



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk

### **SPC1/050122 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **SPC2/050122 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caston-Cook which was approved. Apologies had also been received from County Cllr Oakes and District Cllr Field who due to the current situation with Covid-19 were offered to not attend should they refer not to.

### **SPC3/050122 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC4/050122 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC5/050122 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minute of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC6/050122 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Oakes' report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Caston reported that he had spoken with Cllr Oakes who had informed him that she would look into improving the mirror opposite the Duke of Marlborough Pub following a complaint by a resident in relation to the speed of vehicles through the village which made the junction with the main road a difficult one to use.

He also reported that Cllr Oakes had spoken of a new County Council initiative, 'Reclaim the Rain' which would concentrate on flooding and how to stop it from happening. She had said that Somersham had been one of the villages that had been chosen as part of the initiative. Cllr Oakes would circulate more information in due course.

## SPC7/050122 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Field was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

Cllr Caston reported that he had spoken with Cllr Field who had informed him that the District Council's Budget would be coming up in February which he would report on at the Parish Council's February meeting.

## SPC8/050122 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

### a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report in addition to what was already on the Agenda.

### b) ICT SUPPORT

The Clerk reported that following her recent resignation from Creeting St Peter Parish Council, the Chairman had asked about the Parish Council's share in the laptop and printer (both of which were under 18 months old) used by the Clerk for her various Parish Councils. The Chairman had asked whether Somersham Parish Council would offer some money for their share of the items.

Following a brief discussion:-

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council offer Creeting St Peter Parish Council £300 to but their share in the laptop and printer for use by the Clerk. **Clerk to action.**

### c) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 was £58,220.64.

### d) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (November)	£93.75
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (shortfall)	£337.50
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov)	£236.05
Jennie Blackburn	Office Allowance (Nov & Dec) / Mileage (x3) Expenses	£93.02
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£236.05
HMRC	PAYE (to 5th Jan)	£118.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,114.37 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

It was noted that no receipts had been received.

### e) FINAL BUDGET 2022/23

**It was AGREED:** That the Final Budget for 2022/23 be approved.

### f) PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

**It was AGREED:** That the Precept of £18,187.00 for 2022/23 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

## SPC9/050122 – ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

**It was AGREED:** That due to meeting the criteria of having  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Elected Members on the Parish Council and also having a qualified Clerk, the Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence.

## **SPC10a/050122 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/21/06938** - Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension - 83 Springfield Road, Somersham

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

## **SPC10b/050122 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

## **SPC11/050122 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Cllr Caston reported that during November 2021 there had been the following crimes reported:

Somersham – three reports of violence and one report of theft

Offton – one report of violence

Willisham – one report of a burglary

Flowton – none reported

Stowmarket – 150 reports of violence, 45 reports of anti-social behavior, 28 reports of public order offences and 25 reports of theft.

## **SPC12/050122 – UPDATE ON QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllr Hallatt reported that he had received confirmation that a representative from the Church would be attending the public meeting along with Jennie Hutchinson who would be a representative on behalf of the School, Community Shop, Duke of Marlborough and also the Wheelie Fun Day planning.

## **SPC13/050122 – WEBSITE**

The Clerk informed members that the new website was continuing to be put together and once it was available she would circulate the address for all to view.

She asked for any pictures, historical information or anything of interest to be emailed to her so it could all be added to the website.

## **SPC14/050122 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Wright informed members that at a recent meeting of the Duke of Marlborough pub it was reported that the Covid Pandemic had sadly taken its toll on the takings of the pub. Whilst the beginning of December had been good the rest of the month had fallen.

He urged people to use the facility otherwise it could be lost.

A general discussion took place as to how the pub could be promoted and advertise its opening hours and by what means.

## **SPC15/050122 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Speeding past the Duke of Marlborough
- Boundary Fence of allotments and new homes and the trees

## **SPC16/050122 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....