



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 3rd January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: T Hallatt (Chair)
J Caston
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
A Marriott – District Councillor

SPC150/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Wright, Cllr Rook and County Cllr Oakes.

SPC151/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC152/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC153/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2023

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC154/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present. She reported that the edges of the playing field had not been cut properly for quite some time and asked that this be rectified. Also, brambles had crept over the fencing and if they were not cut back they would start to cause more problems.

Cllr Hallett explained that the contractor who cut the playing field, had submitted his quote for the coming year and it stated that the edges would be cut nine times over the year, and weed killer would be sprayed four times.

Members agreed to monitor the situation and asked the resident to report back if the edges continued to not be cut.

SPC155/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

SPC156/23/24 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Marriott's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She briefly went through the topics of her report as follows:

- Storm Hank – Reporting Problems
- Flood Alerts
- Bin Collections
- Fly and Covid surveillance reports updated
- Community Ownership Fund
- Suffolk Recycling
- MSDC Skills and Innovation Center at Gateway 14
- MSDC Housing Revenue Account
- Levies on Second Home Owners and Owners of Empty Properties

SPC157/23/24 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident who was interested in joining the Parish Council. She explained that the resident would write a short piece about herself which could be shared with Councillors. The interested party would then join the Parish Council at the February meeting, if approved.

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 19th December 2023 was £90,946.23.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£555.35
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jan	£128.80
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£35.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £751.45 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The below receipt was noted:

MSDC	Pride in your place grant	£200.00
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d) **FINAL BUDGET 2024/25**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget be approved.

e) **PRECEPT FOR 2024/25**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £18,442 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

SPC158/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC159/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC160/23/24 – CIL BIDS UPDATE

The Clerk explained that an email received from Jennie Hutchinson, from the Community Shop, explained that funding was still being explored and reports were being waiting upon. Once further information had been received the Parish Council would be notified.

In relation to the resurfacing of the car park at the Community Shop, members confirmed that should planning permission be required, the Parish Council were not the owners of the car park and therefore would not be the ones to apply for the permission. It was confirmed that the Community Association owned the car park.

SPC161/23/24 – GRASS CUTTING

Two quotes had been received from Tom Hutchinson (Garden Maintenance and Handyman Service) – one for the cutting of the wildflower areas on the Playing Field, for £65 per year, and the other for the cutting of the grass on the Playing Field for £1,760 for 16 cuts.

It was AGREED: That the quotes be accepted. **Clerk to action.**

SPC162/23/24 – EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Hallett reported that he had started to receive offers of volunteering from residents in the village who had skills which could be used in emergencies.

Cllr Caston stated that he was still awaiting the template for an Emergency Plan from the District Council.

SPC163/23/24 - COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

SPC164/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

October 2023:

Somersham – 2 violence, 1 public order

Offton – 2 violence, 1 criminal damage, 1 burglary

Willisham – 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 violence

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 89 crimes = 30 violence, 16 burglary, 9 anti-social behaviour and 13 criminal damage.

SPC165/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

None had been attended.

SPC166/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Trees along playing field a concern in high winds – need to be cut back – Put on next Agenda

SPC167/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 7TH February 2024.**

The meeting finished at **8.20pm.**

Chairman: Dated: