about any matter. It was agreed PC Henriksen and Somersham's Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Colin Burrows should be in regular contact.

It was noted that new information and comments relating to road safety and drainage at the site for 42 proposed new homes (application 03114/15) have appeared on the Mid Suffolk planning website.

Cllr Oakes presented her written County Council report, highlighting in particular the cancellation of CAB funding by the County after this year. She also reported that a grant of £1,000 has been made to the Duke of Marlborough for kitchen equipment. The culvert on Flowton Road still

needs to be repaired. Cllr Killett presented a verbal report, noting the funding of two PCSOs, and also the referral to committee of the latest stage in the SnOasis planning process. The SnOasis Alliance felt incomplete information was supplied very late, making parish responses extremely difficult. The proposal for 32 houses in Offton is also going to committee, accompanied by a site visit. It is hoped that the Somersham housing project would also get a site visit by councillors, as there is a clear need to look at the site in order to understand it properly.

**5/060319 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report**

Written reports were presented to the meeting; Colin Burrows was unable to attend.

**6/060319 To consider updates on current planning applications, including:**

**DC/19/00157 The Glebes Hall Lane Somersham: Erection of a single storey front/side extension. Replacement of garage and carport/workshop – *pending***

**DC/19/00161 5 Chapel Lane Somersham: Erection of a two storey front extension – *pending***

**DC/17/03481 Land North West of Flowton Road: Erection of one dwelling and removal of agricultural building – *appeal lodged against refusal***

**DC/18/05313 Outline Planning Application (Access and Layout to be considered) Erection of 32No. dwellings comprising 9 Local Need Homes, 2 Affordable Homes, 21 Open Market Homes and public reading room. Creation of new accesses to Bildeston Road and Castle Road, 9 parish allotments and a community car park. Location: Land On The South Side Of Bildeston Road, Offton, IP8 4RR - *pending***

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

**DC/18/03681 Land adjacent to Little Park Bungalow, Flowton Road, erection of three dwellings – *pending***

The current position on all the above applications was noted.

**7/060319 To consider an update on purchasing a new Vehicle Activated Sign and an application for a grant for this purpose from the County Councillor's budget**

The sign has been ordered; the grant has been processed and the Parish Council expressed thanks to Cllr Oakes.

**8/060319 To review the timetable for the Parish Council elections on May 2, including the nomination process, and to set the dates for the Parish Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The Clerk outlined the timetable for parish council nominations. The closing date is April 3 and the Clerk will make arrangements to deliver completed forms by hand to Mid Suffolk. The AGM and Annual Parish Meeting will both be held on Tuesday May 21.

*NB Since the meeting it has become clear this date is not practical and an alternative will need to be found.*

**9/060319 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended**

It was noted that the 111 bus service has repeatedly been disrupted by roadworks without communication or advance warning from the bus operator. The Clerk will contact the County team for a response.

An Energy from Waste Conference has heard that the Suffolk incinerator is now processing 20% of Norfolk's waste.

**10/060319 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due**

A bank reconciliation to date was presented, showing a balance of £14,912.32. £14,687.23 has been spent in the year to date against a budget of £16,232.

Payments were made as follows: £228.80 to Rod Caird for clerk pay, £171.60 to HMRC for PAYE, £87.50 to Somersham PCC for grass cutting, £3.76 to SALC for share of election briefing and £120 to Ladywell Accountancy for payroll services including updating the PAYE records.

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

**11/060319 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 3 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.