

# **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on June 2,  
2021 at 7.30pm

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs James Caston, Stephen Wright, Thomas Hallett, James Rook, and Shaun Whiting were present, together with the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr John Field and County Cllr Kay Oakes were present, together with seven members of the public.
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**1/020621      Apologies and approvals of absence**

Cllrs Will Caston Cook and Sam Barrell were unable to attend and their absence was approved

**2/020621      Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None

**3/020621      To approve the Minutes of the meeting on May 5, 2021**

The minutes were approved

**4/020621      To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District and County Councillors**

Cllr Oakes had submitted a written report. A specific question was raised about home to school transport which she agreed to look into. Cllrs congratulated her on her election for a further four-year term.

Cllr Field had submitted a written report. The District was constrained in its activities during the County Council election period. 4 x £1m had been set aside for post-Covid recovery projects. It was noted that Bolton is withdrawing its paper recycling bins throughout the district.

Cllr Field said he would raise with planners concerns expressed about the planning permission granted (21/01560) for land adjoining Shiralee. He would also raise with District officers a concern about bin collections at the same site.

**5/020621      To receive and consider a Neighbourhood Watch report and an update on activity at the Village Hall car park**

The most recent report was circulated to councillors.

**6/020621** To consider updates on any planning issues, including consideration of:

**DC/21/02958 | Request for formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion - Proposed solar panel array and battery storage scheme Planning Application**

**Greybarn Solar Energy Farm Land At Bramford, Flowton And Burstall Suffolk**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would recommend a formal Environmental Impact Assessment at this site.

The correspondence from Bron Curtis (email dated May 24) concerning large-scale energy developments in the area was noted

**7/020621 To consider the latest position on the funding request from the Tennis Club and also the request from the Village Shop to assist with purchase of a new display fridge/freezer unit**

In addition to the £3,000 which the Parish Council has already committed to the Tennis Club, it is proposed that the Council assist the club with repayments of the £6,000 interest-free loan they have secured from the Lawn Tennis Association. Decisions about this and also about a grant of approx £3,000 to help the Shop purchase a new freezer/chiller would be made at the next meeting. Quotes for supply of the equipment are being reviewed with the assistance of Cllr Rook.

Meanwhile it was agreed to make an immediate grant of £2,000 to the Shop to assist with current needs.

**8/020621 To discuss management and upkeep of the Parish Council website [www.somersham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.somersham.onesuffolk.net)**

This was held over until Cllr Caston Cook was available.

**9/020621 To consider a report from Somersham Land Trust**

The Lloyds current account is now online and accessible; the Clerk will proceed with completing the Charity Commission returns in order to bring them up to date. The Trust has a bank balance of £3,908.19. The Clerk is investigating the value of investments held with BlackRock, which produce annual income of around £120.

**10/020621 To discuss planting on the Springfield Road roundabout**

Ownership of the roundabout will be investigated with a view to possible wild flower planting there and elsewhere in the village, taking advantage of Mid Suffolk and other schemes. Cllr Caston would discuss with Cllr Field the best source of definitive information about sites which would be suitable.

**11/020621 To receive reports from Councillors on any meetings attended**

It was felt that pricing of the Hopkins Homes properties made special local offering unrealistic.

**12/020621 Financial report, including payments due**

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £35,931.42. No payments were currently due.

Recent payments were recorded as follows:

May 7, 2021	T. Hitchcock	Bank payment	£ 187.50		Grounds
May 7, 2021	Somersham PCC	Bank payment	£ 96.00		Grounds
June 1, 2021	Somersham PCC	Bank payment	£ 96.00		Grounds
June 1, 2021	T. Hitchcock	Bank payment	£ 153.75		Grounds
June 1, 2021	MSDC	Bank payment	£ 446.59	£ 89.32	Waste

**13/020621 Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

None at this time