



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 1st March 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: T Hallett (Chairman)
J Rook
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr John Field

SPC193/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wright, Cllr Caston and County Cllr Oakes, which were all approved.

SPC194/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC195/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC196/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC197/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

SPC198/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

SPC199/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Field's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website. He briefly went through his report, which contained the following items:

- Solar Farm
- £2m for energy saving measures
- New Depot

A general discussion took place in relation to solar farm planning applications in the area, the process for permission and appeals.

In relation to the new depot Cllr Hallett asked Cllr Field about whether Gateway 14 would be an ideal location to which Cllr Field stated that it would not be appropriate due to the Freeport status.

SPC200/22/23 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

Elections – The Clerk briefly went through the election process and informed members that their nomination papers needed to be handed in to either the Clerk by 29th March 2023 or at Endeavour House by 4pm on 4th April 2023. Nomination papers could not be emailed or posted.

Litter Bin – The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from a resident at Park Cottages, Somersham, who was concerned about the litter being dropped in that area and asked that a litter bin be purchased.

It was AGREED: To purchase a litter bin for Park Cottages. **Clerk to action.**

b) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and stated that the balance in the accounts as of 23rd February 2023 was £90,131.33.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Feb)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Feb)	£32.30
Suffolk Cloud	Website Hosting / Operation London Bridge	£150.00
Peter Jousiffe	Undercoat paint for telephone box	£55.50

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £532.65 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was AGREED: That Trevor Brown CPFA (Local Council Financial Services & Internal Audit) be appointed as auditor for the purposes of the 2022/23 audit.

e) EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

It was AGREED: That an External Audit be undertaken.

SPC201/22/23 - TO APPROVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

a) REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

It was AGREED: That the Review of Internal Audit Control and Risk Management Arrangements be approved.

b) FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDING ORDERS

It was AGREED: That the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders be approved

SPC202/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: - DC/23/00052 - Householder Application - Conversion and extension of garage to form ancillary annexed accommodation (following demolition of conservatory) - Offton Lodge, Main Road, Somersham

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

SPC203/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decision was noted:

Ref: DC/20/05895 - Full Planning Application - Installation of renewable energy generating station, comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas - Land to the South of Church Farm, Somersham and Land to the East of The Channel, Burstall - **Refused**

SPC204/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

No report had been received.

SPC205/22/23 – GRIT BINS

Cllr Hallett confirmed that the grit bins were now all in their correct locations.

The Clerk confirmed that the newly applied for grit bin for Chapel Lane had been refused by the Highways Department as it did not meet the criteria.

SPC206/22/23 – UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND WILDFLOWER AREAS

There was nothing to report.

SPC207/22/23 – UPDATE ON REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX

Cllr Jousiffe confirmed that he had stripped the telephone box down of all the peeling exterior and had purchased some undercoat paint. He stated that he would paint the telephone box during warmer weather and would purchase the red paint to complete the job in the near future.

SPC208/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

None attended.

SPC209/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No items were raised.

SPC210/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 5th April 2023.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

Chairman: Dated: