

SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on July 28,
2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Cllrs James Caston, Thomas Hallett, James Rook, Will Caston Cook and Sam Barrell were present, together with the Clerk Rod Caird. District Cllr John Field and County Cllr Kay Oakes were present, together with two members of the public.

1/280721 Apologies and approvals of absence

Cllrs Stephen Wright and Shaun Whiting were unable to attend, and their absence was approved

2/280721 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/280721 To approve the Minutes of the meeting on June 2, 2021

The minutes were approved

4/280721 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda, and reports from the District and County Councillors

Cllr Oakes and Cllr Field had submitted written reports.

5/280721 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. It was agreed to drop the Village Hall car park from future agendas as there has been no recent activity of concern to note.

6/280721 To consider updates on any planning issues

No new planning applications had been received.

7/280721 To consider the latest position on the funding request from the Tennis Club and the Village Shop

The Parish Council has paid £3,000 to the Tennis Club in line with previous commitments and has agreed to pay £1,000 per annum for six years to cover the cost of the £6,000 interest-free loan they have secured from the Lawn

Tennis Association. The first £1,000 was paid on July 16 together with the £3,000 referred to above.

The Parish Council has also made a grant of £3,500 to the Village Shop to assist with purchase of their new chiller/freezer unit.

The grant to the Tennis Club was made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

The grant to the Village Shop was made under the Food Act 1984, s.50

8/280721 To discuss projects for wildflower planting on open or publicly owned sites in the village

It was agreed to add to the Agenda for the next meeting an item allowing discussion of how best to collect opinion in the village about projects the Parish Council could support, whether wild flower planting, play area improvements or other initiatives. Cllr Hallett agreed to represent the Parish Council on the committee of the Community Association which looks after the play area. It was agreed the parish Council is particularly keen to promote projects benefitting health and well-being generally.

9/280721 To discuss management and upkeep of the Parish Council website www.somersham.onesuffolk.net

Cllr Caston Cook has volunteered to make some recommendations to the next meeting on how to improve the content and appearance of the website.

10/280721 To consider a report from Somersham Land Trust

BlackRock Investments holds two funds for the Land Trust: an Equity Fund, which is currently valued at £4,167.96 and a UK Bond Fund, currently valued at £920.15. Together these funds produce income of around £130.00 per annum. The Parish Council has paid £279.00 to the Trust, representing allotment rentals and other receipts held pending clarifying the banking situation. As a result, the Charity has £4,226.86 in its current account at Lloyds Bank, though some further revenue is due from the most recent allotment rentals. The Charity Commission returns are now up to date and a meeting will be held soon of the Trustees – Will Caston Cook, Aprille Richardson and Helen Hicks. Rod Caird will continue to act as administrator and the main point of contact for the Charity Commission, bank and investment fund.

11/280721 To receive reports from Councillors on any meetings attended and to consider how the village might contribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022

No meetings had been attended. It was agreed to put the Jubilee celebrations on the September meeting Agenda, and to consider holding a public meeting during that month where local views could be gathered about ideas and projects to mark the Jubilee.

12/280721 Financial report, including payments due

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £25,122.85. One payment to Somersham PCC for churchyard upkeep was due for payment.

Recent payments, including to the PCC, were recorded as follows:

July 5, 2021	Somersham Land Trust	Bank payment	£ 271.50	Allotment rentals
July 5, 2021	Somersham Land Trust	Bank payment	£ 8.50	Allotment rentals
July 5, 2021	T. Hitchcock	Bank payment	£ 153.75	Grounds
July 16, 2021	Somersham Shop	Bank payment	£ 3,500.00	Grant
July 16, 2021	Somersham Tennis Club	Bank payment	£ 4,000.00	Grant
Jul 28, 2021	Somersham PCC	Bank payment	£ 96.00	Grounds

13/280721 Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was agreed to make a small gift of some wine to the local volunteer who tirelessly, and without being asked, weeds public areas in the village. Thank you, Bill!