

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on December 4, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Penny Pearson, Sam Barrell, Shaun Whiting, and Keith McKeown were present, together with one member of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. County Cllr Kay Oakes was also present. District Cllr John Field was unable to attend but sent a written report.

1/041219 Apologies and approvals of absence

Will Caston Cook had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

2/041219 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Wright declared an interest in DC/19/04981 - Land At Dairy Farm, Loraine Way, Bramford - which is to be discussed under Urgent Matters. He provided information to the councillors about the proposed changes to the greenhouse project but took no part in the discussion.

3/041219 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on November 6, 2019

The Minutes were approved.

4/041219 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillors

It was noted that there was dismay at the outcome of the `planning Referrals Committee meeting on the 42 houses on land south west of Main Road. It was felt the objections of residents and others had been inadequately represented. But it seemed proper processes had been followed and nothing now stands in the way of the development. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the planning department at Mid Suffolk with a specific request that the Parish Council be included as a stakeholder in the Section 106 discussions with Highways.

Cllr Oakes reported that major county decisions are on hold during the election period. Parking enforcement is becoming a District Council responsibility from the end of December. Implementation of the school transport policy is being carefully monitored. Cllr Oakes will continue to pursue the question of hogweed clearance with the Environment Agency.

5/041219 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

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

6/041219 To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

DC/19/04964 Householder application - Erection of 2 storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey rear extension and conservatory). Old School House, Main Road, Somersham – *granted*

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*

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

The planning application updates were all noted. It was agreed not to oppose DC/19/04981 - Land At Dairy Farm, Loraine Way, Bramford, Suffolk - which had arrived too late for inclusion in the published Agenda, which allows a revised layout of the southern greenhouse on the site.

7/041219 To consider an update on the Land Trust following the Clerk’s research of relevant paperwork and Trustee volunteers having come forward

The previous Trustees having offered their resignation, the Parish Council simply needs to appoint three new Trustees and advise the Charity Commission. The Clerk has this process in hand. All three will be cheque signatories, any two of whom will be required to sign cheques etc. Some administrative support will also be needed.

8/041219 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended

No meetings had been attended.

9/041219 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £17,340.48. Two payments were made, to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £284.20 and HMRC (PAYE) £5.50. 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.

It was agreed to confirm the budget and precept for 2020/21 at the January meeting.

10/041219 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, and to confirm the next meeting date (as the first Wednesday in January is January 1, 2020)

The Clerk will report highway flooding at Elm Farm, Somersham Road.

The January meeting will be held on Thursday January 2, 2020.

DRAFT