

# **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on November 6, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

## **PRESENT**

Cllrs Stephen Wright (in the chair), Penny Pearson, Sam Barrell, Shaun Innes Whiting, Will Caston Cook and Keith McKeown were present, together with two members of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr John Field was also present. County Cllr Kay Oakes was unable to attend.

### **1/061119 Apologies and approvals of absence**

James Caston had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

### **2/061119 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None

### **3/061119 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on October 2, 2019**

The Minutes were approved.

### **4/061119 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillors**

Cllr Field noted that major district council matters will be on hold during the general election campaign. Grants and other policy decisions will not be progressed until after December 12. He also noted the District Council is urging parish councils to use CIL funds where they exist rather than apply for grants. The Council has a working group considering action on climate change, and is also considering action to protect wildlife sites when new housing developments are undertaken. It was also noted the Duke of Marlborough will be making a grant application when possible.

### **5/061119 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report**

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

**6/061119 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 – *it was noted that Cllr Innes Whiting is a near neighbour of the property. It was agreed to make no objection.*

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 – *this has been recommended for refusal at Appeal*

DC/18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes – *Cllr Pearson will attend the Mid Suffolk Referrals Committee meeting on this application*

APP/W3520/W/19/3237247 Erection of 3 dwellings, Land adjacent Little Park Bungalow – *Noted that an appeal against refusal has been lodged and all existing written comments will be considered. It was not felt necessary to offer further comments*

**7/061119 To consider an update on installation of the new Speed Indicator Device**

Since the meeting the SID has been installed on the post outside the Village Hall. Further sites will be identified and agreed.

**8/061119 To consider the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation**

It was not felt any comment was appropriate.

**9/061119 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended and to consider an update on the Land Trust following the Clerk's research of relevant paperwork, and expiry of the Community Asset listing of the Duke of Marlborough**

No meetings had been attended. It was reported that a local resident had agreed to be a Trustee on the Land Trust, meaning that three people have now come forwards. The Clerk is researching the process for appointment and handover from the previous Trustees. Meanwhile Cllr Pearson will collect allotment rents, and the funds will be credited temporarily to the Parish Council bank account. Expiry of the Community Asset listing of the Duke of Marlborough is not a problem and can be allowed to proceed. No further developments have been reported on Snoasis.

**10/061119 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and consideration of a budget for 2020/21**

It was agreed to appoint SALC as auditor for 2019/20. A draft budget for 2020/21 was tabled and would be confirmed before the precept-setting deadline at the end of January.

The online cash book is available for inspection on the website and via the link provided to Councillors.

A bank reconciliation was presented and approved, and the bank balance figures were checked and confirmed by Cllr Innes Whiting.

Payments were made to Rod Caird (clerk pay, £284.00, Vertas (mowing, £452.95), Community Action Suffolk (web hosting, £60.00), MSDC (bin emptying, £ 73.20), Somersham PCC (mowing, replacement cheque, £84.00).

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

**11/061119 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

There is continuing concern about the hogweed in the Channel. Responsibility for its control would be investigated further.

DRAFT