



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 4th January 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr John Field

SPC153/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Oakes.

SPC154/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC155/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC156/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER AND 7TH DECEMBER 2022

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd November and 7th December 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC157/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

SPC158/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Oakes was not present at the meeting and a report had not yet been received.

SPC159/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

He raised the following two issues:

- New Bin Lorries – New bin lorries had been purchased by the District Council and had been named through a competition for local children. They would be run on hydrogenated vegetable oil.
- Leisure Centres – Solar panels had been placed on local leisure centre buildings, which would be environmentally friendly. Financially, the feeding tariffs would not be beneficial however, the electricity replaced would result in a payback to the Council.

SPC/160/22/23 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that she had received and circulated a letter from Somersham Football Club asking for financial assistance to improve the pitches.

Following a brief discussion members felt that a representative from the Football Club should attend a Parish Council meeting where further questions could be asked and more information be shared, before a decision could be made. **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 20th December 2022 was £90,903.23.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to 5th Jan	£82.60

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £409.75 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) FINAL BUDGET 2023/24

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget for 2023/24 be approved.

e) PRECEPT FOR 2023/24

It was AGREED: That the Precept for 2023/24 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

SPC161/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/22/06273 - Householder Application - Erection of two-storey side extension, two-storey front extension, single-storey front extension, single storey rear extension and decking (following demolition of existing conservatory and outbuilding) - The Elms, Main Road, Somersham

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

SPC162/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/22/04066 - Full Planning Application - Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form 1no. dwelling, together with new vehicular access - Stone Cottage, Flowton Road, Somersham - **Granted**

SPC163/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The Neighborhood Watch reports for October and November were circulated prior to the meeting, which showed the following information:

October 2022:

Somersham – three reports of anti-social behaviour, one report of criminal damage, one report of violence and one report of burglary.

Offton – one report of anti-social behaviour

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Stowmarket – 122 violence, 28 thefts, 30 - anti-social-behaviour and 29 – criminal damage.

November 2022:

Somersham – one report of anti-social behaviour

Offton – two reports of criminal damage

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – two reports of violence

Stowmarket – 139 violence, 27 thefts, 34 anti-social-behaviour and 28 – criminal damage.

SPC164/22/23 – LITTER BINS ON PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk reported that this item no longer needed to be discussed.

SPC165/22/23 – PROVISION OF GRIT BIN – CHAPEL LANE

Members had received a message from a member of the public that a yellow grit bin had made its way onto her driveway and could it be removed. A general discussion took place where it was suggested that the grit bin could be used for Chapel Lane.

It was AGREED: That in the first instance the Clerk check where the grit bin should be located.

SPC166/22/23 – UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND WILDFLOWER AREAS

Cllr Caston had drafted a letter to be sent to a landowner of a potential community orchard site to which members agreed with its content.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk send the letter once she had received a postal address/email address of where it should be sent to.

SPC167/22/23 – UPDATE ON REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX

Cllr Jousiffe reported that on inspection it seemed that the paint on the telephone box would need to be rubbed down before being repainted and would look further into this.

He also explained that some of the panes of glass needed to be replaced.

SPC168/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Wright reported that the figures for the pub for the first half of December's taking had been good. He stated that a meeting was soon to take place.

SPC169/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No issues were raised.

SPC170/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 1ST February 2023.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.

Chairman: Dated: