



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 7th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

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

SPC132/22/23 - APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Wright and Cllr Caston.

SPC133/22/23 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC134/22/23 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC135/22/23 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER AND 2ND NOVEMBER 2022

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022 be deferred until the next meeting when other members of the Parish Council who attended that meeting would be present.

SPC136/22/23 – PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present.

SPC137/22/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

She had nothing further to report.

SPC138/22/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Field's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website. The points he raised from his report were as follows:

- Building Services Review

- Cost of Living
- County Deal
- Planning – Gateway 14

SPC139/22/23 – REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH PUB

Mr James Batchelor-Wylam from the Duke of Marlborough Pub was present at the meeting and reported the position of the pub in relation to its finances and viability.

He stated that during the current festive season income would be stable but a reduction was expected from January 2023.

During COVID and the time following the pandemic the position had been challenging and in recent times the reserves had been accessed to keep everything afloat.

General running costs had increased such as electricity and heating and therefore funding was needed to help things progress.

Members of the Parish Council briefly discussed the request for funding and all agreed that the Pub was an important part of the village and community.

Members briefed Mr Batchelor-Wylam about the Community Infrastructure Levi (Cil) money and that the Parish Council had a large amount which could be used on capital projects should the Pub wish to ask for some in the future.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council pay £1,000 donation to the Pub. **Clerk to action.**

SPC/140/22/23 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was already on the Agenda.

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 1st December 2022 was £92,537.34.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov - including backpay)	£382.90
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Nov)	£35.29
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£35.00
T Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	257.50

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £710.69 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk. It was also agreed for the £1,000 donation to the pub be made.

d) BANK RECONCILIATION

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

It was AGREED: That the Budget Monitoring Report be noted.

f) **DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24**

It was AGREED: That the Draft Budget for 2023/24 be revised to reflect a larger amount for donations. An updated draft budget be emailed for approval. **Clerk to action.**

g) **CIL MONEY PROJECTS**

These had been discussed at a previous meeting.

SPC141/22/23 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC142/22/23 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

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 - **Granted**

SPC143/22/23 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

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

September 2022:

Somersham - one report of anti-social behaviour

Offton – one report of vehicle crime and one report of violence

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Stowmarket – 141 violence, 47 public order offences, 31 - anti-social-behaviour and 26 – criminal damage.

SPC144/22/23 – APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR COMMUNITY SHOP COMMITTEE

A brief discussion took place where a possible representative from the Parish Council for the Community Shop Committee was considered, but a volunteer did not step forward.

SPC145/22/23 – REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (VHMC)

A request had been received by the VHMC for funding for repairs to the village hall roof which was leaking. The request was briefly discussed by members.

Members agreed that once quotes for the works had been received the VHMC should again approach the Parish Council for CiL money. It was also noted that larger amounts of CiL money was available from the District Council.

The Clerk confirmed that repair works for the leaking roof would be covered by CiL but generally decorating of the hall could not be included.

SPC146/22/23 – SECURITY CAMERA ON MAIN ROAD

It was noted that this was an issue for the District Council’s Housing Department and was being dealt with. It was not a Parish Council matter.

SPC147/22/23 – FOOTPATH SIGNAGE

Cllr Jousiffe reported that some footpath signage was down in the parish and the general condition of the signs were poor.

The Clerk confirmed that these issues should be reported using the online ‘Suffolk Highways Report it’ tool and that anyone could report them this way.

SPC148/22/23 – UPDATE ON PROVISION OF COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND WILDLIFE AREAS

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC149/22/23 - REFURBISHMENT OF TELEPHONE BOX

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC150/22/23 – REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Hallett reported that he had attended the meeting of the Community Association as a member of the public and had heard that many future projects would be needing funding, which included equipment for the Youth Club, football pitch improvement and enlarging the changing rooms. These items could be considered in the future for CiL money.

SPC151/22/23 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

None.

SPC152/22/23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 4th January 2023.

The meeting finished at 8.47pm.

Chairman: Dated: