



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J Caston (Chairman)
S Wright
S Barrell

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

Cllr Wright proposed and Cllr Barrell seconded that Cllr Caston take the Chair for the meeting due to the Chair and Vice Chair sending in their apologies.

SPC116/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Hallett, Cllr Jousiffe, Cllr Whiting and Cllr Rook.

SPC117/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC118/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC119/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2022

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022 be deferred until the next meeting as no Councillor was present from the last meeting to approve them.

SPC120/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

SPC121/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

She reported that the application form for an ANPR had been sent to the Clerk should it be required.

Cllr Caston informed Cllr Oakes that re-surfacing works were planning for Flowton Road with plans to close the road for 10 days.

SPC122/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Field's report would be circulated after the meeting and published on the village website. The points he raised in his report were the following:

- CIFCO – the District Council's commercial property
- New Innovate to Elevate programme launches for business

- Planning
- Gateway 14
- Exemplar housing development for Elmswell to be considered
- John Peel Centre
- Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme

SPC123/22/23 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a resident in relation to CCTV being installed at a Council property in the village. The tenant had placed the CCTV in an inappropriate position which needed to be resolved. Both the Housing Department and the Police had been informed by the resident but they had stated that there was nothing they could do.

Members agreed that the Housing Department should visit the tenant to look at the CCTV in situ and deal with the situation.

Cllr Field agreed that the resident speak with him and he would be able to take matters forward.
Clerk to advise resident.

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 24th October 2022 was £92,975.42.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£282.30
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	£35.29
Jennie Blackburn	Poppy Wreath Reimbursement	£19.99
Great Bricett PC	Contribution to box of paper	£6.49
T Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£93.75

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £437.82 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24

It was AGREED: That the Draft Budget for 2023/24 be brought back to the December meeting once the tax base calculation had been received from the District Council.

e) BANK ACCOUNT MANDATES

It was AGREED: That Cllr Hallett and Cllr Rook be added to the bank account as signatories and also for online banking.

f) CIL MONEY PROJECTS

Cllr Caston stated that projects such as the play equipment on the playing field would be ideal for use of the CiL money, but the Community Association would need to be in a position to move the project forward as the play equipment was their responsibility. They would need to approach the Parish Council for a contribution.

Other projects such as the car park at the Community Shop and solar panels for the shop's roof would also be good projects for the money.

Cllr Field suggested a Business Plan be put together for future projects. **Clerk to action.**

SPC124/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/22/05135 - Householder Planning Application - Erection of two-storey side extension, two-storey front extension, single-storey front extension, and single storey rear extension and decking (following demolition of existing conservatory and outbuilding) Location: The Elms, Main Road, Somersham

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

Ref: DC/21/04711 – (additional information) - Planning Application - Change of use from agricultural land to solar farm and construction of a solar farm (up to 49.9MW) with associated grid connection cable route, infrastructure and planting. Location: Land North Of Tye Lane, Bramford

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no further comments to make and their objections still stood. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/22/05260 - Full Planning Application - Formation of new disabled access, partial infilling of existing door opening, replacement of windows and doors, replacement of roofline, and external decorations - Somersham Baptist Church, 4 Chapel Lane, Somersham

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council supported the application. **Clerk to action.**

SPC125/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

Ref: DC/22/03006 - Full Planning Application - Change of Use of two arable fields to provide secure dog walking and exercise. Erection of fencing, shelter, creation of parking area, signage and re-position security gate. Land to the South Of, Main Road, Somersham - **Granted**

SPC126/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The Neighborhood Watch report for August was circulated prior to the meeting, which showed the following information:

August 2022:

Somersham - one report of criminal damage and one report of a Public Order Offence
Offton – No reported crimes
Willisham – No reported crimes
Flowton – No reported crimes
Stowmarket – 132 violence, 47 - anti-social-behaviour, 27 – thefts and 34 – criminal damage.

SPC127/22/23 – COMMUNITY WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE AREAS

Members discussed the proposed Community Orchard with Cllr Caston stating that the roundabout on Springfield Road had been suggested previously. Cllr Barrell stated that residents had commented of the possibility of the trees being played with by local children, which made the option less viable.

Another option would be land near The Elms and it was agreed that the owner be contacted to see if was a viable option.

IT was AGREED: That the Clerk write to the landowner following receipt of a plan and information from Cllr Wright/Cllr Caston.

SPC128/22/23 - REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX / RAILINGS

The Clerk had received an email from Chris Mills, who had previously painted the telephone box, who had stated that he had some paint left should the Parish Council want it.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Caston collect the paint from Chris Mills.

SPC129/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Wright reported that he had attended a meeting at the Duke of Marlborough where the current position of the pub had been discussed. Whilst the run up to Christmas was usually a productive time, the pub was finding it difficult what with the rise in energy costs and also the price of beer from the brewers, which was expected to rise by 20%.

From January onwards it was unsure as to how the pub would carry on and it was possible that opening hours would need to be reduced.

SPC130/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Wheelie Day 2023 – looking to be held in the first week of July.

SPC131/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 7th December 2022.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Chairman: Dated: