

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 2, 2020 at 7.30pm
at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Penny Pearson, Shaun Whiting, Will Caston Cook and Keith McKeown were present, together with one member of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. County Cllr Kay Oakes and District Cllr John Field were unable to attend.

1/020120 Apologies and approvals of absence

Sam Barrell had sent her apologies and her absence was approved.

2/020120 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/020120 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on December 4, 2019

The Minutes were approved.

4/020120 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillors

There was no formal report from the District or County Councillor.

5/020120 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

Colin Burrows was unable to attend but his report was read to the meeting.

6/020120 To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

**DC/18/05313 Outline Planning Application (Access and Layout to be considered)
Erection of 32 dwellings on Land On The South Side Of Bildeston Road, Offton,
IP8 4RR – *status currently listed as “unknown”***

**DC/18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes
– *still listed as “awaiting decision”, although not opposed by the Mid Suffolk
Referrals Committee. No response has yet been received to the email sent to
planners by the Clerk on December 5 requesting involvement of the Parish
Council in Section 106 discussions about the site.***

**APP/W3520/W/19/3237247 Erection of 3 dwellings, Land adjacent Little Park
Bungalow – *an appeal against refusal has been dismissed***

It is understood that the Offton application is being appealed by the developer as a result of the decision being delayed.

It was agreed the Clerk should write again to Philip Isbell concerning the lack of response to the Parish Council's request to be involved in the Section 106 discussions on the 42 homes in Somersham; and that this should refer specifically to the access to the development site from the allotments.

The outcome of the Little Park Bungalow appeal was noted.

7/020120 To consider an update on the Land Trust

The resignation as Trustees of Chris Mills and Alan Bromwich were accepted, with thanks for their service. Helen Hicks, Aprille Richardson and Will Caston Cook were appointed Trustees with immediate effect. The Clerk will deal with the necessary paperwork and banking arrangements.

8/020120 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended

No meetings had been attended; it was anticipated that a planning decision on the alterations to the greenhouse site would be made within the next two weeks.

9/020120 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to confirm the budget for 2020/21 and the precept for the same year

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £17,056.48. One payment was made, to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £284.00. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed against bank statements by Cllr Whiting. The online cash book is available for inspection on the website and via the link provided to Councillors.

Payments were made under sections 111 and 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The spending budget for 2020/21 was agreed at £14,992.00, and it was agreed to set the precept at £17,308.00, an increase of 1.5% over the previous year which takes account of a slightly reduced tax base and an amount to reflect cost inflation. The precept paperwork was completed and will be submitted to Mid Suffolk by the Clerk.

10/020120 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Flooding at Elm Farm continues to be a problem.