



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: T Hallatt (Chair)  
J Rook  
S Wright  
P Jousiffe  
S Barrell  
R Hodson

In Attendance Four members of the public

### **SPC189/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received and approved from County Cllr Oakes, Cllr Caston and the Clerk, Jennie Blackburn.

### **SPC190/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 12 on the Agenda.

### **SPC191/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC192/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC193/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM**

There were four members of the public present.

One member of the public asked if the Parish Council could look at the cost of a new notice board for the village following the damage received from recent storms.

Members agreed to discuss at the next meeting once the item had been added to the Agenda.

### **SPC194/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

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

### **SPC195/23/24 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Adrienne Marriott went through her report which was circulated prior to the meeting. It would be published on the village website.

## **SPC196/23/24 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

### **b) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting the Council’s current financial position and the balance in the accounts as of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was £85,756.60.

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

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Feb)	£315.90
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Feb)	£32.30
Tom Hitchcock	Strimming of Football Pitch	£60.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £408.20 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

### **d) APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2023/24**

**It was AGREED:** That Trevor Brown be appointed as Auditor for 2023/24.

### **e) EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2023/24**

**It was AGREED:** That an external audit would be required for 2023/24.

## **SPC197/23/24 – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **a) REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

### **b) STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**It was AGREED:** That the documents be deferred to a future meeting.

## **SPC198/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: - DC/24/00990** - Full Planning Application - Construction of all-weather outdoor arena - Bleak Hall, Blood Hill, Somersham

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

## **SPC199/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

## **SPC200/23/24 – FUNDING FOR YOUTH CLUB**

Cllr Jousiffe reported that the Land Trust would be supporting the Youth Club by donating £250. Members agreed that the Parish Council should also support the Youth Club and Cllr Wright proposed that £600 be donated, which was seconded by Cllr Hallett.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council donate £600 to the Youth Club. **Clerk to action**

## **SPC201/23/24 – PARKING AT PARK COTTAGES**

A resident of Park Cottage's was present at the meeting and explained the current issue in relation to parking. The resident showed members a map and stated that a fellow resident did not mind others having access, but was concerned about her rights of access in the future.

Cllr Rook expressed his concern was questioned how the Parish Council could support this issue.

Cllr Hallett explained that whilst members would like to help affected residents the issue was out of the Parish Council's powers. He stated that he would be happy to write a letter in support of the residents if it would be of use.

## **SPC202/23/24 - FLOODING**

Cllr Hallett reported that a meeting was due to take place with the Environmental Agency. He also explained that a resident who had experienced flooding had invested in a camera for £188.99 from ultra secure. It had been purchased to give peace of mind to help support the resident and a number of other residents and access has been made for all those concerned.

The Parish Council agreed to check if it was acceptable to use their funds to help towards the purchase and it would be discussed at the next meeting after research had taken place into the practicalities.

## **SPC203/23/24 – COMMUNITY SHOP CAR PARK & FUNDING**

Jennie Hutchinson, Community Shop, reported that they had been awarded £10,000 from the Mid Suffolk District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) fund. However, there was a shortfall between this and the most competitive price of £8,462.

**Cllr Hallett proposed** that the Parish Council fund the shortfall from their CiL money, which was **seconded by Cllr Wright – All Agreed.**

## **SPC204/23/24 - EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE**

It was reported that the Emergency Plan was ongoing and would soon be completed.

## **SPC205/23/24 - COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE**

It was reported that conversations were ongoing in relation to the Community Orchard.

## **SPC206/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The following information had been received:

### **January 2024:**

**Somersham** – 1 violence, 1 anti-social behaviour

**Offton** – No reported crimes

**Willisham** – No reported crimes

**Flowton** – No reported crimes

**Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area)** – 61 crimes = 26 violence, 7 ASB, 7 criminal damage and 6 theft.

## **SPC207/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

The Devolution meeting was attended and the slides would be shared with the Parish Council. A consultation would take place between 8<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Cllr Wright attended the AGM of the Duke of Marlborough. He reported that the new tenants were very positive.

**SPC208/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Somersham Litter pick – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**SPC209/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.**

The meeting finished at 20.45pm.

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