



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 3rd April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

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

SPC01/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

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

SPC02/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC03/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC04/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 6TH MARCH AND 20TH MARCH 2024

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 6th March and 20th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SPC05/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

SPC06/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

She had nothing further to report other than an update on the flooding in the village, where she informed members that she had been contacted by various residents of the village whose homes had been affected in the recent flooding. Cllr Oakes explained that she was completing a detailed report in the hope to move the village up the list of priority for something to be done.

SPC07/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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

She briefly went through the report highlighting the following topics:

- £3.8m pledged for energy efficient Council Homes

- New Online Hub launches for National Infrastructure Projects
- Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury
- CiL Expenditure Levy – Sixth Review
- MSDC Joint Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024
- Online Immigration status (eVisa) update – event and resources
- Flu and Covid-19 Surveillance report updated
- Covid-19 vaccination: Sprint 2024 Campaign Resources – Reminder
- Funding for Councils to introduce weekly food waste collections
- Fly-tipping: Council Responsibilities – Guidance
- Biodiversity net gain now applies to small developments
- Consultation on changes to various permitted development rights - Reminder

SPC08/24/25 – CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

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 28th March 2024 was £84,877.77.

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

The following payments were to be authorised:-

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| SALC | Payroll Service | £54.00 |
| HMRC | PAYE to 5th Apr | £79.40 |
| Jennie Blackburn | Clerk’s Pay (Mar) | £315.90 |
| Jennie Blackburn | Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Mar) | £32.30 |
| Tom Hitchcock | Grass Cutting (Various) | 510.00 |

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £991.60 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

SPC09/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No applications had been received.

SPC10/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

SPC11/24/25 – COMMUNITY SHOP – CAR PARK RESURFACING – EXTRA COSTS

Cllr Hallett reported that Jennie Hutchinson from the Community Shop had been in contact in relation to whether the Parish Council would be happy to contribute an extra £1,500 towards the cost of the re-surfacing of the car park. The extra cost was due to drainage being installed whilst the work was carried out.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council contribute an extra £1,500 for the works. **Clerk to action.**

SPC12/24/25 – REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

Cllr Hallett reported that he had been approached by Terry Fordham in relation to the pavilion needing to be improved by way of enlargement and refurbishment. It was no longer fit for purpose and major works needed to take place to make the space more useable, mainly for the football club. It was suggested that the Parish Council be presented with the opportunity for taking the project forward.

During a brief discussion, members felt that the project should be led by the Community Association and Football Club with relevant funding applications being made by those parties, as it was not a Parish Council asset.

It was NOTED: That Members were in full support of the project.

SPC13/24/25 - FLOODING

Cllr Hallett reported that he and Cllr Wright had met with representatives from the Environmental Agency (EA) in relation to the recent flooding of the Channel. The Channel was walked along through the village and discussions took place as to the problems that had occurred.

He explained that various suggestions were made where the water flow could be improved, but each suggestion was turned down by the EA. Therefore, it seemed that there was nothing that could be done at the present time.

SPC14/24/25 - EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Hallett reported that the draft plan had been received and he would read through it and would take out any parts that would not be relevant to the village. He would then share it with members in due course.

SPC15/24/25 - COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

SPC16/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

A report had not been received.

SPC17/24/25 - REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Caston reported that a meeting had been attended in relation to the Wheelie Day, which was due to be held on Saturday, 6th July.

He explained that plans were underway and in order to improve the layout this year the tables and chairs would be placed in a U shape with all the stalls around the outside. That way everyone would be in the main area.

SPC18/24/25 – MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

SPC19/24/25 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting, would be held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday, 1st May 2024**, which would follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

Chairman: Dated: