

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 7, 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs James Caston, Penny Pearson, Stephen Wright, Keith McKeown, Samantha Barrell, William Caston Cook and Shaun Innes Whiting were present, together with 9 members of the public, County Cllr Kay Oakes and the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr Anne Killett had sent her apologies
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1/071118 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/071118 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllrs James Caston and Will Caston Cook said that, because of family connections, they would not be present during discussion of Planning Application 18/04390, Erection of one dwelling at Church Farm

3/071118 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on October 10, 2018

The Minutes were approved

4/071118 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

District Councillor Anne Killett had sent a report by email:

“To give a brief report; the next draft of the Joint Local Plan was hoped to come to Council this month but this is now likely to be January followed by a period of public consultation in early spring when you will have the chance to comment. I still have money in my locality budget, which has so far paid out to Nettlestead church to help towards work so the church can be used for Parish Meetings, and Barking Village Hall Committee towards a storage shed. Please let me know if there are projects in Somersham this could support.”

County Cllr Kay Oakes was welcomed to her first meeting in this role. Her report will be published on the website with these minutes.

She also said that she would be taking the Parish Council’s Road Safety report, presented to the last meeting, to the Highways Department. The Clerk has sent the report to the Police Community Engagement Officer.

5/071118 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

There was no report this month; this item will appear on the next Agenda.

6/071118 To consider future management and administration of the Somersham allotments and the Town Lands Charity.

The allotments have been managed by the Parish Council, and rents paid have been passed to the Town Lands Charity for the benefit of the village. Cllr Pearson has collected the current rents (amounting to £136), following the sad death of Janet Clarke. One allotment is available to rent. Cllr Caston Cook volunteered to take on the responsibility for the allotments on behalf of the Parish Council, and to be a Trustee for the Charity together with Helen Hicks. Current Trustees are Chris Mills and Alan Bromwich.

7/071118 To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

- **18/04390 Erection of one dwelling at Church Farm, Church Lane – *to consider***
- **18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes – *pending***
- **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 – *granted***

Following a presentation by the applicant, and a discussion chaired by Stephen Wright in the absence of Cllrs Caston and Caston Cook, it was agreed to support application 18/04390, erection of one dwelling at Church Farm.

Status of the other current applications was noted.

8/071118 To consider correspondence with Needham Country Practice concerning the planned closure of the doctors' surgery in the Village Hall

It was agreed to write a further letter to the Practice challenging their decision, questioning whether their consultation on the decision is anything other than nominal, and reiterating the Parish Council's case in favour of retaining regular Village Hall surgeries. Copies would be sent to NHS England, local patients' organisations, the District and County Councillors, and the MP.

9/071118 To consider a draft privacy policy and draft data consent forms

The documents were approved and will be used as part of the Parish Council's compliance with GDPR. It was noted that a third-party Data Protection Officer is not required.

10/071118 To consider an update on repairing the existing Vehicle Activated Sign or purchasing a new one, and to consider installation of parking signage

It was noted that the Village Hall committee does not favour signage which would encourage parking at the Hall by non-users of the Hall itself. It was agreed to monitor the football parking situation, in the knowledge that the Community Association is able to take necessary steps to avoid problems. It was agreed to get up-to-date costs of a new VAS from Radarlux and County Cllr Oakes indicated she may be able to provide a grant to enable the purchase.

11/071118 To consider action to be taken concerning repeated flooding outside the Village Hall

The drainage situation seems to have improved but will be closely monitored as the winter weather approaches.

12/071118 To receive reports from Parish Councillors concerning meetings attended

The May 11 Wheelie Day would follow the format of previous years. There will be no inflatables. The aim is to raise funds for the Community Association and playing fields so visitors will be discouraged from bringing their own food and drink.

The Duke of Marlborough has been busy and is seeking funding for new kitchen equipment. A grant application will be made to Cllr Killett's locality budget.

13/071118 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, to review a draft budget for 2019/20 and to appoint internal auditors for the year 2018/19

A draft budget, including potential costs of the election in May 2019, was considered and would be further reviewed at the December meeting. A bank reconciliation to date was presented and approved. Payments were made to P. Raison for grass cutting (£87.50) and Rod Caird for Clerk pay (£228.80). All payments were made under the General Power of Competence conferred by the Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8.

It was agreed the Clerk will contact Vertas to clarify the grass cutting agreement with them.

SALC were appointed internal auditors for 2018/19.

14/071118 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Cllr Caston reported that conversations with villagers indicated their biggest concern is vehicles speeding in the village, road closures, mud on the roads and blocked footpaths.

The Clerk will contact Highways about positioning of new grit bins at the corner of Springfield Road and Main Road and also the corner of Black Barn

Close and Flowton Road.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 5, 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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