

# **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held online on July 1, 2020 at  
7.30pm

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Penny Pearson, Sam Barrell, Shaun Whiting and Will Caston Cook were present, together with the Clerk Rod Caird. County Cllr Kay Oakes and District Cllr John Field were also present.
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**1/010720      Apologies and approvals of absence**

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

**2/010720      Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None

**3/010720      To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on June 3, 2020**

The Minutes were approved.

**4/010720      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. Recycling centres are now accepting vans and trailers, using the appointments system. £400,000 has been set aside by the County as a renewable energy fund. It was suggested the Duke of Marlborough and the Community Shop might both consider installation of solar panels. Other Covid related matters are in the written report. Cllr Field noted that £3,500 has been granted from his budget to the pub for improvement works. Consideration is being given to how best to emerge from the Covid restrictions; how many physical meetings are actually required? There are some benefits in the restrictions which should not be lost. £100,000 has been paid out in discretionary grants to businesses. It was noted that the District Council continues to invest funds in commercial enterprises outside Suffolk. The benefits and drawbacks to this policy are a matter of opinion.

**5/010720      To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report**

Colin Burrows was unable to attend the meeting; the written reports he submitted were noted.

**6/010720 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 *in progress***

**DC/18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes –  
*appeal withdrawn; condition 22 (agreement of levels) – decision awaited***

The current position on both of these matters was noted. The detailed layout of the 42-home site will be presented to the District Council and information about the footway access from the site to the rest of the village will presumably appear on that layout.

**7/010720 To consider an update on the Land Trust**

It was reported that the changes to the bank mandate are now in hand. There is currently a waiting list of four people interested in renting allotments.

**8/010720 To discuss the proposal for a Community Orchard and the project to repaint the village railings**

The search continues for a suitable piece of land for a Community Orchard; nothing can be done on the railings until the end of the Covid restrictions.

**9/010720 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended**

None at this time

**10/010720 To consider grants to be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, with particular reference to upkeep of the churchyard**

It was agreed to make grants as follows: Somersham tennis club, £50; Citizens Advice Bureau, £100; The Link, £100; £96 to Somersham PCC for each time the churchyard is mowed during the mowing season. £150 is still available from the agreed budget for Section 137 grants is required.

**11/010720 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due**

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £17,366.50.

Payments were made to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £286.00, to Somersham PCC (mowing) for £96.00 x2, and to the Tennis Club (£50), the Link (£100) and the CAB (£100) as per minute 10 above. The online cash book is available for inspection on the website and via the link provided to Councillors.

Payments were made under sections 111, 112 and 137 of the Local

Government Act 1972.

It was noted some funding will be available for village infrastructure projects when CIL money is paid to the Parish Council from the 42-home development.

**12/010720 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

A resident had raised concern about flies in the village and this is being investigated through the Environmental Health team at the District Council. Remote meetings will continue for the time being. A discussion will take place at the September meeting about proposals for Christmas charity fund raising.

It was noted that the Duke of Marlborough is now opening with plenty outdoor seating space available.