



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on **Wednesday, 4th October 2023 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
County Cllr K Oakes

SPC99/23/24 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wright and District Cllr Marriott.

SPC100/23/24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC101/23/24 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC102/23/24 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPT 2023

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

SPC103/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

SPC104/23/24 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Oakes' report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Oakes reported that the budget for the County Council was worrying as 75% of the budget went on Adult and Children's Services, which unfortunately left very little for all other services.

She confirmed that she had attended the CiL meeting for the Play Equipment Project where she had offered her support for the project.

SPC105/23/24 – 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.

SPC106/23/24 - 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 2nd October 2023 was £100,685.46.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£294.85
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Oct	£63.60
SALC	Payroll Service 6 months	£54.00
Business Support at CAS Ltd	Insurance Renewal	£431.22
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£347.50

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,223.47 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipt was noted:

MSDC	Precept 2nd Instalment	£9,221.00
------	------------------------	-----------

SPC107/23/24 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC108/23/24 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/23/02118 - Planning Application - Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas ('Free Go' application following refusal of MSDC Ref: DC/20/05895)(accompanied by EIA Statement) Land To The South Of Church Farm, Somersham IP8 4PN And Land To The East Of The Channel, Burstall – **Granted**

SPC109/23/24 – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CiL) BIDS UPDATE – COMMUNITY SHOP / PUB

There was nothing to report.

SPC110/23/24 – SPEED SIGN BATTERIES

Cllr Jousiffe reported that there were two batteries for the speed sign which were charged alternately. The solar panel was currently broken and he felt it should be replaced, which would reduce the charging needed.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Jousiffe look into the costs involved to replace the solar panel for the speed sign.

SPC111/23/24 – COMMUNITY ORCHARD

There was nothing to report as a site visit had yet to be held.

SPC112/23/24 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

July 2023:

Somersham – 4 violence

Offton – 1 violence

Willisham – 1 anti-social behaviour

Flowton – 1 violence

Stowmarket – 303 crimes = 142 violence, 25 thefts, 43 anti-social behaviour and 18 criminal damage.

SPC113/23/24 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

None had been attended.

SPC114/23/24 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Jousiffe reported that following suggestions made by Allotment tenants, he had looked into what it would cost to have water connected to the Allotments. The costs would be in the region of £3,365. On consideration, it was felt that rainwater being collected would be the best way forward.

SPC115/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 1st November 2023.**

The meeting finished at 8pm.

Chairman: Dated: