



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on **Wednesday, 6th September 2023 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: T Hallatt (Chair)
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
District Cllr A Marriott
Two Members of the Public

SPC81/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caston and Cllr Rook.

SPC82/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jousiffe declared an interest in item 13 on the Agenda.

SPC83/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC84/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JULY 2023

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC85/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

There were two members of the public present.

One resident brought to the attention of the Parish Council a traffic problem at the junction of Church Lane / Main Road. Overgrown vegetation was making visibility poor.

Cllr Jousiffe stated that he would be happy to discuss the matter with the owner of the property in question.

SPC86/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

SPC87/23/24 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Marriott circulated her report to Councillors. It would be published on the village website.

She briefly went through her report on the following matters:

- Solar Farms
- National Grid Pylons
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- CiL Bids

Cllr Marriott also reported that she had locality funding available for any projects that were happening within the village and urged groups to apply.

SPC88/23/24 – COMMUNITY ORCHARD

John Latham, Farm Manager, was present at the meeting and Members briefly went through the proposed Community Orchard with him.

Mr Latham stated that the proposed site had limited access therefore making it unsuitable for a Community Orchard. He suggested that another piece of land, known as Watering Place, which joined the original piece of land, would be more suitable and asked whether Members would consider this option. He stated that the landowner would be happy for that piece of land to be used.

Mr Latham suggested a 'walk about' with Councillors around the piece of land and then plans could be made to move the project forward.

SPC89/23/24 - 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 31st August 2023 was £93,141.77.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£32.30
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Aug)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Aug)	£33.99
MSDC	Uncontested Election	£142.50
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit - 2022/23	£252.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Battery	£357.00
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£347.50
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£427.50

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £2,182.49 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

e) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

f) **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

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

g) **EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had raised no issues and their report had been received.

It was AGREED: That the External Auditor's Report be noted.

SPC90/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC91/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC92/23/24 – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CiL) BIDS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SHOP / PUB

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

SPC93/23/24 – PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Terry Fordham had confirmed via email that the project had been successful and had been allocated some CiL funding from the District Council.

He asked whether the Parish Council would allocate some of their CiL money towards the maintenance of the remaining items of play equipment, which would cost £7,747.20.

Cllr Hallett proposed that £7,747.20 be paid to the project, which was seconded by Cllr Jousiffe and all were in favour.

It was AGREED: That the sum of £7,747.20 be contributed towards the project. **Clerk to action.**

SPC94/23/24 – ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Jousiffe explained that tenants had asked for a water supply to the allotments, which as a Trustee, he was looking into.

SPC95/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

May 2023:

Somersham – 2 anti-social behaviour, 3 violence and 1 vehicle crime

Offton – 1 violence

Willisham – 1 burglary

Flowton – No reported crimes

Stowmarket – 258 crimes = 104 violence, 20 thefts, 44 anti-social behaviour and 17 public order offences.

June 2023:

Somersham – 2 anti-social behaviour and 1 violence

Offton – 2 violence, 1 drugs and 1 vehicle crime

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Stowmarket – 306 crimes = 132 violence, 10 criminal damage, 54 anti-social behaviour and 19 public order offences.

SPC96/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Jousiffe reported that he had attended an online CiL meeting, which had been very useful.

SPC97/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Battery for speed sign charged – solar panel battery no longer working – Put on next Agenda.

SPC98/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting finished at 8.15pm.

Chairman: Dated: