



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
County Cllr K Oakes

### **SPC064/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

No apologies had been received.

### **SPC065/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **SPC066/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC067/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC068/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM**

There were eight members of the public present, for items 9 and 10 on the Agenda.

### **SPC069/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Oakes had circulated her report prior to the meeting. The full report would be published on the village website.

She commented on the 'New Chapter for Library Services' within her report and stated it was a very worthwhile project.

Cllr Oakes reported that the Speed Survey carried out in May showed results of an average speed of 28mph eastbound and 29mph westbound. The results did not warrant any further action.

Cllr Oakes gave the Parish Council some 30mph stickers for resident's wheelie bins.

### **SPC070/23/24 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

## **SPC071/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

Cllr Hallett explained to members of the public present that a site visit took place on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, where the access to the proposed site was considered plus the size of the development.

Members expressed the following concerns:

- That the access was not suitable with poor vision when leaving the site. Also, it would be extremely difficult for emergency services to access the site if needed.
- That the proposed building was very large and therefore felt it would be overdevelopment of the site.
- That the proposed building would be large enough to be split into two dwellings in the future, which would add to the additional traffic using an inadequate access.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council OBJECT to the application due to the above concerns.  
**Clerk to action.**

## **SPC072/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

## **SPC073/23/24 – FOOTBALL CLUB**

Mr Darren Luck, representative of the Football Club, was present at the meeting and gave members a recap of their position and requirements for the football pitch.

He stated that the initial report from the Football Association regarding maintenance of the pitch was very expensive. On the suggestion of the Parish Council Mr Luck contacted Tom Hitchcock, who undertook various grass cutting and maintenance on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Hitchcock provided a quote. The quote remained open and was awaiting consideration by the Parish Council.

Mr Luck explained that the current 1<sup>st</sup> team had been promoted and with that came the expectation that the pitch needed particular care and to be taken up to the correct standard.

He added that future plans included the rotation of the football pitch, which would meet the required standards. Doing that would mean the removal of two trees. It had been confirmed that the two trees in question were not in a good condition.

The rotation of the pitch would still mean that there would be adequate space for a junior pitch to the side and works would also be needed for the Pavilion.

He confirmed that works to the pitch and Pavilion would be over the next two years with the maintenance to the pitch being the main area for consideration at the current time.

Members discussed the quote from Mr Hitchcock and agreed that the Football Club's facilities were very important in the village.

Members suggested that Mr Luck approach Mr Hitchcock again and see what could be done to maintain the pitch from now on as works needed to be carried out at particular times of the year.

Cllr Oakes reported that she had agreed to fund the removal of the two trees from her Locality Budget.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council fund the maintenance of the football pitch through Tom Hitchcock.

**SPC074/23/24 - 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 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was £95,548.47.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun) including overtime	£535.65
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£32.60
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th July	£123.80
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting and Maintenance	£387.50

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,079.55 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

**SPC075/23/24 – CIL BIDS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SHOP / PUB**

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

**SPC076/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

No information had been received.

**SPC077/23/24 – COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

A general discussion took place in relation to the Orchard. It was confirmed that trees would need to be planted in November, with members of the Parish Council being involved.

**SPC078/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

None had been attended.

**SPC079/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Railings – in a poor state – thoughts on repair
- Footpath near the garage – overgrown
- Battery for defibrillator needed and Paediatric pads suggested

**SPC080/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

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