



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: T Hallett (Chairman)  
J Rook  
P Jousiffe

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

### **SPC98/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Caston, Cllr Wright, Cllr Barrell and Cllr Whiting.

### **SPC99/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC100/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC101/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC102/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There were two members of the public present who were here to discuss the Biodiversity item on the Agenda.

### **SPC103/22/23 – 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 one ANPR camera had been installed at Barham.

### **SPC104/22/23 – 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:

- CiL Funding – sum of this money would be used for a feasibility study at Thurston Station.
- Household Support Fund
- Council Rent Cap
- Parking Strategy
- EV Charging Points – four in the area, two at Eye and two at Stowmarket. More were needed.

## SPC105/22/23 – BIODIVERSITY OF THE PARISH / BUZZ STOP

Members of the public present reported to members the significance of the reduction in insects and the importance of biodiversity.

They explained that they were trying to encourage the village to improve the environment and would like to bring changes such as the introduction of wildflower areas. They would be speaking to groups such as the Pub, Community Shop, School, Gardening Club and Church etc to get everyone onboard with the necessary changes in order to restore and enhance the nature within the parish. In doing this, the support of the Parish Council was vital.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council supported the proposals and Cllr Jousiffe would be a representative of the Parish Council for future negotiations and ideas.

## SPC106/22/23 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

The Clerk confirmed that the article for the Independent Living Service would be included in the next Link magazine. **Clerk to action.**

She also reported that the Grass Cutting contract for the coming year needed to be approved. Tom Hitchcock had forwarded the increase in costs for members' consideration prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the grass cutting of the play area/field and asked the Clerk to liaise with the Community Association to ask to see their accounts. **Clerk to action.**

Cllr Hallett explained to members about the insurance renewal and confirmed that he had raised the Fidelity Cover to £100,000, which was necessary to cover the amount of funds the Parish Council currently had.

**It was AGREED:** That the grass cutting contract be renewed.

### 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 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was £79,595.32.

### c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£282.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Oct 2022	£54.20
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£360.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £728.60 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

### d) BANK RECONCILIATION

**It was AGREED:** That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

### e) BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

**It was AGREED:** That the Budget Monitoring report would be updated and circulated after the meeting.

f) **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2021/22**

**It was AGREED:** That the External Auditor's report be noted and approved.

**SPC107/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None had been received.

**SPC108/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

**SPC109/22/23 – TENNIS CLUB GRANT**

**It was AGREED:** That the grant was sought from the Land Trust, not the Parish Council.

**SPC110/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

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

**July 2022:**

Somersham - one report of burglary and one report of criminal damage

Offton – No reported crimes

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Stowmarket – 160 violence, 66 - anti-social-behaviour, 27 - public order offence and 37 – criminal damage.

**SPC111/22/23 – INSTALLATION OF BOLLARDS**

The owner of Kings Cottage had been in touch with the Parish Clerk, who forwarded the email to members, and stated that he was happy with the bollards as they had protected his home from being hit, something that had happened in the past. He also stated that the bollards had slowed traffic down, which was very positive.

The Clerk reported that as requested at the last meeting, she had written to the Highways Department about the installation of the bollards but as yet had not received a reply.

**SPC112/22/23 - REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX / RAILINGS**

There was nothing to report.

**SPC113/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No meetings had been attended.

**SPC114/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Cllr Field's report to be displayed in the Community Shop for all to see.

**SPC115/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

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