

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 3, 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT

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

1/030719 Apologies and approvals of absence

Keith McKeown had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

2/030719 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/030719 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on June 5, 2019

The Minutes were approved.

4/030719 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

It was noted that the Hopkins housing development proposal (18/03114/5) was the subject of a site visit by members of Mid Suffolk Development Control Committee B this afternoon and that the application is on the Agenda for the Committee meeting on July 10. Cllr James Caston will speak for the Parish Council, John Field as District Councillor and Andy Laughlin as objector from the community. Cllr Oakes may be able to attend in order to contribute on Highways issues.

Cllr Field's written report was read to the meeting; he highlighted the upcoming consultation on Mid Suffolk's Local Plan, which Somersham should contribute to, as the planning boundary is being extended up to the Duke of Marlborough.

Cllr Oakes presented her written report (published with these minutes), highlighting the fact that Somersham is unaffected by withdrawal of bus subsidies but other villages are certainly affected, and many will respond to the consultation.

5/030719 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

There was no report on this occasion; Colin Burrows was unable to attend.

6/030719

To consider updates on current planning applications, including:

DC/19/02850 - Cobb Cottage, Mill Lane, Somersham, Conversion of garage and storage building to residential annexe with associated alterations – *no objection was raised*

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 - *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.

7/030719

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

The order of a Westcotec sign was confirmed and a cheque signed for £3,840.

No volunteer has yet come forward to act as Road Safety Officer and look after the sign. It was agreed that temporarily the Clerk will set the sign up and renew its battery etc.

8/030719

To discuss positioning of dog waste bins in the village

Cllr Caston will advise the Clerk of the exact position for an additional bin.

9/030719

To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended and to consider any update on the Land Trust

There had been a poor turn-out for the Suez open day offering information about the plant's increased incinerating capacity.

A Duke of Marlborough meeting had confirmed a beer festival during August.

There has been no movement to date on having the Land Trust's existing trustees tell the Charity Commission of the changes in membership.

10/030719

To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due and any further issues arising from the Internal Audit

A current bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £19,586.72 and this was confirmed against the 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 as follows: Rod Caird, clerk pay, £284.20; Westcotec, £3,840.00.

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

11/030719 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Cllr Oakes agreed to pursue the question of controlling Giant Hogweed with County Council staff.

Consideration would be given to commenting on the proposed routes for an Ipswich northern bypass and on the Mid Suffolk Local Plan; both matters would be on the September 4 Agenda.

As is customary, there will be no August meeting.

DRAFT