

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on May 6, 2020 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Sam Barrell, Shaun Whiting and Will Caston Cook were present, together with one member of the public and the Clerk Rod Caird. County Cllr Kay Oakes and District Cllr John Field were also present.
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1/060520 Apologies and approvals of absence

Keith McKeown and Penny Pearson had sent their apologies and their absence was approved.

2/060520 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/060520 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on March 4, 2020

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

4/060520 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. She said she was happy to deal with any questions arising either during or after the meeting.

Cllr Field presented a written report, noting that the District Council staff were to be complimented for effective working online through the pandemic. Cllr Field was thanked for his interest in and attention to the Hopkins Homes planning application, though it was noted that little progress was visible from recent correspondence between planners and a key objecting resident.

5/060520 To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report

Colin Burrows was thanked for attending the meeting; he noted he had not yet received information about crime incidence in March.

6/060520 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; the
current position was noted***

**DC/18/03114/15 Land South West of Main Road, a development of 42 new homes
– *planning permission has now been granted. It was agreed after discussion
that the Clerk will write to the Chair of the Planning Referrals Committee,
District Cllr Matthew Hicks, expressing the Parish Council's concern that
nothing has been resolved on the question of the footway access from the site
of the new homes to the rest of the village.***

**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**

No objection was raised

**7/060520 To consider any further arrangements which may be needed to assist
residents during the coronavirus crisis**

It was agreed the Parish Council would cover the cost of a screen for the shop which would protect volunteers and shoppers. It was also agreed to make a comment in The Link to the effect that the Parish Council is available if people in the village are in need of help or support during the crisis.

8/060520 To consider an update on the Land Trust

It was agreed that Plot 16 appeared to be available to rent to a new applicant. The Clerk will resolve this, and will also pursue the question of updating the Trust's bank mandate.

**9/060520 To discuss the proposal for a Community Orchard and the project to
repaint the village railings**

Cllr Barrell will take a lead for the Parish Council in developing the plan for a community orchard. This will not progress much during the current lockdown. Similarly, Cllr Whiting will lead for the Council on repainting the railings when possible.

10/060520 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on meetings attended

No reports were offered.

**11/060520 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments
due and the confirm the final accounts for 2019/20**

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £15,957.61.

Payments were made to Rod Caird (Clerk pay) for £286.00, to Somersham PCC (mowing) for £96.00, to MSDC (bin emptying) for £520.36, and to Vertas (grounds upkeep) for £ 475.63. The online cash book is available for inspection on the website and via the link provided to Councillors. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Vertas to discuss details of their charges and to establish the renewal date for their agreement.

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

It was agreed all elements of the AGAR for 2019/20 should be approved and signed by the Clerk and Chair.

12/060520 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

None at this time.