



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
K Oakes – County Councillor

SPC168/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from District Cllr Marriott.

SPC169/23/24 – CO-OPTION

Rachel Hodson wished to join the Parish Council. She explained a little bit about herself and how long she had lived in the village.

Cllr Jousiffe proposed that Rachel Hodson be co-opted onto the Parish Council and Cllr Wright seconded. All Agreed.

SPC170/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC171/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC172/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD JANUARY 2024

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC173/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

There were six members of the public present.

- Flooding

The recent flooding in the village was raised as a major concern and residents explained the issues surrounding the flooding and what they felt had caused it. Ditches had become full to overflowing with a large amount of debris causing blockages. The debris had included items such as fence posts.

One resident explained that the culvert was regularly cleared but the volume of water caused the problems especially as it picked up debris from the banks along its route. Such problems had caused some houses in the village to flood.

Residents felt that the culvert and pipe were not sufficient and needed to be enlarged. Whilst they understood that it would be a large undertaking, they felt it was the only way to alleviate future flooding.

Cllr Hallett explained that he had spent a lot of time getting in touch with the relevant authorities and had also put in a complaint with the Environmental Agency, who were responsible for the Channel, which contained foam and had flooded also.

Cllr Oakes stated that she would be able to help the residents who had been flooded and would speak with the engineers about the village's flooding issues the following day.

- Local Youth Club

Anne Macfadyen and a volunteer reported to Members about the local Youth Club. It was ran by three volunteers, during the lighter months, and approximately 30 children attending each week, many of which were from the village. The Club had been running for two years each Thursday from 6pm to 8pm. Funding had been from the volunteers own pockets and children would pay £1 each so a Tuck Shop could be ran plus the purchase of basic essentials.

It was asked if the Parish Council would be able to contribute towards the cost of purchasing games and equipment for the Youth Club.

Members were very positive about the Youth Club and agreed to put funding towards it onto the next Agenda for formal decision and approval.

It was suggested that the Youth Club set up its own bank account as the Parish Council would be unable to transfer funds to a personal bank account.

Cllr Oakes also stated that she would be able to contribute and suggested the relevant application forms be completed and submitted.

Cllr Jousiffe added that the Land Trust would also be able to contribute.

SPC174/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Oakes gave a brief update on flooding.

SPC175/23/24 – 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.

SPC176/23/24 – CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) had informed Clerks of the annual increase in salary, which this year was a flat sum of £1,925 pro rata. The Clerk informed Members that the increase would be backdated to April 2023. **All Agreed.**

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 1st February 2024 was £90,043.36.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£315.70
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	£54.02
Peter Jousiffe	Brushcutter Reimbursement	£199.99
Suffolk Cloud	Website Hosting	£120.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £689.71 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The below receipt was noted:

Defib Collection Box (Shop)	Towards Defib maintenance	£48.57
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d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

SPC177/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC178/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

Ref: DC/23/05642 - Householder Application - Erection of a single storey rear extension - 11 Park Cottages, Flowton Road, Somersham - **Granted**

SPC179/23/24 – FLOODING

This item had been discussed during the 'Public Forum' item earlier in the meeting.

SPC180/23/24 – TREES ON PLAYING FIELD

As mentioned in the previous meeting, it had been suggested that the trees on the playing field needed to be cut back.

Members felt that the Community Association should be spoken to about these in the first instance. Cllr Jousiffe stated that he would speak with the relevant people.

SPC181/23/24 – NOTICEBOARD – COMMUNITY SHOP

Following the breakage of the noticeboard at the Community Shop, Cllr Jousiffe reported that the Community Association had confirmed it was their responsibility to replace the noticeboard. He added that a suggestion of one on the external wall between the windows would be the better option.

SPC182/23/24 – COMMUNITY SHOP CAR PARK & FUNDING

Members had been updated by Jennie Hutchinson, with funding applications she had applied for. The Parish Council would be approached in the future for any shortfall required.

SPC183/23/24 - EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

It was noted that a template of an Emergency Plan was still be waited for.

SPC184/23/24 - COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

SPC185/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

November 2023:

Somersham – 1 violence, 1 burglary

Offton – 3 violence, 1 burglary

Willisham – 1 criminal damage

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 61 crimes = 30 violence, 7 burglary, 6 anti-social behaviour and 6 theft.

December 2023:

Somersham – 2 violence, 1 public order

Offton – 1 burglary

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – 1 burglary

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 73 crimes = 37 violence, 11 burglary, 8 criminal damage and 6 thefts.

SPC186/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Wright reported that the opening of the play equipment on the playing field had been very successful.

Cllr Caston reported that the Wheelie Day plans had begun.

SPC187/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There were no matters to discuss.

SPC188/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 6TH March 2024.**

The meeting finished at **8.44pm.**

Chairman: Dated: