

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 4, 2020 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Penny Pearson, Keith McKeown, Sam Barrell and Will Caston Cook were present, together with four members of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. County Cllr Kay Oakes was also present.

1/040320 Apologies and approvals of absence

Shaun Whiting had sent this apologies and his absence was approved.

2/040320 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/040320 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on February 5, 2020

The Minutes were approved.

4/040320 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillors

County Cllr Oakes presented a written report. It was noted that Highways will repair the bridge railing near Tudor Cottage during April. A written report from Cllr Field was presented to the meeting.

A member of the public raised the lack of clarity about the 42 homes planning application. An appeal hearing is likely in late April and this would be mentioned in the Clerk's March contribution to The Link.

5/040320 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

There was no report on this occasion as information had not been supplied to Colin Burrows.

- 6/040320 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 – *appeal lodged, as decision failed to be made within timescale.***
- DC/18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes – *still listed as “pending consideration”***
- The current status of the applications was noted. The Parish Council will attend any appeal hearing on the 42 homes and will repeat its objection to the proposal.
- 7/040320 To consider establishment of a Community Orchard**
- It was agreed this would be of benefit to residents and approaches would be made to landowners with a view to finding a suitable site.
- 8/040320 To discuss how best to ensure good maintenance of the village**
- It was agreed to use The Link to call for volunteers who would be willing to give some time to projects such as painting the village railings.
- 9/040320 To consider the PCSO referral following the last meeting when a resident raised a complaint about illegal activity in the Village Hall car park**
- At the Parish Council’s request the Mid Suffolk PCSO had visited the Village Hall car park and noted the upper section is now padlocked. It was suggested more use of CCTV might also improve the situation.
- 10/040320 To consider an update on the Land Trust**
- Details of the new Trustees and updated contact information are now on the Charity Commission website. The next task is to sort out the bank arrangements and submit the overdue annual return to the Commission. All allotments are now rented out and a refreshed rental agreement document will be produced.
- 11/040320 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended**
- No meetings had been attended. A Snoasis Parish Alliance meeting had been postponed. Reserved planning matters and Section 106 issues were back with the planning department.
- The East Anglia One underground cables are being tested and repaired before being put into use.
- 12/040320 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due**

Section 137 grants would be considered at the April meeting.

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £15,957.61. Payments were made to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £284.20, to HMRC (PAYE) for £5.60 and to Ladywell Accountancy Services (payroll) for £75.00. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed against bank statements by Cllr Wright. 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.

13/040320 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting on May 6 will also be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk will invite local groups and organisations to submit reports for the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed the Clerk will produce a single document for Parish Councillors which includes all relevant password and account information, such as details of the storage facility held in his name.