



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: J Rook (Chair)  
J Caston  
S Wright  
P Jousiffe  
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk

### **SPC116/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Hallett, County Cllr Oakes and District Cllr Marriott.

### **SPC117/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC118/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC119/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2023**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC120/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM**

There were three members of the public present.

### **SPC121/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Oakes was not present at the meeting. Her report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

### **SPC122/23/24 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Marriott was not present at the meeting. Her report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

### **SPC123/23/24 – TO DISCUSS FLOODING IN THE VILLAGE**

Cllr Rook reported that Cllr Hallett had messaged the Environmental Agency on many occasions in relation to flooding that occurred recently in the village following Storm Babet.

Cllr Caston reported that many residents had tried to help out during the floods with pumps, also tried to help those whose vehicles had become stuck. He explained that many vehicles became blocked in and could not get out of the village. Many toilets had become backed up and electricity lost.

Moving forward Members felt that more needed to be done in special circumstances such as flooding and it was felt that to have an Emergency Plan in place would be the best way forward.

Cllr Jousiffe reported that in the first instance those affected by the flooding needed to report it to the District Council. Funding was available of £500 to £5,000 to those people that needed it.

A member of the public who was present at the meeting suggested measuring sticks would be beneficial to enable pedestrians and drivers to know how deep the water was before walking/driving through it.

Cllr Rook stated that an Emergency Plan would deal with all the issues raised. He would inform Cllr Hallett of the plan and a working group should be set up to put the plan together.

**It was AGREED:** That a Working Group be set up in order to produce an Emergency Plan for the village.

### **SPC124/23/24 – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CiL) BIDS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SHOP / PUB**

The Clerk reported that Jennie Hutchinson, Community Shop, had nothing to report back at this time in relation to CiL funding for solar panel and car park re-surfacing projects.

David Thorne, Duke of Marlborough Pub, reported that a new tenant had been found for the pub. It was someone in the village who was interested in retaining it as a community pub/restaurant and who hoped to be in situ by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The shareholders for the pub would remain in place.

David explained that the bid for CiL money for solar panels to be placed on top of the chiller unit, might not be a way forward for the new tenant.

The Parish Council stated that they would need to confirm whether CiL money could still be spent on this with the CiL Department at the District Council.

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk liaise with the CiL Department.

### **SPC125/23/24 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

The Clerk had nothing to report.

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 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was £99,461.39.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Oct)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Oct)	£32.30
Jennie Blackburn	Poppy Wreath reimbursement	£19.99

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £347.14 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) **DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25**

**It was AGREED:** That the Draft Budget be approved.

## **SPC126/23/24 – REVIEW OF POLICIES**

a) Complaints Procedure

**It was AGREED:** That the reviewed Complaints Procedure be approved.

b) Freedom of Information Policy

**It was AGREED:** That the reviewed Freedom of Information Policy be approved.

c) Equal Opportunities Policy

**It was AGREED:** That the reviewed Equal Opportunities Policy be approved.

## **SPC127/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None had been received.

## **SPC128/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

The following decision was noted:

**Ref: DC/23/02306** – Full Planning Application – Erection of 1No. Self Build detached dwelling including ancillary cart-lodge and alterations to existing vehicular access - Land North of the Old Griffin, Main Road, Somersham – **Refused**

## **SPC129/23/24 – ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Jousiffe reported that all allotments were currently taken.

## **SPC130/23/24 - COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

There was nothing to report.

## **SPC131/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The following information had been received:

### **August 2023:**

**Somersham** – 2 anti-social behaviour and 2 violence

**Offton** – no reported crime

**Willisham** – no reported crime

**Flowton** – no crime data available

**Stowmarket** – 303 crimes = 151 violence, 20 criminal damage, 35 anti-social behaviour and 30 public order.

### **September 2023:**

**Somersham** – 1 anti-social behaviour and 1 theft

**Offton** – 1 anti-social behaviour and 1 criminal damage

**Willisham** – no reported crime

**Flowton** – no reported crime

**Stowmarket** – 297 crimes = 111 violence, 26 thefts, 50 anti-social behaviour and 27 public order.

**SPC131/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

None had been attended.

**SPC132/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Pride in your Place funding – ‘Green in Somersham’ Group
- Pads out of date for Defibrillator - Pediatric pads for defibrillator – cost £80

**SPC133/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 6<sup>TH</sup> December 2023.**

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

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