



## **SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on  
**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk  
District Cllr A Marriott

### **SPC67/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS**

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Rook and Cllr Hodson. County Cllr Oakes had also sent her apologies.

### **SPC68/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Caston declared an interest in item 8 on the Agenda.

### **SPC69/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **SPC70/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**It was AGREED:** That the Minutes of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **SPC71/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM**

A resident spoke to members about his wife having a musical background and being a pianist. Their wish was to keep live music going and was interested in starting up a Musical Piano Group in the village as well as holding quarterly recitals at the Village Hall. They also planned to involve the school.

He explained that she had a piano at Hadleigh Church and should permission be granted she wished for the piano to be relocated to the Village Hall in Somersham. It would stand in a corner of the hall and would be covered with a padded cover.

He confirmed that no funding would be required and their plans could start in November once the piano had been relocated.

Members fully supported the proposal but ensured that the resident was aware to obtain permission from the Village Hall Management Committee.

### **SPC72/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

## **SPC73/24/25 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

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

She briefly went through her report.

## **SPC74/24/25 – PROPOSED PYLONS FROM NORWICH TO TILLBURY**

There were 15 members of the public present.

During discussions the following concerns were raised:

- Devastation on Suffolk as a county
- Proposal would impact Tourism in the county
- Proximity of proposed 50m pylons to listed buildings
- Use of temporary roads for haulage vehicles and the impact they would cause
- Temporary roads would result in the land they are built on being infertile for seven years
- 400 year old oak trees to be removed
- On land option chosen instead of the offshore option
- GPS would not be usable within a large radius of each pylon
- Water run off would cause possible flooding a lot of natural drainage would disappear

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council strongly objected to the proposal and that a submission be written by the Clerk which stated all the above factors and concerns.

## **SPC75/24/25 – UPDATE - 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ‘THE STORY OF SOMERSHAM’ BOOK**

Emma Lister was present and reported that there had been a positive response following the idea of the proposed book on social media, with many residents volunteering to help.

It was planned that a Working Group be arranged in September to move the project forward.

## **SPC76/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION**

Terry Fordham was present and reported that three quotes had been obtained for Architects for the project. He explained that professional guidance on a project of this size would be beneficial. The quotes ranged in price with the favoured being a local company, KLH Architects for £4,896 (inc. VAT).

Members were happy to support the project and to fund the initial architect fees and also, in principle, to cover the future costs of a Quantity Surveyor, following confirmation of the cost at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council fund the initial legal fees of £4,896 (inc. VAT) on receipt of an invoice. **Clerk to action.**

## **SPC77/24/25 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was already 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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was £80,617.57.

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

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£314.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£37.10
HMRC	Paye to end 5th Jul	£82.80
MSDC	Bin Emptying	£646.92
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£314.10
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£32.30
Ton Hitchcock	Grass Cutting	£410.00

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £1,837.32 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

**SPC78/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/24/01887** - Planning Application. Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of 1no bungalow & associated works - Orchard House, Main Road, Somersham

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

**SPC79/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

**SPC80/24/25 – COMMUNITY SHOP CAR PARK**

It was reported that checks on the works carried out at the Community Shop Car Park had been requested by the Environment Agency and were ongoing.

**SPC81/24/25 – FOOTPATHS**

It was reported that some short areas of footpaths had not been cut or tidied this year with the bridge behind the garage and the top of Mill lane being two areas.

Cllr Jousiffe stated that he would report the issues to the Highways Department.

**SPC82/24/25 – ROAD DRAINAGE**

Cllr Wright reported that as requested by Highways the ditch had been dug out alongside the highway and was now ready for Highways to clear out the culvert and therefore they needed to be informed. **Cllr Hallett to action.**

**SPC83/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD – COMMUNITY SHOP**

There was nothing to report.

**SPC84/24/25 – EMERGENCY PLAN**

There was nothing to report.

**SPC85/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The following information had been received:

**April 2024:**

**Somersham** – 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 reported crime, 1 criminal damage

**Offton** – No reported crimes

**Willisham** – 1 public order

**Flowton** – 1 burglary

**Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area)** – 89 crimes = 41 violence, 10 burglary, 7 Anti-social behaviour and 7 thefts.

**SPC86/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS**

Cllr Hallett attended the AGM of the Community Association and reported that there were very few members remaining. They planned to try to group together more people to volunteer.

**SPC87/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

No matters were raised.

**SPC88/24/25 - 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, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....