



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: J Rook (Chairman)  
S Wright  
J Caston  
S Whiting

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
County Councillor Kay Oakes  
District Cllr John Field

### **SPC38/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Barrell and Cllr Hallett.

### **SPC39/22/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC40/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC41/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC42/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **SPC43/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

She reported the following:

- that the County Council were on course to plant 200,000 trees
- it was lovely to see so many villages decorated with bunting in readiness for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- 194 refugees from the Ukraine were currently living in people's homes across Suffolk

### **SPC44/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Field reported that in relation to the revised Local Plan, a Working Party had discussed the issues the previous week so the revisions would be sent to the Inspectors for further consideration.

In relation to the National Grid's proposal to install a new corridor of pylons from Norfolk to Essex the District Council's view was an under-sea solution should be considered. Whilst being more costly that

solution would have a lesser impact on the countryside and people's homes. The undersea option would take the power from where it would be provided to where it needed to be.

He added that no guidance had been provided as to how much more expensive an undersea route would be to over land.

### **SPC45/22/23 – CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the Subscription reimbursement to a past Clerk agreed at the last meeting had not received the cheque sent in the post.

**It was AGREED:** That the cheque be cancelled and payment be made via BACS. **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 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 was £75,140.52.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (May)	£282.30
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (May)	£36.44
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£327.50
MSDC	Bin Emptying	£535.91

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,182.15 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) **APPROVE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2021/22**

**It was AGREED:** That the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed.

e) **APPROVE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS – 2021/22**

**It was AGREED:** That the Statement of Accounts be approved and signed.

f) **RECEIVE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**It was AGREED:** That the Internal Auditor's Report be received and approved.

### **SPC46/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/22/02369** - Householder Application - Erection of conservatory - Old Barn Stores, Main Road, Somersham

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

### **SPC47/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

No planning decisions had been received.

### **SPC48/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Cllr Rook reported that in March the following crimes had been reported:

Somersham - one report of a drugs offence  
Offton - two reports of violence  
Willisham – No reported crimes  
Flowton – one report of theft  
Stowmarket – 129 - violence, 31 - anti-social-behaviour, 34 - public order offence and 33 - thefts.

#### **SPC49/22/23 – UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING**

Cllr Wright reported that the training had been very well received with nine people attending. Attendees stated that they felt more confident should they need to use the Defibrillator.

He stated that it had been suggested that Paediatric pads be looked into being purchased.

Cllr Caston reported that a new battery for the Defibrillator would be needed towards the end of the year. He explained that money in the collection pots at various locations may cover the cost for paediatric pads.

Cllr Oakes was thanked for helping set up the training session.

**It was AGREED:** That Cllr Caston look into purchasing some Paediatric pads.

#### **SPC50/22/23 – UPDATE ON QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllr Wright reported that the lighting of the Beacon would take place the following day and a substantial fire pit had been built for the occasion.

He stated that 2-3 hi-viz volunteers would be very much appreciated.

#### **SPC51/22/23 – REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX**

Cllr Whiting stated that he was due to painting the railings but suggested quotes be sought for a professional to take on the task, although ownership of the railings needed to be confirmed.

Cllr Oakes stated that she would seek to ascertain who owned them.

In relation to the telephone box, members discussed how much a refurbishment would cost, rather than just re-painting it.

**It was AGREED:** That quotes be sought for the refurbishment of the telephone box (Cllr Caston to ask Bramford who had recently refurbished theirs and the Clerk to ask 'Remember When' who had refurbished the box at Great Bricett).

#### **SPC52/22/23 – DONATIONS TO VILLAGE GROUPS**

Cllr Caston stated that usually the Parish Council would consider financial donations following a request from a particular group.

As Cllr Hallett had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda and in his absence, it was agreed that the item be put onto the next Agenda for further discussion.

#### **SPC53/22/23 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Caston reported that he had attended a Wheelie Day meeting and was pleased to report that everything was in place for the event, which was due to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 and volunteers were still required. He explained that the event planned to be on a larger scale than in previous years.

Cllr Rook suggested that flyers be put through the doors of the new build houses at Lark Grove as residents would not have heard of the event before.

Cllr Wright reported that he had attended three meetings with the Team in charge of 'Reclaim the Rain' initiative. He explained that the project could not interfere with any stream within the environment Agency's remit. The team would select three sites in Suffolk and three sites in Norfolk and currently had a short list of 15 sites.

Cllr Wright confirmed he would report back to the Parish Council once updates had been received.

**SPC54/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Tom Hitchcock – possible cutting back of overgrowth along railings

**SPC55/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

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