

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 5, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs James Caston, Penny Pearson, Keith McKeown, Stephen Wright, and Will Caston Cook were present, together with one member of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr John Field was also present; County Cllr Kay Oakes had sent her apologies.

1/050619 Apologies and approvals of absence

Shaun Innes Whiting and Sam Barrell had sent their apologies and their absence was approved.

2/050619 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/050619 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting on May 20, 2019

The Minutes were approved.

4/050619 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr John Field presented a written report which is published with these minutes. The Mid Suffolk Local Plan is progressing towards publication.

A question was raised about a planned closure of the main road on June 17; no further information was immediately available.

5/050619 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

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

6/050619

To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

DC/19/01438 5 Chapel Lane, Somersham: erection of a two-storey side extension and extension to front entrance porch – *granted*

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

DC/18/05313 Outline Planning Application (Access and Layout to be considered) Erection of 32No. dwellings on 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 applications was noted.

7/050619

To consider an update on purchase of a replacement Speed Indicator Device and appointment of a Road Safety Officer

It was agreed to order a Westcotec SID with smiley/sad face plus data collection unit and an additional bracket set; the total cost including VAT will be £3,840.

It was also agreed to put an item in The Link asking for a volunteer to look after the sign, change the battery, download the raw data and move the sign as needed. Cllr Caston Cook is willing to analyse the traffic data for publication as required.

8/050619

To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended and to consider the status of the Somersham Land Trust

The Energy from Waste Incinerator will be processing additional material resulting in approximately ten extra truck movements per day. This is within its original proposals. It's not clear that a leaflet explaining the position was distributed as widely as had been planned.

The Wheelie Day was very successful, raising £2,900.

Existing Land Trust Trustees need to advise the Charity Commission formally that they have retired and naming their replacements. Cllr Will Caston Cook and Helen Hicks are prepared to be Trustees. The Clerk received £144.50 in cash from Cllr Caston Cook, which will be credited to the Parish Council account pending appointment of new Trustees and amendment of the Land Trust bank mandate.

9/050619

To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due and to consider points raised in the annual Internal Audit, particularly introduction of an Internal Control policy

The Asset Register having been examined by Cllr Pearson, it was approved and adopted. It was agreed the next Agenda would include a review of the positioning of dog bins. One is currently not in use, which would increase the asset values overall from £14,564 to £14,764.

It was agreed as part of the Internal Controls policy that at each meeting a Parish Councillor will check the bank balances against the amounts shown in the bank reconciliation presented by the Clerk.

A current bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £18,832.22 and this was confirmed against the bank statements.

Payments were made as follows: Rod Caird, clerk pay, £284; HMRC, PAYE, £5.60.

£210 in cash was handed to the Clerk for banking, being the proceeds of the pub fund-raising quiz in aid of defibrillator supplies.

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

10/050619 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was noted that giant hogweed had re-appeared in Clerk would advise the Environment Agency.

A volunteer electrician is sought to make sure the phone box light comes on when the door opens for access to the defibrillator.

Recent incidents of minor vandalism were noted.

The Clerk will inquire about the footpath grass cutting schedule.