



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J Rook (Chair)
P Jousiffe
S Barrell
J Caston
R Hodson-Gibbons

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
County Cllr K Oakes
District Cllr A Marriott

SPC111/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Wright and Cllr Hallett.

SPC112/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Barrell declared an interest in item 10 on the Agenda.

SPC113/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC114/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2024

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 4th September 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC115/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

Emma Lister made some personal observations regarding the potential impact of numerous people in the village likely to require support and understanding over the coming years, which might be due to later older age, or more complex health issues.

She explained that from personal experience she knew that a core need for those with dementia was to feel safe - an embedded feeling in their daily life.

She felt that maybe we could all help with this so that people could live longer within the village community. To make people aware of those residents, the Emergency Plan could be used for this by way of including those with such needs.

Cllr Rook stated that examples or suggestions would be useful and would help take things forward.

Another residents stated that she worked for Suffolk Community Care and would be happy to write something for the next edition of The Link.

SPC116/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Oakes’ report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Oakes had nothing further to report.

SPC117/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Marriott’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

She briefly went through her report highlighting the following points:

- Recycling
- Street Cleaning and Ground Maintenance
- Minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties
- Young people reminded to claim their Child Trust Fund
- New ‘brownfield passports’ to support and expedite approval of urban sites for development
- Rural Flood Resilience Partnership launched
- Get Winter Strong campaign launched

SPC118/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/24/03698 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access point to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1No two storey self build Eco-dwelling, upgrade of existing vehicular access and landscape improvements - Land North East of Tudor Grange, Main Road, Somersham (part In The Parish of Nettlestead)

The applicants of the application were present at the meeting and discussed the concerns over flooding issues. He explained that the access was on a flood plain. He confirmed that since the last Parish Council meeting surveys had been carried out.

Cllr Caston stated that the Planning Authority wouldn’t approve the application if the proposed development would cause more ‘run-off’ from rain water than the field did currently.

Members discussed briefly the application including the fact that the house would be an eco-house, how it would/would not blend in with other properties, remaining flooding concerns, the meadow and the footpath.

It was AGREED That the Parish Council have no objections with the application, as long as flooding measures be taken into account. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/24/04230 - Householder Application - Erection of a single storey extension - 61 Springfield Road, Somersham

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

SPC119/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/24/01928 - Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No. self build detached dwelling including ancillary cartlodge and alterations to existing vehicular access (re-submission of refusal DC/23/02306) - Land North Of The Old Griffin, Main Road, Somersham - **Granted**

SPC120/24/25 – PLAYING FIELD WORKS / BOUNDARY / OWNERSHIP

Emma Lister explained the urgent need for a variety of maintenance work needed to trees around the playing field, including the borders of the Channel and which contractors had been approached and quotes sought.

She stated that the trees on the Village Green also needed to be checked.

Members briefly discussed the issues and felt that they needed to take a look at the trees/work in question and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Oakes agreed to check ownership of the Village Green and whether the trees in question would come under the County Council.

SPC121/24/25 – FLOODING PLANS

A general discussion took place in relation to anything that could be done in reducing the risk of flooding in the village over the coming months.

The resident of Tudor Grange explained that he had cleared the drains near to his property and would be working on the Channel in that area too to ensure the water flows better.

It was raised that the Channel along the other end of the village in the area around the Griffin it was overgrown which would cause problems if heavy rain occurred.

It was confirmed that the Channel was the responsibility of the Environment Agency, who had stated that no work was needed. Clearly, the Channel did need some clearing and members felt they needed to look at this.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Councillors look at the Channel to see where the problem areas were and report back to next meeting.

SPC122/24/25 – TENNIS COURTS

Cllr Jousiffe reported that the tennis courts needed attention by way of the surface needed cleaning, binding and painting. A quote had been received for £7,600 plus VAT.

Members confirmed that should a contribution be made, three quotes would be needed so a comparison could be made to ensure best value.

Cllr Jousiffe explained that a project called 'Park Tennis Project' had been launched and money could be applied for. Also, any works to the tennis courts could not take place until the warmer months.

SPC123/24/25 - UPDATE - 25TH ANNIVERSARY 'THE STORY OF SOMERSHAM' BOOK

Emma Lister reported that people continued to show interest in helping with the book. The next meeting was due to take place in November where it would be discussed further.

SPC124/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

The Clerk reported that invoices had been received for monies for professional fees, which had already been approved by the Parish Council.

There was nothing further to report.

SPC125/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD – COMMUNITY SHOP

Noticeboard options and costs has been received with an aluminum noticeboard being the best way forward.

Members agreed that an aluminum one should be researched further, with three bays and prices needed to be sought.

SPC126/24/25 - CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that if a Poppy Wreath was agreed for this year then it needed to be ordered.

It was AGREED: That a Poppy Wreath be purchased.

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 26th September 2024 was £85,616.89.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Business Services At CAS Ltd	Insurance Renewal	£486.65
S&DCA	Fees for Pavilion project	£690.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£314.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£32.30
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Oct	£84.60
S&DCA	Professional fees - pavilion project	£2,160.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £3,767.65 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) BANK RECONCILIATION

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved

e) BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

It was AGREED: That the Budget Monitoring Report be approved

f) THE LINK DONATION

Members felt they needed more information about what was involved in the putting together of The Link and what the exact costs were. Then it could be decided what amount should be given towards it.

A contribution of £100 be approved in the first instance.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council donate £100 to the Link. **Clerk to action.**

SPC127/24/25 – EMERGENCY PLAN

There was nothing to report.

SPC128/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

July 2024:

Somersham – 2 anti-social behaviour, 1 criminal damage

Offton – No reported crimes

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 76 crimes = 32 violence, 10 criminal damage, 7 Anti-social behaviour and 9 thefts.

SPC129/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

None had been attended.

SPC130/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Allotments available

SPC131/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting, would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 6th November 2024.**

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Chairman: Dated: