



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 6th July 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

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

SPC56/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Caston.

SPC57/22/23 – CO-OPTION

Cllr Wright proposed and Cllr Whiting seconded that Peter Jousiffe be co-opted onto the Parish Council, which was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk would send Mr Jousiffe all the relevant paperwork and dates for future meetings.

SPC58/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rook declared an interest in item 10 on the Agenda (DC/22/03152).

SPC59/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC60/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST JUNE 2022

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC61/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

SPC62/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Oakes' stated that she would circulate her report later in the week.

She reported that the County Council had submitted a 61 page objection to the East Anglia Green proposal. She confirmed that the view of the County Council is for the route to go off shore or under the sea.

SPC63/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Field briefly went through his report, which would be circulated after the meeting and published on the village website. The points raised in his report were the following:

- Finance
- Housing Revenue Account Business Plan
- Q4 Performance
- Stowmarket Health, Education Leisure Facilities
- Planning – Port One and Gateway 14

SPC64/22/23 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that an email had been received in relation to Hogweed found in The Channel through the village. Tom Hitchcock had removed some prior to the Wheelie Day, but more had been found at other locations by a resident, one of which was outside the parish.

Following a brief discussion:

It was AGREED: That Cllr Hallett would contact the Environment Agency in relation to having the Hogweed removed.
That Cllr Whiting liaise with Tom Hitchcock with a view to removing the Hogweed at Springfield.

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 29th June 2022 was £73,228.50.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£282.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE (ending 05.07.22)	£54.20
Westcotec	Battery Charger	£84.60
Trevor Brown	Internal Audit - 2021/22	£235.00
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	327.50
Tom Hitchcock	Strimming and Hogweed Removal	50.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £691.90 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.

SPC65/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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

Cllr Rook left the room whilst the following planning application was discussed.

Ref: DC/22/03152 - Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension and single storey front porch extension (following demolition of existing carport and porch) - Erection of single storey side extension and insertion of first floor rear elevation window and ground floor side elevation window - Erection of detached carport with accommodation over and construction of driveway - Park Farm House, Flowton Road, Somersham

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

SPC66/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

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

SPC67/22/23 – QUEEN’S JUBILEE EVENTS FEEDBACK

Members reported that the events had gone very well and were well attended.

SPC68/22/23 – DONATION TO COMMUNITY SHOP

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Pat Woolhouse, committee member of the Community Shop who had asked the Parish Council for financial support this year as had been done in previous years.

During a brief discussion members felt that they would be happy to assist with improvement projects at the shop or items such as solar panels, which would help greatly with the shop’s overheads and to help the shop to become even more viable. Members would be happy to be approached should such items be needed.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk ask for further details on what the money would be needed for.

SPC69/22/23 – DONATIONS TO VILLAGE GROUPS

Cllr Wright reported that he had been approached by the Community Association and the Community Shop in relation to the car park being tarmacked. He confirmed he had informed them to approach the Parish Council with further details in order to apply for any assisted funding.

In relation to other donations Cllr Wright stated that in the past a list of charities had been considered for donations and advised the Clerk to look through previous Minutes as to who those charities were. **Clerk to action.**

SPC70/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Hallett reported that in April the following crimes had been reported:

Somersham - one report of violence

Offton – one report of anti-social behaviour, two reports of Public Order Offence, one report of Burglary

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – one report of theft

Stowmarket – 149 - violence, 38 - anti-social-behaviour, 35 - public order offence and 23 - thefts.

The Clerk had been informed that over the past 10 days several sheds had been broken into in Somersham, and also the allotments. An assault had also taken place on the playing field by a group

of year 10-11 boys, who assaulted a 10 year old boy. The assault resulted in the boy having to have medical attention for his injuries. The Police had been called out to both of these crimes.

SPC71/22/23 – REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX / RAILINGS

Cllr Oakes confirmed that Suffolk County Council owned and maintained the railings along the Channel in the village who had no plans to re-paint them. She added that any proposed works would need to be approved by the Environment Agency as they owned the stream. There was a process that needed to be followed.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Hallett make contact with the Environment Agency in order to find out more information.

That the refurbishment of the Telephone Box be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC72/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Wright reported that at a meeting of the Duke of Marlborough pub they were recruiting a trainee chef. He added that the Beer Festival was due to be held in the August holidays.

Members reported that the Wheelie Day had been a great success again this year.

The school had held their Summer Fete where £3,600 had been raised, which was excellent.

SPC73/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters had been raised.

SPC74/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting finished at 8.56pm.

Chairman: Dated: