

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held online on June 3, 2020 at
7.30pm

PRESENT	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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1/030620 Apologies and approvals of absence

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

2/030620 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/030620 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on May 6, 2020

The Minutes were amended and approved. A copy of the minutes together with any other necessary paperwork would be sent to Cllr Caston for signature after the meeting.

4/030620 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 have been reopened successfully, using an appointments system. There has been an 18.5% increase in completed road repairs. Sensors have been installed on some street lighting units to improve data collection. The road closure caused by badger activity continues. A long term solution is hard to identify as badgers are a protected species. Libraries will start to reopen after July 6.

Cllr Field noted activity on the SnOasis site with members of the public visiting without permission. The developer is trying to discourage this. New grant funds for local businesses are available through Mid Suffolk. Building projects including the improvements at Needham Lakes are getting back under way. Homeless people are being offered accommodation as far as possible.

5/030620 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

Colin Burrows was unable to attend the meeting.

6/030620 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
– *report on correspondence following the May meeting***

**DC/20/01293 Application for works to trees protected under Tree Preservation
Order MS157/A1 - Excavate a road crossing to provide a new Electrical
Connection, The Old Rectory Main Road - *granted***

The status of these applications was noted. The Clerk will follow up on correspondence with planning officers and the Chair of the Planning Committee about the proposed footpath connecting the 42 homes with the rest of the village.

7/030620 To consider an update on the Land Trust

It was formally resolved, in accordance with the constitution and rules, that all current signatories to the Land Trust bank account be removed from the mandate and replaced by Rod Caird (Clerk), Will Caston Cook and Aprille Richardson. The necessary paperwork will be completed and sent to Lloyds Bank.

8/030620 To discuss the proposal for a Community Orchard and the project to repaint the village railings

A meeting was due to be held shortly to confirm the availability of land for the Orchard. The railings project will have to wait until the coronavirus restrictions are sufficiently eased.

9/030620 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended

The Duke of Marlborough management group were grateful to Cllr Field for financial support. It is hoped it will be possible to reopen at least partly in July. Some beer has been sold on a takeaway basis. The shop team are very grateful for the Parish Council's support in purchasing a screen.

10/030620 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, and to confirm the Parish Council's standing orders, code of conduct, risk assessment and other governance requirements

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £17,746.68. Payments were made to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £286.00, to Somersham PCC (mowing) for £96.00, to Somersham Shop (screen) for £100. 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.

The governance paperwork presented to Parish Councillors was approved and adopted.

At the next meeting of the Parish Council there will be a discussion about Section 137 grants, with particular reference to the costs of mowing the churchyard. It was noted that a grant to the PCC of £500 had been agreed and minuted in 2016/17.

11/030620 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was noted the battery on the speed sign had not been changed during the lock-down but this will resume soon.

Issues had been raised about specific footpaths and these would be discussed and resolved with landowners.