



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 3rd November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J Caston (Chairman)
S Wright
T Hallett
S Whiting
J Rook
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
County Cllr K Oakes
District Cllr J Field

SPC1/031121 – TO APPOINT A CLERK FOR THE MEETING

Cllr Barrell clerked the first part of the meeting.

A two Minute silence was held to remember Mr Rod Caird, Parish Clerk, who sadly passed away last month.

SPC2/031121 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caston Cook which was approved.

SPC3/031121 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS REQUESTED

Cllr Wright declared an interest in the donation of £1,500 for the Duke of Marlborough.

SPC4/031121 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2021

Cllr Caston explained that due to the unforeseen circumstances of the passing of the previous Clerk, the Minutes taken at the previous meeting by Cllr Caston could not be approved.

SPC6/031121 – APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

It was AGREED: That Mrs Jennie Blackburn be appointed as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, who then took over the Clerking of the meeting.

SPC5/031121 – REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

County Cllr Oakes' report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Members explained that in relation to road closures, the Flowton Road had been closed due to the mating Badgers and had been reported.

District Cllr Field reported the following:

- A Low Energy Showcase had been held at Wherstead Park in October which involved local business and organisations coming together to help work towards being carbon neutral.

EO Charging, a supplier of chargers for electric vehicles, had a major contract with Amazon to cope with the company's purchase of 1000,000 electric vehicles to turn its delivery activities green which gave a grasp of what a small Suffolk company can achieve and showed a major company grasping the need to switch its fleet away from fossil fuels.

Munton's gave a presentation on Practical Sustainability in Food and Beverages which showed what could be achieved in reducing the carbon footprint of a substantial malt producing business if they were committed to making a difference. All aspects of company activity had been addressed from acquiring barley through transport to energy production for the site. Net zero, it was claimed, would be met by 2025 if not sooner.

- Mid Suffolk District Council had over £5 million in its budget to use on Housing, Economy, Well-Being, Communities, Corporate Services and feasibility studies for strategic projects. An outstanding sum which should make a difference to projects of various sizes.

SPC7/031121 – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

No report had been received.

SPC8/031121 – THE LINK

Cllr Caston stated that he felt an article about the sad passing of Rod Caird should be included in the next edition of The Link and asked members for their views.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Caston write an article and share with members prior to its publication, to also include the funeral arrangements.

SPC9/031121 – TO DISCUSS ANY CHRISTMAS BASED PROJECTS

A general discussion took place in relation to ideas for Christmas. They included a Christmas Tree, presents for children.

Cllr Rook felt that the Christmas Tree purchased last year which was positioned adjacent the telephone box and was decorated by the children from the Primary School had been a success. He felt that it should be done again this year and perhaps a donation from Hopkins Home could be sought.

Members were in general agreement and that £250 should be allocated.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Rook purchase a Christmas Tree along with lights up to the sum of £250.

SPC10/031121 – TO DISCUSS THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE IN JUNE 2022

During discussions members felt that a date needed to be set for a planning meeting to be held to discuss plans for an event to be held. The event should include groups such as the Village Hall Management Committee, Church, Community Shop, Duke of Marlborough along with others.

Cllr Caston stated that whilst the Parish Council would not have much involvement they could contribute towards the cost of any event planned. He suggested that a letter be circulated asking for people's attendance to a Public Meeting where firm plans could be made.

Cllr Hallett stated that he would be happy to word a letter and distribute it.

It was AGREED: That a public meeting be held on Wednesday, 12th January 2022 at the Duke of Marlborough pub at 7pm.

SPC11/031121 – TO FORMALLY RATIFY THE PROPOSAL TO GRANT THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH PUB £1,500

Members discussed £1,500 being granted to the Duke of Marlborough Pub and they felt that as it was a major part of the community the money would help them be more economically friendly.

It was AGREED: That £1,500 be granted to the Duke of Marlborough Pub.

SPC12/031121 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report.

SPC13/031121 – FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING PAYMENTS DUE

Cllr Caston reported that he had mandate forms for Cllr Barrell, Cllr Hallatt and Cllr Wright to become signatories on the account.

He added that he the September maintenance payment for grass cutting was outstanding. Also, that there would be a payment made to Rod's Estate for one half of his month's wages and he would confirm that with the Sullokk Association of Local Councils (SALC).

It was noted that the final payment for the PWLB of £3,258.50 had been paid, £29,575.27 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) had been received which resulted in there being £51,927.55 in the bank account with £6,785.33 in the savings account.

SPC14/031121 – URGENT MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Pound Lane – two potholes needed repairing
- Remembrance Day – Someone from the Parish Council should attend if possible
- Telephone Box where the Defibrillator is housed needed some refurbishment

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

Chairman: Dated: