



SOMERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Somersham on
Wednesday, 4th December 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: T Hallett (Chair)
J Rook
S Wright
P Jousiffe
S Barrell

In Attendance County Cllr K Oakes
District Cllr A Marriott

SPC155/24/25 – APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received and approved from Cllr Caston, Cllr Hodson-Gibbons and the Clerk, J Blackburn.

SPC156/24/25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

SPC157/24/25 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

SPC158/24/25 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2024

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

SPC160/24/25 - PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

SPC161/24/25 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

She reported that she had been trying to look at a bridge (Little Blakenham - FP57) which had a broken slat, but unfortunately the land owner had rejected access.

She also reported that in relation to grit bins, one at Flowton Road had been refused. She confirmed that she would raise it at a County Council meeting to see if the Parish Council could move one to Flowton road.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Caston be asked for the landowner's details so he could be approached by the Parish Council in relation to access to the bridge.

SPC162/24/25 – 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 the main points from her report as follows:

- Pricing Structure for emptying of dog waste and litter bins – financial year 2025/26
- New powers to tackle anti-social behavior
- ‘Workshop in a Box’ supports local engagement on the NHS 10-year health plan
- Regulator of Social Housing publishes analysis on tenant satisfaction in the social housing sector
- Treating tenants with respect and combatting social housing stigma
- Warm Homes Plan launched
- Increase in legal aid to support most vulnerable
- The Wilder Communities Partnership
- Public Health Update
- Reminder: Steps to help reduce the spread of stomach bugs and winter illnesses

SPC163/24/25 - CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

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 27th November 2024 was £81,368.10.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The following payments were to be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov - inc. back pay)	£398.74
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Nov)	£32.30
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (Churchyard / PF) - (Oct)	£255.00
Church	Donation for churchyard maintenance	£200.00
Tom Hitchcock	Grass Cutting (Churchyard / PF) - (Nov)	£190.00
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£35.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Dec)	£6.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,117.04 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

d) DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2025/26

It was AGREED: That the Draft Budget for 2025/26 be approved.

e) DONATION TO THE LINK

During a general discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Rook try to arrange a meeting with The Link magazine to discuss further details of their financial needs and advertising revenue and to understand why there no longer seemed to be anyone collecting funds from those that receive The Link when historically it had been collected.

SPC163/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

SPC164/24/25 – PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/24/03698 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (All Matters Reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1No two storey self build Eco-dwelling - Land North East Of Tudor Grange, Main Road, Somersham - **Refused**

SPC165/24/25 – VILLAGE SIGN

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC166/24/25 – DRAIN AT ELM FARM

It was confirmed that the drain had since been cleared so no further action was needed.

Two further flooding issues had been raised and needed reporting. **Cllr Hallett to action.**

SPC166/24/25 - PLAYING FIELD WORKS - BOUNDARY

Letters to affected residents was due to be delivered next week.

SPC167/24/25 – SOMERSHAM BOOK

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

SPC168/24/25 - REFURBISHMENT OF PAVILION

There was nothing to report.

SPC169/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD

Jennie Hutchinson had confirmed that the Community Shop would prefer the new noticeboard to be a stand-alone version rather than one on the wall of the shop, which had been agreed with other Community Shop members.

It was AGREED: That this be discussed further with the Community Shop.

SPC170/24/25 – EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Hallett reported that the plan had been sent to the Suffolk Resilience Forum. Freddie Gulliver, Suffolk Emergency Planning Officer was also advising the Parish Council.

SPC171/24/25 - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

The following information had been received:

October 2024:

Somersham – 1 violence, 1 crime

Offton – 1 violence

Willisham – No reported crimes

Flowton – No reported crimes

Mid Suffolk South & West Area (Claydon and Copdock area) – 72 crimes = 32 violence, 6 burglary, 7 thefts and 6 criminal damaged - shoplifting.

SPC173/24/25 – OTHER ATTENDED MEETINGS

None had been attended.

SPC174/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

It was noted the great support Penny Pearson had been to the community over the years as well as being a member of the Parish Council for many years. Sadly Penny had passed away and her funeral was due to be held on Monday, 9th December.

The Parish Council discussed a small donation to Penny's charity of choice and would check this was possible.

SPC175/24/25 - 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, 8th January 2025.**

The meeting finished at 8.27pm.

Chairman: Dated: